



Nubia: Jewels of Ancient Sudan at the Getty Villa

January 19, 2023 at 10 and 11 am

Dr. Sara Cole, Assistant Curator, Getty Villa



Details of Nubian necklaces, Top: AD 40-50, gold; Bottom: 270-50 BC, gold and cornelian. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Harvard University-Boston Museum of Fine Arts Expedition. Photograph © Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Nubia—a region along the Nile River in present-day southern Egypt and northern Sudan—was home to some of the earliest civilizations of ancient Africa. This exhibition presents superbly crafted jewelry and other precious objects excavated in Sudan in 1913–32 by the joint Harvard University–Boston Museum of Fine Arts Expedition. Most of the pieces come from royal and aristocratic burials, and all vividly display the splendor of ancient Nubian society. Beginning around 2400 BC, a series of kingdoms dominated Nubia from successive capitals at Kerma, Napata, and Meroë. Collectively known as the Kingdom of Kush, they flourished during a period of nearly three thousand years, skillfully making use of their rich natural resources, location on key trade routes, and military strength. Throughout this time, close ties to Egypt, Nubia’s neighbor to the north, encouraged commercial and cultural exchanges but also led to conflict. Nubia was a place of artistic, religious, and political innovation, and its legacy of personal adornment as an expression of power and identity continues to resonate today.

Limited to 15 persons per tour. RSVP [HERE](#) • Indicate 10 or 11 am tour preference by Noon, Jan. 17, 2023