



Aphrodisias: detail of Basilica anastylosis

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Message from the Director

Welcome to the ninth edition of the Institute's *Archaeology Journal*. This year's publication celebrates the return of a robust excavation season following two years of restrictions due to the pandemic. This year's field season was full of exciting and illuminating projects. In Abydos, site director Matthew Adams and his team continued to carry out new research on the world's oldest known industrial-scale brewery. In Aphrodisias, through excavations led by R. R. R. Smith, a full team of students and colleagues worked on major projects and recovered several important new statuary finds. In Samothrace, under the direction of Bonna Wescoat, the full American Excavations Samothrace team conducted a new and intensive field survey between the city wall and the sanctuary. Although they were unable to conduct an in-person field season in Sanam, Kathryn Howley and students hope to return when conditions in Sudan allow, with intentions to return to their recently discovered first-millennium BCE monumental mud brick building. Finally, in Selinunte, Clemente Marconi and his team investigated several areas of the acropolis, making striking discoveries about this part of the ancient city in the Archaic and Classical periods.

On October 1, 2022, we learned of the passing of David O'Connor, Director Emeritus of Abydos Archaeology and Lila Acheson Wallace Professor Emeritus of Ancient Egyptian Art. David's death is a great loss to the community of archaeologists and scholars of Nubian and Egyptian antiquity, and to his many colleagues, students, and friends. We extend our deepest condolences to his wife, Gülbün O'Connor, his daughters Aisha and Katie, and his numerous grandchildren.

We also suffered the loss of Luca Restelli, a valuable member of the Selinunte field project. We wish to express our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues. It is thanks to our extraordinarily committed faculty, students, close collaborators, and generous donors that each year we are able to report on continued successes in our archaeological program. We hope you will enjoy reading about this year's thrilling discoveries out in the field!

Christine Poggi
Judy and Michael Steinhardt Director
 The Institute of Fine Arts

Abydos, Egypt

Understanding the singular place of Abydos in Egypt's early history, particularly its importance to Egypt's first kings, has long been a major research aim of the Abydos Project. Our excavations have focused primarily on a series of monumental cultic structures that served essentially as royal funerary temples. This work has redefined our understanding of the nature of these buildings and of the rituals associated with them.

The Abydos Project's 2022 field season continued an initiative, begun in 2018, to investigate the remains of an ancient brewery that may have been closely related to the ritual functioning of the nearby royal temples. The brewery consists of a series of at least eight long, narrow, semi-subterranean structures, laid out in parallel. Each was filled with two rows of emplacements for large ceramic vats that were used in the cooking, or "mashing," stage of beer production.

Much of the brewery had been overbuilt by later tombs, but two structures, provisionally numbered 5 and 6 in the overall N to S sequence, were relatively unencumbered. These were initially identified in 2020. Expanded excavation in 2022 established that both structures 5 and 6 were at least 35 meters long, each containing more than 90 vat emplacements.

The 2022 excavation also revealed—for the first time—well preserved parts of the roof of structure no. 6, demonstrating conclusively that they all were originally completely roofed. Small openings were regularly spaced at ground level along the sides of each structure, and several of these were well preserved in the surviving parts of the roof of structure 6. The openings were stoke holes through which wood fuel was introduced to the interior and could be set alight. The finished rims of the vats, also seen for the first time in 2022, were flush with the roof, so that the vessels could be filled and emptied from outside the structure.

The 2022 season established a wholly unanticipated estimate for the overall production capacity of the brewery. With the capacity of individual vats being around 70 liters, multiplying by a minimum of 90 vats per structure gives a capacity of approximately 6300 liters for one batch from one structure. With all eight in operation simultaneously, this would give a total estimated capacity of well over 60,000 liters per batch. To put this in modern terms, it is enough beer to provide each spectator in a full 120,000-seat sports stadium half a liter, or about a pint. Not only is this the highest capacity brewery known from ancient Egypt, but it is also the largest known from the ancient world. It is likely that beer production at this level was closely connected with, or perhaps exclusively for, the rituals conducted in the nearby royal funerary temples, where large deposits of empty beer jars have been found.

The brewery dates to around 3000 BCE, just when the Nile Valley and Delta were unified into a single political entity with a king at the apex of its administration. It is probably not a coincidence that production on the incredible scale of the Abydos brewery appears at the same time. The ability to marshal resources and mobilize labor on a very large scale was to become a hallmark of the Egyptian state through all pharaonic history, and the brewery at Abydos appears to be where it is first exhibited.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Fig 1: The 2022 Abydos team. Front row, l-r, Amany Abd el Hamid, Holt Adams, Carole Graham, Ahmed Farid Mahmoud, Christine McAllister, Joel Gamache, Hany Fawzi Ali, Kay Barnett, Katie Simon. Back row, l-r, Matthew Adams, Reis Ibrahim Mohamed Ali, Wendy Doyon, May Chu, Enji Abd el Hamid, Peter Moore Johnson, Ashraf Zeydan Mahmoud, Bedry Mohamed Ali, Wagi Hamed Ali, Hamada Fehim el Rawy, Logan Dean. Photo by Logan Dean.

Fig 2: Hany Fawzi Ali and Hamada Fehim el Rawy excavating the interiors of vats in brewery structure 6. The diagonal elements in the foreground were part of the roof. Photo by Wendy Doyon.

Fig 3: Overhead view of part of brewery structure 6, illustrating the basic configuration of the vat installations. Photo by Ayman Damarany.

Fig 4: Matthew Adams holding a small ceramic drinking cup found in one of the vats in structure 6. Photo by Wendy Doyon.

Fig 5: Looking up from the bottom of a tomb shaft. The indentations in the side walls are original hand and foot holds. Photo by Wendy Doyon.

Fig 6: Excavating a Middle Kingdom (ca. 2000–1800 BCE) shaft tomb. Photo by Wendy Doyon.



Fig. 4

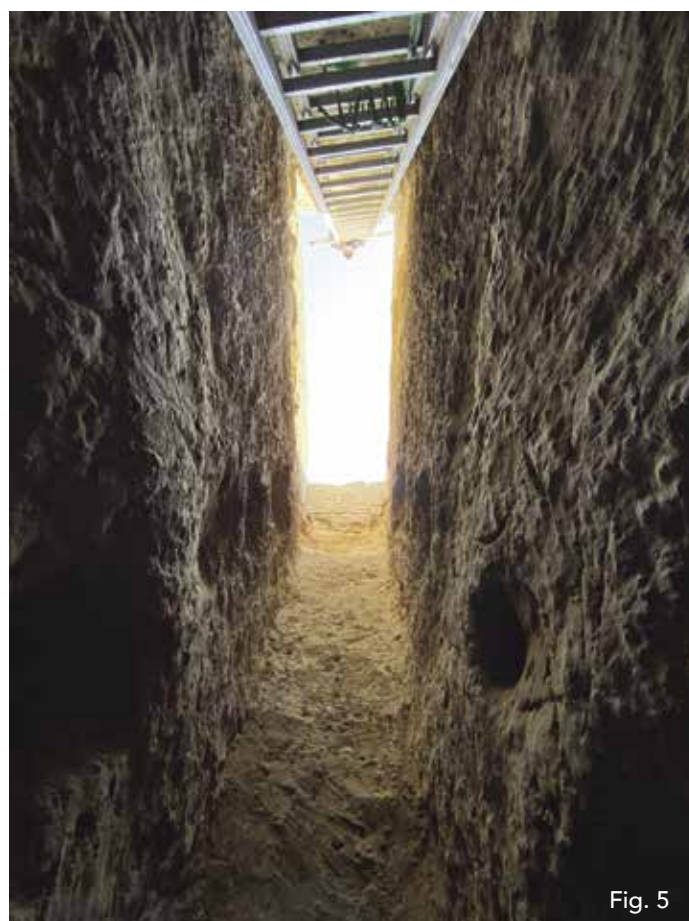


Fig. 5



Fig. 6

Aphrodisias, Turkey



Fig. 1

It was great to be back at Aphrodisias with a full team of students and colleagues. We had a very successful season with strong progress on major projects.

PRIESTESS. The most eye-catching find, typically Aphrodisian, is a beautiful marble portrait of a young priestess of the imperial cult (CE 140), found in the Street excavations. She wore a tiara-like headdress that once carried several little busts (now knocked off) of the imperial figures whose cult she served. Her long hair, tightly plaited and wound around her head six times, is superbly carved all round.

BASILICA. In the Civil Basilica we set up more panels of Diocletian's Edict of Maximum Prices in Latin, Turkish, and English. They describe the strange world of the late Roman economy. At the same time, we worked on the anastylosis (accurate reconstruction) of the four colossal columns of the building's vestibule, repairing and mounting a four-metre-long architrave block.

POOL. In the pool of the Urban Park, good progress was made with the restoration of the sensitive marble perimeter along its north side. The perimeter seating carried a superabundance of graffiti. The major collaborative volume on the excavation of the pool was completed at the site, to be published as Aphrodisias XIV.

STREET. Excavation was pursued in different parts of the Tetrapylon Street to investigate continued life after the seventh-century urban collapse. Parts of the Dark Age Complex that jutted into the street, in regrettably unsustainable forms of medieval construction, were dismantled and allowed further understanding of its long life. The portrait head of the priestess was found here, re-used as rubble at the foot of the west street wall after it had fallen from an apartment above during the collapse.

KYBELE. The new project in the House of Kybele was a major fieldwork focus. The house was part of a neighbourhood that includes a warehouse, street, and city gate. The whole area was cleared and its constituent elements documented. The precise context of an assemblage of late Roman lamps and ceramic vessels, found with the marble statuette group of Kybele and Zeus, was reconstituted. The layout, history, and functional components of the house are coming into focus. The heyday of the house was the fifth and sixth century when Aphrodisias was a thriving provincial capital.

SEBASTEION. New anastylosis was begun at the Sebasteion's temple. The temple platform was repaired to bring its front up to the right height and parts of two columns and their column bases were trial-mounted in situ. They already dramatically change the experience of the complex.

MUSEUM. Much marble conservation was carried out on sculptures for display in the new covered court to be built inside the existing museum courtyard – notably a set of badly fragmented mythological reliefs from the Basilica and the Propylon of the Urban Park. They are typically vigorous Aphrodisian compositions that have been brought back to life by sensitive restoration.

It was a rewarding season, with excellent results. We are enormously grateful to our supporters for their outstanding generosity.



Fig. 2

Fig 1: Portrait head of imperial priestess, CE 140.

Fig 2: Basilica: 3D-rendering of Edict inscribed on façade.

Fig 3: Tetrapylon Street: excavation of east portico's back wall.

Fig 4: House of Kybele: conservation of marble-tiled floors.

Fig 5: Sebasteion Temple: façade columns, anastylosis.

Fig 6: Marble restoration: Centaurs relief.



Fig. 3



Fig. 5



Fig. 4



Fig. 6

Samothrace, Greece



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

After a two-year hiatus, the full American Excavations Samothrace team, under the directorship of Bonna Wescoat, returned to the island and its Sanctuary of the Great Gods to conduct the third season of a five-year excavation permit under the supervision of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Evros and the auspices of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. Continuing a storied tradition stretching back to the 1930s, Institute students Rebecca Salem, Hannah Loughlin, Sarah Gregory, and Clara Reed helped make 2022 a banner season, answering outstanding research questions and laying the groundwork for new approaches to Samothrace in the years to come. Under the supervision of Institute alum Andrew Farinholt Ward, excavators returned to the Central Ravine, a watercourse that bisected the Sanctuary of the Great Gods as dramatically in antiquity as it does today. Excavators persevered through boulder-filled earth to reach an important section of the Roman channel wall, whose orientation allows us to understand the course of this key monument. Excavation in the enigmatic “Space K” along the slopes of the Western Hill also helped to clarify questions of ancient mobility, by providing an archaeological dating for a previously discovered staircase to the Roman period. Simultaneous excavations on the Stoa plateau revealed the impressive twelve-meter length of Monument Base VII, discovering a bronze pinky finger in the process, while a trench dug on the ancient theater’s slope revealed an intact length of clay pipe beneath its diazoma, confirming the accuracy of a reconstruction of the theater drafted in 2019.

In an exciting new initiative, we expanded our inquiry outside the Sanctuary, with two goals in mind: to understand how the land between the city and sanctuary was used in antiquity, and to locate the original passage visitors followed between the ancient city and the sanctuary. Under the direction of Dimitris Matsas, we conducted an intensive field survey of the 29,500 m² region between the city wall and sanctuary. A herculean coordinated effort by the project’s surveyors, registrars including Institute alum Ellen Archie, and pottery experts saw thousands of finds processed and inventoried – with early analysis already providing exciting glimpses into the lives of Samothracans from the 5th century BCE to the recent past. Sam Holzman led the architectural investigation

of the section of fortification wall facing the sanctuary, with the photogrammetric documentation of the monument spearheaded by IFA doctoral candidate Rebecca Salem.

Our conservation team, led by Brittany Dinneen in the laboratory and Elli Mantzana and Michael Morris in the field, made progress on key site management projects and preparations for installations in Samothrace’s soon-to-be reopened archaeological museum.

Now that we are back to full strength, we look forward to continued successes on Samothrace, within the Sanctuary of the Great Gods and beyond.

Fig 1: The American Excavation Samothrace team in front of the newly installed replica of the famed Nike of Samothrace, outside the local archaeological museum.

Fig 2: Trench supervisor Giulia Coppola at work in 2022’s trench along the ancient central ravine.

Fig 3: The intensive survey team at work between the sanctuary and ancient city.

Fig 4: Stele cuttings found during the cleaning of the city wall’s West Gate.

Fig 5: A photogrammetrically generated model of the city wall’s Tower A, created by Rebecca Salem.

Fig 6: The architecture team at work, following COVID safety protocols.



Fig. 3



Fig. 5



Fig. 4



Fig. 6

Selinunte, Sicily

In June–July 2022, after two years of reduced work due to the pandemic, the activities of the archaeological mission in Selinunte of the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University and of the University of Milan, in collaboration with the local Archaeological Park, resumed at full speed. The research mainly involved three areas of investigation on the acropolis, each of which produced results of the utmost importance for knowledge of Selinunte in the Archaic and Classical periods.

The first area of investigation concerned the space between Temple A and Temple O, two peripteral temples very similar in size and plan, dated to the mid-fifth century BCE and the second of which was never completed beyond the level of the foundations. The investigation of the two temples consisted of the excavation of a trench between the foundations of the two buildings (Figure 1), excavated in collaboration with the mission in Selinunte of the German Archaeological Institute, directed by Ortwin Dally and by Melanie Jonasch. This is the first case of collaboration between missions in the history of archaeological research in Selinunte.

The primary purpose of the excavation was to obtain an archaeological dating for the two temples (objects of architectural examination by a German scholar, Heike Bücherl, Brandenburgische-Technische Universität Cottbus), based on the materials found in the filling of the foundation trenches. In this regard, the excavation clearly demonstrated, on a stratigraphic basis, how the construction of Temple A preceded that of Temple O. The results of this excavation, however, went much further, leading to the identification of an aquifer in correspondence with the foundations of Temple A.

The presence of water in this part of Selinunte had not yet been archaeologically documented and gives further support to the hypothesis that the first Greek settlement occupied this southern portion of the Acropolis. The presence of the essential resource, together with the strategic position, may have been a decisive element for the Greek settlers in establishing the polis at this very point.

The second and third excavation areas both involved the southern sector of the Main Urban Sanctuary, where the mission has been operating since 2006 (Figure 2). The excavation concerned in particular the southeast corner of the cella of Temple R (Trench O) and the area between the west front of Temple R and the south flank of Temple C (Trench R). The main result of the first trench (Figure 3), which extended an excavation carried out ten years ago (better known for the discovery of the remains of the aulos) to the bedrock, was the identification of the base of walls of clay mixed with ash, which probably served as enclosures for carrying out ritual activities associated with the first cult buildings erected in this area around 610 BCE (Figure 4).

The excavation of this trench also led to the discovery of a second large fragment of a bivalve mold in very fine limestone for a bronze sauroter (spear butt) (Figure 5). The remains of this mold come from a level associated with the reconstruction of Temple R after the Carthaginian destruction of Selinunte in 409 BCE; the first part of the mold was found in a contiguous area during the excavation ten years ago. Finally, the excavation of Trench O led to the identification of a dozen other votive objects forming part of the foundation deposit, made on the completion of the construction of Temple R around 570 BCE. Such votives include iron spearheads, loom weights, Corinthian perfume vases, and personal ornaments.

As for Trench R, whose excavation begun before the pandemic was completed this year right down to the bedrock, the main discoveries were made immediately above the level that represented pre-Greek soil at the time of the foundation of the apoikia; these were fragments of clay hearths of Greek type used for ritual feasting (Figure 6), associated with a large quantity of pottery from Megara Hyblaea, the mother city of Selinunte (Figure 7). This is the most conspicuous discovery of pottery from Megara Hyblaea since the beginning of our excavations, and it helps to date these cult installations to the early years of Selinunte's life.

However, one of the most striking discoveries of this year comes from work in the laboratory, which led to the discovery, among the faunal remains from Trench Q (2017) inside the cella of Temple R, of fragments of a miniature ivory siren (about 2.5 cm high) datable to the mid-sixth century BCE (Figure 8). The small sculpture, which it has been possible to reconstruct in its entirety, is comparable to similar miniature ivory sculptures from Delphi and further testifies to the level of wealth achieved by Selinunte during the sixth century BCE.

Clemente Marconi, Rosalia Pumo, and Andrew Farinholt Ward

Fig 1: Selinunte, Acropolis, trench between Temple A (top) and Temple O (bottom). At the top right, the aquifer identified in correspondence with the foundations of Temple A.

Fig 2: Selinunte, Main Urban Sanctuary, area of investigation by the Institute of Fine Arts–NYU and University of Milan Mission 2006–2022.

Fig 3: Selinunte, Main Urban Sanctuary, Trench O (2022).

Fig 4: Trench O: Base of clay wall ca. 630–610 BCE placed on pre-Greek soil (reddish brown layer).

Fig 5: Trench O: Limestone mold for a bronze sauroter.

Fig 6: Trench R: Fragments of clay hearths.

Fig 7: Trench R: Fragment of pottery from Megara Hyblaea.

Fig 8: Trench Q (2017): Miniature ivory siren.



Fig. 1



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 2

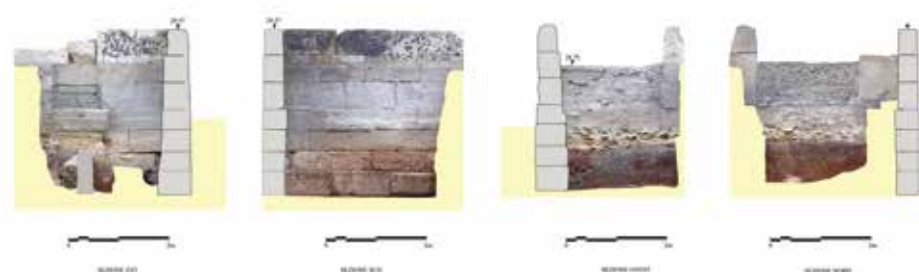


Fig. 3



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

Student Spotlights



Peter Johnson

Archaeological fieldwork can be equal measures thrilling and frustrating. The practice of excavation requires intensive planning and patience, but the reward of discovering evidence that moves the needle on our current knowledge is incalculable. As a student of archaeology, you can spend countless hours in the classroom learning archaeological theory, but nothing can replace being in the field. Conducting fieldwork allows you to translate what you learn on the page and put it into practice. Most importantly, you learn the practicalities of collaborating with your local colleagues. Fortunately, the Institute of Fine Arts provides students like me with both opportunities.

In 2022 I joined the IFA's long-running project at Abydos, Egypt and will return for the 2023 season. Abydos is one of the most important sites in Egypt as it demonstrates early evidence of kingship and statehood. It remained an important pilgrimage and mortuary site throughout ancient Egyptian history, and historians working on almost any period of ancient Egyptian history can find evidence there. While not my first archaeological excavation, joining the Abydos project is special to me as I am able to work directly with the evidence that first inspired me to become an Egyptologist and Archaeologist years ago as an undergraduate. More importantly though, working at Abydos has been integral as I develop my dissertation topic. Not only have I continued to hone my hands-on excavation experience and practical Arabic language skills, but I have been exposed to a multitude of material I was previously unfamiliar with. Joining the team has afforded me the opportunity to extend my stays in Egypt to conduct my own research as I begin my dissertation. Without the support of the IFA and the Abydos team, none of this would have been possible.



Hannah Loughin

Having taken ancient languages since middle school and studied Classics in university, I had long heard of the island of Samothrace and its Sanctuary of the Great Gods. When I applied to the Institute of Fine Arts, I was eager to take part in the many archaeological opportunities that the Institute has to offer, but I was especially keen on going to Samothrace. This past summer, that dream came true, and I had the incredible opportunity to join the American Excavations at Samothrace. The summer 2022 season was an exciting one; not only was I able to learn the inner workings of archaeological work, but I was also able to take part in the excavation's first surveys beyond the Sanctuary itself. The scene beyond the sanctuary was a sight I never thought I would see: a field quite literally littered with the remnants of the ancient past. From field survey and excavation to processing and digital tracing, I gained a font of experience that has not only deepened my knowledge as an archaeologist but also nurtured my love for antiquity. While it was an extremely educational experience, it was also incredibly fulfilling to feel so close to the ancient world. Since this summer, I have found that my experience has strengthened how I approach my research of the Greco-Roman world, and I believe the knowledge and friendships I gained on Samothrace will be central to my future academic and career pursuits.



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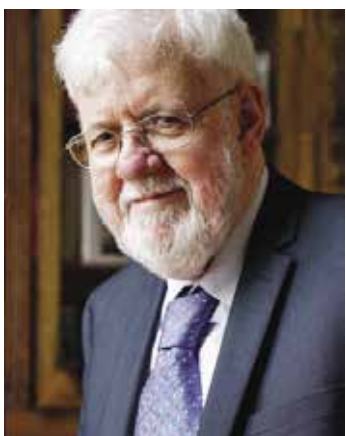
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Since 1938 the Institute has had an active archaeology program. Contribute to research, excavation discoveries, and conservation work at one of our current sites by visiting: <https://www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/fineart/support/>.

This list includes contributions to the projects received from October 31, 2021 – October 31, 2022.

Remembering David O'Connor and Luca Restelli



David O'Connor

In 1965 a young David O'Connor, not yet Ph.D., was sent to Egypt by the University of Pennsylvania Museum to identify a site that would be suitable for a long-term program of archaeological fieldwork. After a months-long survey of many of Egypt's major sites, he recommended Abydos as having

the greatest long-term research potential. Accepting his recommendation, the Museum sent him back to Abydos in 1967 to begin. After a long and distinguished career in Philadelphia, David brought the Abydos project to the Institute when he took up the Lila Acheson Wallace Professorship in Egyptian Art and Archaeology in 1995.

At the Institute David commenced a sustained campaign to address arguably the single most important question concerning Abydos, namely, its place at the beginning of pharaonic civilization. Work carried out under David's guidance between 1997 and his retirement in 2017 has transformed our understanding of early Abydos. Not only was it the location of Egypt's first great royal necropolis, it is now possible to see that the kings buried at the site also used it as the place where architectural monumentality was first deployed as an essential aspect of kingship, and where the nature of royal power was defined through a range of ritual practices, including the sacrifice of royal courtiers and retainers. The regular involvement of Institute students in the project has allowed them not only to learn first-hand about the production of knowledge of the past, but also to make significant contributions themselves in this transformative effort.

David's legacy at Abydos is nothing short of enormous and is impossible to express in just a few sentences. Suffice it to say that his towering intellect, endless curiosity, and generosity of spirit will be sorely missed.



Luca Restelli

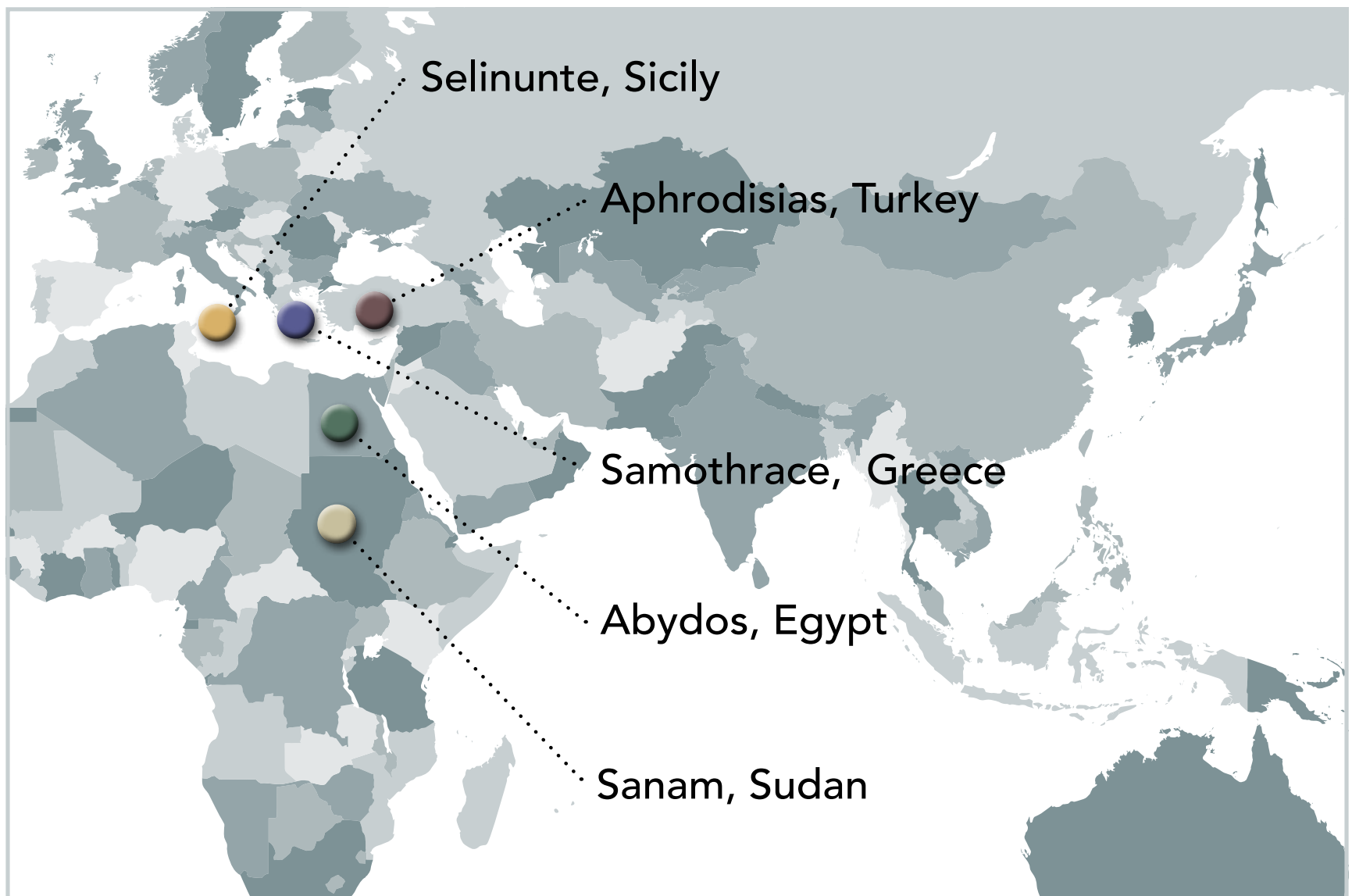
The Archaeological Mission of the Institute of Fine Arts–NYU and of the University of Milan mourns the tragic passing away of Luca Restelli, a long-standing member of our project, and a friend and mentor

to many within the Institute community. Our Mission wishes to express its deepest condolences to Luca's family and its sincerest sympathy to his friends and colleagues.

A recent graduate from the Scuola di Specializzazione in Beni Archeologici at the University of Milan, where he also earned his B.A. in Archaeology, Luca joined the Selinunte mission in 2018, and quickly distinguished himself through his expertise in archaeology, his quick smile, and his gentle soul. Born in 1992, Luca, a member of the SAP (Società Archeologica Padana), was an archaeologist of great promise, with extensive fieldwork experience in Lombardy (including Calvatone, the Roman villa at Palazzo Pignano, and countless emergency archaeological excavations at various sites), Nora (Sardinia), Pompeii and Rome. Luca was recently appointed Assessore alla Cultura at Palazzo Pignano (Cremona).

The field of Archaeology is worse for his passing, yet we are all fortunate for having had the opportunity to spend as much time with him as we did. Luca, with his contagious enthusiasm and all the things he taught us, will always be in the hearts and memories of the Selinunte Team.

The Institute's Archaeology Excavation Sites



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