

# Perceptions of Assyria: Art, Culture and Politics

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## Symposium

Saturday 09th February 2019, 10.00am  
Stevenson Lecture Theatre, British Museum

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This symposium will examine perceptions of ancient Assyria in art, culture and politics from the 19th century to the present day.

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Registration opens 09.30am.  
Symposium from 10.00 am to 05.00pm.

Tickets: £25

Members/Concessions: £15

Book tickets online at  
[www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org)

Included in the ticket price is  
entry to the BP exhibition  
*I am Ashurbanipal,  
king of the world, king of Assyria.*

Image: Michael Rakowitz,  
*The invisible enemy should not exist*

The British  
Museum



© Michael Rakowitz



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### Session 1: Europe in Assyria: Politics, Archaeology and Display

- 09:55 Welcome and opening remarks
- 10.00 The Bad Boys of Assyria  
Henrietta McCall, Visiting Academic,  
British Museum
- 10.20 From Mesopotamia to Museum:  
Dismantling and Installing the  
Assyrian Reliefs  
Paul Collins, Jaleh Hearn Curator for  
Ancient Near East, Ashmolean Museum  
Oxford
- 10.40 Soldiers, Archaeologists and  
Diplomats: Archaeology in Iraq during  
the two World Wars  
Juliette Desplat, Head, Modern  
Overseas Records, The National Archives
- 11.00 Q&A with speakers
- 11.10 Tea and coffee break

### Session 2: Assyria in Europe: Reception and Revival

- 11.40 Artistic Visions: Assyria at the Royal  
Academy of Arts, 1850–1900  
Donato Esposito, Independent Curator
- 12.00 Nineveh Writ Small: Ancient Assyria  
in Victorian Jewellery and Ceramics  
Judy Rudoë, Curator, British Museum
- 12.20 Imagining Assyria in English  
Literature from Victorian Britain to  
Modern London  
Benedict Leigh, Curator, British Museum
- 12:40 Q&A with speakers
- 12:50 Lunch (not provided)

### Session 3: The Heirs of Assyria: Archaeology and Identity

- 14.00 From Baghdad's Tahrir Square to  
London's Trafalgar Square: a Journey  
of Assyrian Art and National Identity in  
Iraq  
Ahmed Naji, Independent Researcher and  
Author
- 14.20 Hormuzd Rassam's Contribution to  
the Making of the Assyrian Christian  
Identity  
Erica Hunter, Senior Lecturer, School of Oriental  
and African Studies
- 14.40 Threads of Continuity: Modern  
Assyrian Folklore and Culture  
Nineb Lamassu, University of Cambridge
- 15.00 Q&A with speakers
- 15.10 Tea and coffee break

### Session 4: Assyria Today: Art, Heritage and Outreach

- 15.40 Clarity vs Confusion: Assyrian Roots  
in the Contemporary Art and Culture  
of Iraq  
Farah Al-Hashimi, architect and artist
- 16.00 Erasure and Endurance: Investigating  
Iraq's Endangered Maritime and Craft  
Heritage - Clues and Questions from  
Assyria  
Rashad Salim, Artist, Safina Projects
- 16.20 Developing Tourism in Iraq's Heritage  
Sites  
Ali Al Makhzomy, visiting scholar, NAHREIN  
Network
- 16.40 Q&A with speakers and closing  
remarks