

Museum of Classical Archaeology

Press Release

28 October 2020

Illustrating Ancient History: Bringing the Past to the Present

An exhibition exploring archaeological practice today

Tuesday 3 November 2020 – Saturday 30 January 2021

Website:

<http://www.classics.cam.ac.uk/museum/exhibitions/exhibitions/illustrating-ancient-history>

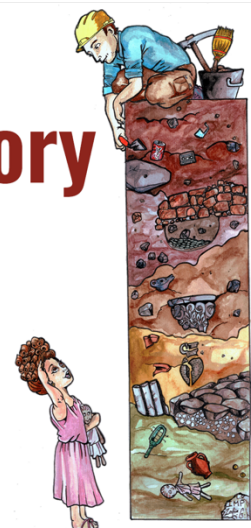
The Museum of Classical Archaeology is delighted to announce our new exhibition, inspired by the research conducted by the Faculty of Classics' *Impact of the Ancient City* research project.

This is not a dull and dusty exhibition though – it features artwork by Zofia Guertin and Sofia Greaves, intended to inspire interest in the classical past. Colourful drawings catch the eye and the imagination, bringing to life the archaeological record.

Illustrating Ancient History

Bringing the Past to the Present

3 November 2020-30 January 2021



Archaeological illustration, especially when aimed at the general public, is the result of the collaboration between artists and archaeologists. It offers a way of reconstructing the past

based on scientific data that can help the public understand archaeological remains better. This exhibition presents artistic interpretations of archaeological remains, technical drawings of finds, and how both can combine in reconstructions used to bring the past to life in the context of the Aeclanum Project in Southern Italy.

Aeclanum is an ancient town in Southern Italy, in an area which was occupied by the Samnites. It had a long history: founded in the third century BCE, it became a Roman colony under the Emperor Hadrian in the second century CE. Active archaeological research is ongoing at Aeclanum today, led by the Aeclanum Project based at the University of Edinburgh.

The site of Aeclanum is a perfect one for excavation, because it has never been built over. But if you were to visit the site today, you would see ruined walls and the footprints of buildings – remains which can be tricky for a lay-person to reconstruct into the vibrant, wealthy city which thrived for multiple centuries. This is where public archaeology steps in. The materials presented in this exhibition explore how archaeologists can help the public to picture the past.

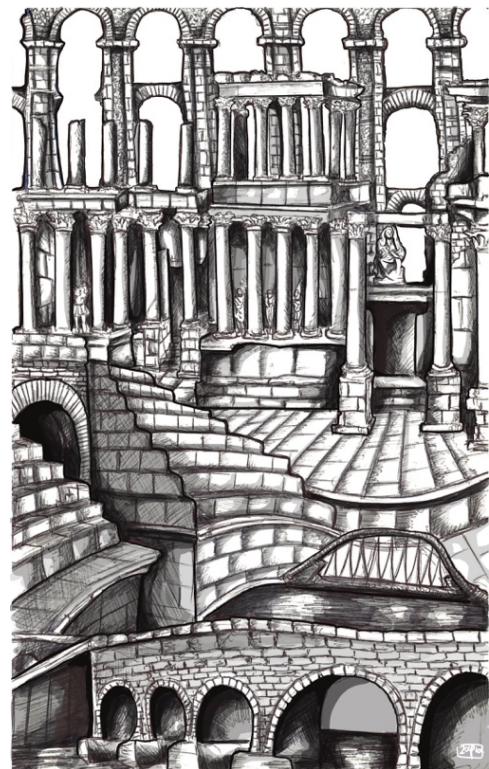
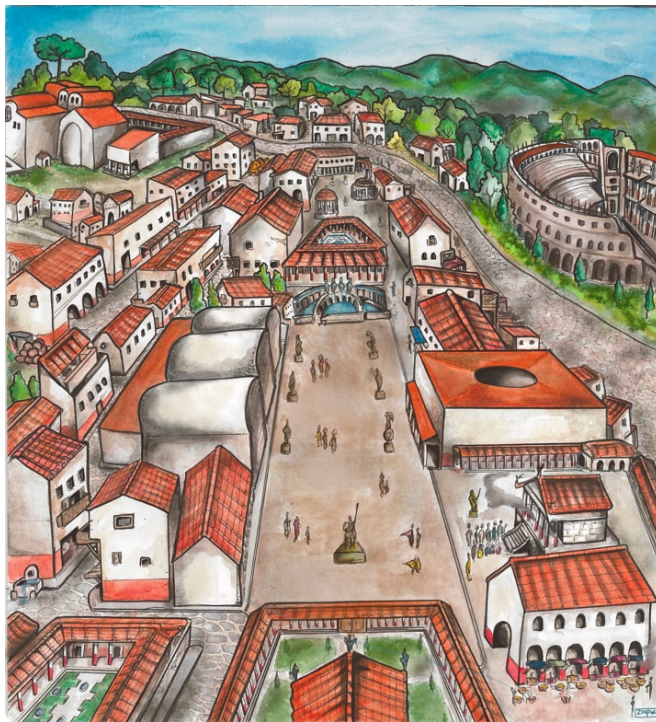


Image copyright: Zofia Guertin. Left: Bird's Eye View of Aeclanum. Right: Monumental Mérida.

Although we are now closed to the public, the exhibition will continue until the end of January – so we are hopeful that visitors will be able to see it. But just in case, we also plan to turn this into an online exhibition. In addition, the exhibition is also supported by a range of outreach materials, developed for use on-site but available to all for free:

<https://www.archaeokids.com/vita.html>

About the Artists

Zofia Guertin is a doctoral student at St Andrews. She is studying the presence of Egyptian-style objects in Roman cities – and in her spare time, she works with museums and heritage sites to create outreach materials. Find out more: <https://archaeoartist.com/>

Sofia Greaves is a doctoral student at Cambridge. As part of the *Impact of the Ancient City* project, she is researching the history of urban planning in Rome. She is also an artist, who has worked with Franco Manca and is available for commission. Find out more: <https://www.sofiagreaves.online/>

About the Research Projects

This exhibition presents and builds upon the work of two important and ongoing research projects.

It is part of a research project in the Faculty of Classics called the *Impact of the Ancient City Project*, led by Prof. Andrew Wallace-Hadrill. The project explores the long-lasting impact of Greco-Roman cities on urban history in both Europe and the Islamic world. The project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement n° 693418).

The *Aeclanum Project* is a joint venture between the University of Edinburgh and the Apolline Project.

More information:

<https://www.classics.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/the-impact-of-the-ancient-city-1>
<https://www.ed.ac.uk/history-classics-archaeology/classics/research/research-projects/aeclanum>

Visiting Museum of Classical Archaeology

The Museum is currently closed to the public, following government guidelines.

When we reopen, we will be open to the public Tuesday-Friday 11am-2pm and Saturdays (during University term-time only) 1-4pm. Tickets can be booked in advance online and are released every Tuesday morning. Our priority is to keep visitors and staff safe, and as a result we are limiting the number of visitors who can be in our Cast Gallery.



Further information on the Covid-secure measures we have in place can be found on our website. We have been awarded the Visit Britain *We're Good to Go* Industry Standard mark. This means we have followed government and industry COVID-19 guidelines, have a Risk Assessment in place and have a process to maintain cleanliness and aid social distancing.

<http://www.classics.cam.ac.uk/museum/visit-us>

About the Museum of Classical Archaeology

The Museum of Classical Archaeology is home to one of the finest surviving collections of plaster casts of Greek and Roman sculpture in the world, housed in its atmospheric Cast Gallery. Exhibitions are displayed amongst the casts, creating new dialogues between ancient and modern, antiquity and its reception.

About the University of Cambridge Museums

The University of Cambridge Museums (UCM) is a consortium of the eight University Museums and the Cambridge University Botanic Garden. Together, the UCM represents the UK's highest concentration of internationally important collections outside London. With more than five million works of art, artefacts, and specimens, the collections span four and a half billion years. The University of Cambridge Museums are funded by Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation.

For further information and images, please contact the Curator, Dr Susanne Turner
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www.classics.cam.ac.uk/museum



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Apolline Project

