

# SCHEDULE:

- 2:00

Welcome, Professor Ruth Scodel

*Winners of 2013 Platsis Prize for work on Greek Heritage*

**Keith Allegretti**, Graduate Student in School of Music, Theater, and Dance

**Colton Babladelis**, Undergraduate Majoring in Anthropology, the Program in the Environment, Spanish, and Modern Greek

**Spencer Hawkins**, Graduate Student in Comparative Literature
- 2:25

Professor Ruth Scodel
- 2:30

**Kenneth Lapatin**  
“Inventing the Minoans”
- 3:00

Short Break
- 3:10

Ruth Scodel
- 3:15

**Nanno Marinatos**  
“Minoan Monotheism: was Sir Arthur Evans Right?”
- 3:45

Q&A

## KENNETH LAPATIN

Associate Curator of Antiquities,  
The J. Paul Getty Museum

### Inventing the Minoans

Even if Arthur Evans (1851–1941) was not the first to discover the Minoans, it might still be argued that he invented them. Others had explored the prehistoric civilizations of the Aegean before him and much knowledge has been gained since his death but his synthetic vision of ancient Crete remains pervasive: a peaceable island kingdom spreading civilization across the Mediterranean through extensive mercantile networks. Is this a convincing reading of the ancient evidence or the imposition of preconceived notions, many of them formed at the height of the British Empire?

#### RESPONDENTS:

**ELINA SALMINEN**, Graduate Student in IPCAA  
**CARLA SINOPOLI**, Professor of Anthropology and Curator of Asian Anthropology at the Museum of Anthropology

## NANNO MARINATOS

Professor and Head, Department of Classics and Mediterranean Studies, University of Illinois at Chicago

### Minoan Monotheism: was Sir Arthur Evans Right?

In the period between the two great European wars, the British archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans produced a revolutionary theory: Minoan religion was monotheistic. What exactly did he mean by this word? Was he right or wrong? The majority of scholars are skeptical about Evans’ theories but the excavations at Akrotiri, on Thera (Santorini) have fully justified his model of monotheism. Recently restored paintings of murals show that one goddess is the dominant deity and she is most definitely a Minoan one.

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# ■ ENDOWMENT

The Arthur and Mary Platsis Endowment for the Greek Legacy is a gift to the University that enhances Classical and Modern Greek Studies at the University of Michigan.

**ARTHUR AND MARY PLATSIS**, immigrants from the island of Crete in Greece, exemplified the finest traditions of modern Hellenism, including hard work, service to their adopted homeland, and a commitment to education. This commitment was maintained by each one of their three children and six grandchildren, all of whom earned university degrees. Arthur Platsis demonstrated his devotion to the United States by proudly volunteering for military service with the 32nd Michigan Infantry in World War I. Upon his return, he served as head chef at the American Legion Hospital in Battle Creek, Michigan, that cared for veterans who suffered the effects of poison gas attacks. Mary Platsis also demonstrated her desire for serving others through volunteering for the Red Cross, founding the Battle Creek Friends of Greece during World War II that shipped clothes to her war torn homeland, and providing relief to the orphanages of Kandanos and Sougia, the village of her grandfather, from 1945–1947, under the United Nations Relief and Reconstruction Act.

It is in the spirit exemplified by these two individuals that their son, George Platsis, created the Arthur and Mary Platsis Endowment. Funds from this endowment will serve two main purposes: an annual symposium and student prizes for work relating to the Greek Legacy. Symposia will discuss values and virtues associated with the Greek tradition such as humanism (love), the pursuit of excellence (arête), rationalism (reason with enduring principles), moderation (nothing to excess), self-knowledge (know thyself), endless curiosity (man is the measure of all things), idealism (conscience), democracy (community), rule of law (republican government) and individual freedom.

## ABOUT PROFESSOR

### ■ Lapatin

Kenneth Lapatin is a classical archaeologist, whose research interests include historiography, forgery, and luxury as well as Bronze Age, Greek, and Roman art. A graduate of Oxford and UC Berkeley, he is the author and/or editor of several books, including *Chryselephantine Statuary in the Ancient Mediterranean World* (2001); *Mysteries of the Snake Goddess* (2002); *Ancient Greece: Art, Architecture and History* (2004); *Guide to the Getty Villa* (2005); *Special Techniques in Athenian Vases* (2008); *The Color of Life* (2008); and, most recently, *The Last Days of Pompeii: Decadence, Apocalypse, Resurrection* (2012). He has curated exhibitions about Greek vase-painting, polychrome statuary, ancient and modern gems, Pompeii and its modern reception, and is currently preparing shows on Roman silver and Hellenistic bronzes.

## ABOUT PROFESSOR

### ■ Marinatos

Nanno Marinatos is a classicist with a focus on art and religion. A graduate of University of Colorado Boulder, she has authored one book on the historian Thucydides *Thucydides and Religion* (1981) and several on Minoan art and religion of which the most recent are: *Minoan Religion* (1993); *Greek Sanctuaries* (2000) *The Goddess and the Warrior* (2000); *Taureadors from Tell el Dab'a* (co-authored with M. Bietak and C. Palyvou)(2007); *Minoan Kingship and the Solar Goddess* (2010). She has just completed a manuscript on Sir Arthur Evans and his Vision of Knossos and his views on civilization as shaped after World War I.

Nanno Marinatos is daughter of the Greek archaeologist and excavator of Thera, Spyridon Marinatos. She is currently Professor and Head of the Department of Classics and Mediterranean Studies at the University of Illinois, Chicago.

**M** | LSA CLASSICAL STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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# MINOANS

SUNDAY  
SEPT 29  
2013

Palmer Commons  
Forum Hall

**2:00 PM**

For more information

734.764.0360  
[lsa.umich.edu/classics](http://lsa.umich.edu/classics)

Annual Arthur and Mary Platsis Symposium on the Greek Legacy