

The visual and material culture of the Roman Empire provides an abundant record of direct encounters with as well as stereotyped imaginings of foreign peoples. These images render visible complex formulations of ethnicity, social hierarchies, and power. This lecture surveys the ways in which imperial artists represented the peoples whom the Romans referred to as Aethiopians or Nubians (i.e., "Black" Africans) in a variety of visual media. The lecture also considers how and why these works have been (mis)interpreted or sometimes ignored altogether by ancient art historians, and proposes new ways of integrating them into future, critical histories of Roman art.

SINCLAIR BELL

PROFESSOR OF ART HISTORY, NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

RACE, RACISM & REPRESENTATION IN ROMAN ART: AETHIOPIANS IN THE VISUAL ARTS OF THE ROMAN WORLD

6TH ANNUAL SIENKEWICZ LECTURE ON ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY

7:30 PM NOV 10

MONMOUTH COLLEGE PATTEE AUDITORIUM CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND BUSINESS, ROOM 100

DR. SINCLAIR BELL has taught courses in Greek, Etruscan and Roman art history, architecture and archaeology, as well as museum studies, since joining the Northern Illinois faculty in 2008. He holds an MSt in classical archaeology from the University of Oxford, and an MSc in classical archaeology and a PhD in classics from Edinburgh University.



FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Thomas J. and Anne W. Sienkewicz Lecture on Roman Archaeology was established by an anonymous donor in 2017 to support the annual archaeological lecture series sponsored by the Monmouth College Department of Classics and the Western Illinois Society of the Archaeological Institute of America. Tom Sienkewicz was Minnie Billings Capron Chair of Classics at Monmouth College from 1985 until 2017. During his career he taught a wide range of classics courses, many with strong archaeological features, including Classical Mythology, the Ancient Family, and Africa in the Ancient World. In 1984 he founded the Western Illinois Society of the Archaeological Institute of America, which, since its inception, has hosted hundreds of archaeological lectures at Monmouth. His wife, Anne, has been a loyal supporter of archaeology and over the years has hosted countless speakers.