

New Course: The Ethiopia at the Crossroads



Follower of Fre Seyon, Ethiopian, Diptych with Mary and Her Son Flanked by Archangels, Apostles and a Saint, late 15th century, accession # 36.12, Museum purchase, the W. Alton Jones Foundation Acquisition Fund, 2001, from the Nancy and Robert Nooter Collection

AS.010.305 The Ethiopia at the Crossroads
Dr. Christine Sciacca, Walters Art Museum
Spring 2022, Thursdays, 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Ethiopia played a foundational role in modern-day civilization and culture: as the find site of Lucy, the earliest bipedal hominid, the seat of the Queen of Sheba's kingdom, the second country in the world to adopt Christianity in the early 4th century CE, and the nexus of exchange between Africa, Europe, and Asia. In fall 2023, The Walters Art Museum will mount the exhibition tentatively titled, Ethiopia at the Crossroads, which addresses Ethiopia's relationship and artistic exchange with its surrounding cultures, including South Arabia, Nubia, Egypt, Byzantium, Armenia, Italy, and India. It also discusses the impact of Ethiopian art beyond its borders, bringing works of Ethiopian contemporary art into dialogue with the historical Ethiopian art that these artists draw upon in their work. The exhibition covers approximately 1,750 years of Ethiopian history with a special focus on the art of the medieval period, broadly conceived. The course will also offer insights into how a museum exhibition is developed from the initial concept to the physical presentation in the galleries.