



Ancient World Seminars

School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, University of Melbourne

Macmahon Ball Theatre, Old Arts Building, Parkville Campus

1 pm Tuesday 17 March

The Eye, the Mind and the Hand

Seals, Signets and the Artistic Vision of the Minoans

Janice L Crowley

The art of Crete at its high point in the Late Minoan I period is examined and contrasted to the arts of contemporary traditions to the East, the Egyptian and Mesopotamian. The special nature of the Minoan artistic vision thus highlighted is then further explored leading to the understanding of the Icon composition and the role of the seals and signets as crucial to this artistic creativity. When the seal compositions of the Early and Middle Minoan periods are also taken into account a thousand-year continuity in design and subject matter is revealed. There is much evidence to argue the primacy of the seals and signets in developing the artistic vision of the Minoans.