

Iconic Objects: Iconic Statue of Sekhmet

**Robert Shaw, Assistant Curator, Egyptian Arts and Culture
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[Podcast begins with music and animated Iconic logo, title reads: Iconic: The Must-see Treasures of the ROM]

[Cut to close-up of statue of Sekhmet's head, title reads: Statue of Sekhmet]

[Fades to black; fades in on an animated satellite image of the Great Lakes region of North America; zooms out as the Earth turns; zooms in and becomes satellite map of Karnak, Egypt; animated titles slide in to indicate Colossus of Memnon and Karnak on the map]

[Cut to view of the sun, low on the River Nile]

[Cut to view of a busy urban street]

[Cut to low-angle view of a stone figure beside a palm tree against blue sky]

[Cut to long angle view of three camels in the desert]

[Cut to close-up of pigeons roosting on a large, stone statue; zooms out to show large, seated figure] **Roberta Shaw, Assistant Curator, Egyptian Arts and Culture:** Hello, I'm Roberta Shaw from the Royal Ontario Museum

[Cut to view of Roberta standing in front of two large statues of seated goddesses] and I'm standing at the ancient site of the Colossus on Memnon, located in Luxor, Southern Egypt, also known as ancient Thebes.

[Cut to view of a crowded urban street at night]

[Cut to close-up of rocky structures in the desert; camera zooms out to show hills in the background]

[Cut to view of a stone figure with white cloth wrapped around the head; camera zooms in on the figure]

Roberta: I'm here to talk about [cut to close-up view of ROM's statue of Sekhmet; camera pans up the body of the statue to the face] our statue of the goddess Sekhmet,

[Cut to split screen; right-hand screen is a close-up of the face of the ROM's statue of Sekhmet; left-hand screen shows Roberta walking along a wooden walkway amongst rocks and stone statues in Egypt] **Robert:** ...a lioness goddess capable of tremendous power who could destroy but could also heal.

[Cut to close-up of people moving along a crowded urban street]

[Cut to a medium view of a less-crowded urban street]

[Cut to split screen; right-hand screen shows Roberta standing beside a stone structure in the desert; left-hand screen shows a close-up of a stone wall; camera zooms out to show a series of large Sekhmet statues lining the wall] **Roberta:** Many, many of these Sekhmet statues have been found at this ancient temple site.

[Cut to full-screen view of Roberta, speaking at the foot of a large statue] **Roberta:** Also across the river Nile at the great Karnak Temple complex.

[Cut to view of a sailing boat on the Nile River]

[Cut to view of a stone building in the desert]

[Cut to close-up of a stone structure showing how the stone blocks fit together]

[Cut to a view of a sandy road leading to the Karnak complex] **Roberta:** Standing here at Karnak...

[Cut to view of Roberta standing at the ruins of Karnak] **Roberta:** ...We can see what is so special about the ROM's Sekhmet statue.

[Cut to split screen; on the left-hand side, a view of Roberta at Karnak; on the left-hand side, a panning view of a row of large Sekhmet statues along the side of the temple complex] **Roberta:** In addition to the temple on the western side of the Nile, many statues of this [cut to full-screen close-up of a statue] half human, half lioness [cut to close-up of a statue's broken face] goddess were found here, [Cut to panning view of a row of Sekhmet statues] in the southern part of the complex at Karnak, lined up in impressive rows.

[Music cuts in; cut to view of two women carrying loads of greens on their heads through a crowded urban street; music gets quieter as Roberta starts to speak]

*[Cut to a panning view of the ruins of Karnak] **Roberta:** Here in Thebes we can see how our stone goddess played an important role in the flourishing *[Cut to view of a distance spire along a city skyline]* art, culture and religion of ancient Egypt.*

*[Camera zooms out to show a pair of lion statues in the foreground]. **Roberta:** What makes the ROM's statue of Sekhmet *[Cut to split screen; on the left-hand side, a view of Roberta at the Karnak ruins; on the right-hand side, a close-up of a Sekhmet statue's face in a darkened room]* so special is that it was part of this vast army of stone *[cut to panning view of a Sekhmet statue's face]* that was used to ward off a tremendous pestilence that had descended upon Egypt *[Cut to panning view of a Sekhmet statue at the Karnak complex]* during the reign of King Tut's grandfather *[Cut to view of Roberta at the Karnak ruins]* some 3500 years ago.*

[Music cuts in; camera slowly pans up the body of the ROM's statue of Sekhmet]

[Music fades and screen fades to white]

[Podcast ends with sound sting and animated ROM logo]