Symposium

Perceptions of Assyria: art, culture and politics

Saturday 09th February 2019, 10:00 - 19.00

BP Lecture Theatre, British Museum

09.30 Registration

**Session 1: Europe in Assyria: Politics, Archaeology and Display**

09:55 Welcome and opening remarks

10.00 The bad boys of Assyria

 Henrietta McCall, Visiting Academic, British Museum

10.20 From Mesopotamia to Museum: dismantling and installing the Assyrian reliefs

 Paul Collins, Jaleh Hearn Curator for Ancient Near East, Ashmolean Museum Oxford

10.40 Soldiers, Archaeologists and Diplomats: Archaeology in Iraq during the two World Wars

 Juliette Desplat, Head, Modern Overseas Records, The National Archives Kew

11.00 Q&A with speakers and chair

11.10 Tea and coffee break

**Session 2: Assyria in Europe: Reception and Revival**

11.40 Artistic Visions: Assyria at the Royal Academy of Arts, 1850–1900

Donato Esposito, independent Curator

12.00 Assyrian revival jewellery and crafts

Judy Rudoe, Curator, British Museum

12.20 Imagining Assyria in English literature from Victorian England to Modern London

 Benedict Leigh, Curator, British Museum

12:40 Q&A with speakers and chair

12:50 Lunch (not provided)

**Session 3: The heirs of Assyria: Archaeology and Identity**

14.00 From Baghdad’s Tahrir Square to London’s Trafalgar Square: a journey of Assyrian art and national identity in Iraq Ahmed Naji, independent researcher and author

14.20 Hormuzd Rassam's contribution to the making of the Assyrian Christian identity

 Erica Hunter, professor, School of Oriental and African Studies

14.40 Threads of Continuity: Modern Assyrian Folklore and Culture

 Nineb Lamassu, University of Cambridge

15.00 Q&A with speakers and chair

15.10 Tea and coffee break

**Session 4: Assyria today: Art, Heritage and Outreach**

15.40 Clarity vs Confusion: Assyrian Roots in the Contemporary Art and Culture of Iraq

 Dr Farah al-Hashimi, architect and artist

16.00 Talk to be confirmed

 TBC

16.20 Developing tourism in Iraq’s heritage sites

 Ali Al Makhzomy, visiting scholar, NAHREIN Network

16.40 Q&A with speakers and chair and Closing remarks

17.30 Private View of exhibition *I am Ashurbanipal King of the World King of Assyria* (until 19.00)