

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Unearthing Greek treasures: public lecture by international archaeology professor

Professor Wolf-Dietrich Niemeier, director of The German Archaeology Institute at Athens, will deliver a free public lecture at the University of Tasmania tomorrow night (Tuesday) on the spectacular discovery of the Kouros of the Sacred Gate and other archaic marble sculptures unearthed during a 2002 archaeological dig in the Kerameikos area of Athens.

Prof Niemeier was supervising an archaeological dig to date water channels in Kerameikos – the cemetery and potters’ quarter of ancient Athens which had remained untouched for 2500 years – when his German team stumbled across the exquisite marble kouros (an idealised Greek youth). The kouros masterpiece (pictured) is one of the earliest marble sculptures from Athens and dates to around 600BC.

Lined up with the kouros were several other marble sculptures – a sphinx dating from 560BC, two lions and two marble pillars, one with a Doric capital design and one with an Ionic capital design.

In his lecture, entitled “*The Kouros of the Sacred Gate: New finds of archaic marble sculptures in the Kerameikos of Athens*”, Prof Niemeier will detail the exciting story of unearthing the ancient treasures, their importance to the history of Greek sculpture, their original function as monuments on the graves of aristocratic families, and explore the question of how they came to their place of discovery.

University of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew will chair the event, which is being hosted by the Tasmanian Friends of the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens.

The free lecture will be held in the Centenary Lecture Theatre, Sandy Bay campus, from 8pm.

WHAT: Free lecture by Professor Wolf-Dietrich Niemeier, director of The German Archaeology Institute at Athens, on the unearthing of the Kouros of the Sacred Gate.

WHEN: Tuesday, 11 September from 8pm.

WHERE: Centenary Lecture Theatre, Sandy Bay campus.

Information Released by:

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