



Picturing the Past

Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East

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DESCRIPTION:

This fully illustrated catalogue of essays, descriptions, and commentary accompanies the Oriental Institute special exhibit *Picturing the Past: Imaging and Imagining the Ancient Middle East* (on exhibit February 7 through September 2, 2012). *Picturing the Past* presents paintings, architectural reconstructions, facsimiles, models, photographs, and computer-aided reconstructions that show how the architecture, sites, and artifacts of the ancient Middle East have been documented.

It also examines how the publication of those images have shaped our perception of the ancient world, and how some of the more "imaginary" reconstructions have obscured our real understanding of the past. The exhibit and catalog also show how features of the ancient Middle East have been presented in different ways for different audiences, in some cases transforming a highly academic image into a widely recognized icon of the past.

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