



The cartonnage and mummified human remains of an Ancient Egyptian person, c. 1200 BCE. Owned by Bridwell Library, Southern Methodist University, on loan and on display at the Dallas Museum of Art.

Seminar on Ancient Art

Topic: SMU's "Egyptian Mummy" at the Dallas Museum of Art: Ethics and New Approaches to the Exhibition of Ancient Human Remains

ARHS 6304
Spring 2021

Tuesday 2:00 pm-4:50 pm
Umphrey Lee 228

This practicum seminar will address the urgent ethical issue of the display of the bodily remains of ancient people in art museums. Seminar readings will introduce students to the broad literature on this topic from ethical, archaeological, and art historical perspectives. We will then address the specific case of the coffin and mummified body of an ancient Egyptian woman that is owned by Southern Methodist University and currently on loan to, and displayed at, the Dallas Museum of Art. Drawing upon current best practices for the display of ancient human remains, students will develop real-world proposals for alternate curatorial strategies for exhibiting (or not) the remains of this ancient person. These proposals will be formally presented to the Director of the Bridwell Library at SMU at the conclusion of the course.

Dr. Stephanie Langin-Hooper