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present

Recent Investigations on Late Sasanian Art: The Site of *Taq-e Bostan*

Dr. Matteo Compareti
University of California, Berkeley

Wednesday, January 27, 2016 | 306 Royce Hall | 4:00pm



The late Sasanian rock reliefs at *Taq-e Bostan* do not have any parallel in pre-Islamic Persian art. They have been studied in detail by Japanese teams during the 1960s and '70s, but no real archaeological excavations have been undertaken. Unfortunately, some recent restorations have profoundly changed the aspect of *Taq-e Bostan*: not only was a moat excavated right in front of the site, but also all the figurative column capitals, which had been collected on site, were removed. In this talk, a new chronology of the site shall be submitted. Also, fresh insights into the function of the figurative column capitals shall be proposed; these represented in all probability a Sasanian sovereign receiving a beribboned ring from a deity.

Matteo Compareti is the Guitty Azarpay Distinguished Visiting Professor in the History of the Arts of Iran and Central Asia at the University of California, Berkeley. Since completing his Ph.D. at the University of Naples in 2005, M. Compareti has published extensively in Italian and English on the themes of economic, artistic, and cultural exchange in pre-Islamic and early Islamic Eurasia. His publications include books on Iranian merchants in the Indian Ocean, Buddhist art in Sogdiana, and the famous Afrasyab fresco cycle at Samarkand; an English translation on the latter topic is in preparation with Mazda Publishers. His previous fellowships include a year as a research scholar at New York University's prestigious Institute for the Study of the Ancient World.

Light refreshments will be served
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