

The exhibition *The Greeks in Egypt* is the latest in a series of successful international touring exhibitions to explore the Sunken Cities of Egypt's Lost Worlds.

It is an immersive exhibition showcasing the latest underwater evidence for the Greek presence in the Kingdom of the Pharaohs.

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The Greeks in Egypt is one of the highlights of the underwater excavations directed by Franck Goddio, president of the European Institute for Underwater Archaeology (IEASM), in collaboration with the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

This travelling exhibition shows a new aspect of the Sunken Cities: not only Greek life, but also Greek legends in Egypt that are 3000 years old, long before the presence of Alexander the Great or the reign of the Ptolemies. A range of multimedia displays of various scales complement a large collection of recently discovered objects from the underwater excavations. Many have never been seen outside of Egypt before. They are complemented by some 20 masterpieces on loan from museums in Egypt.

A spectacle of colour and light is used in conjunction with the objects and photographs, sounds, video, and interactive displays to create another time and place for an enhanced visitor experience.

A unique archaeological discovery











A dreamlike underwater experience



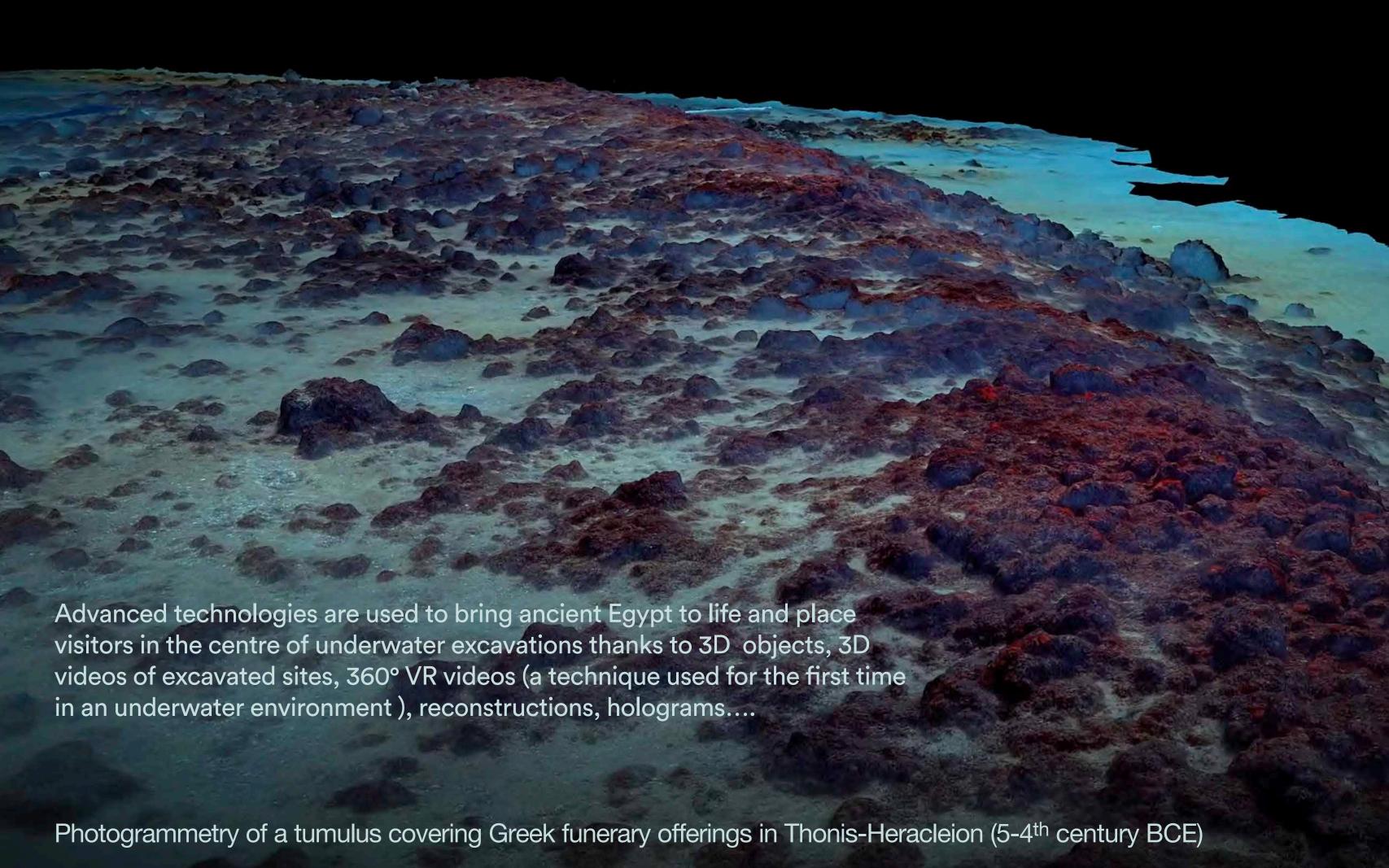


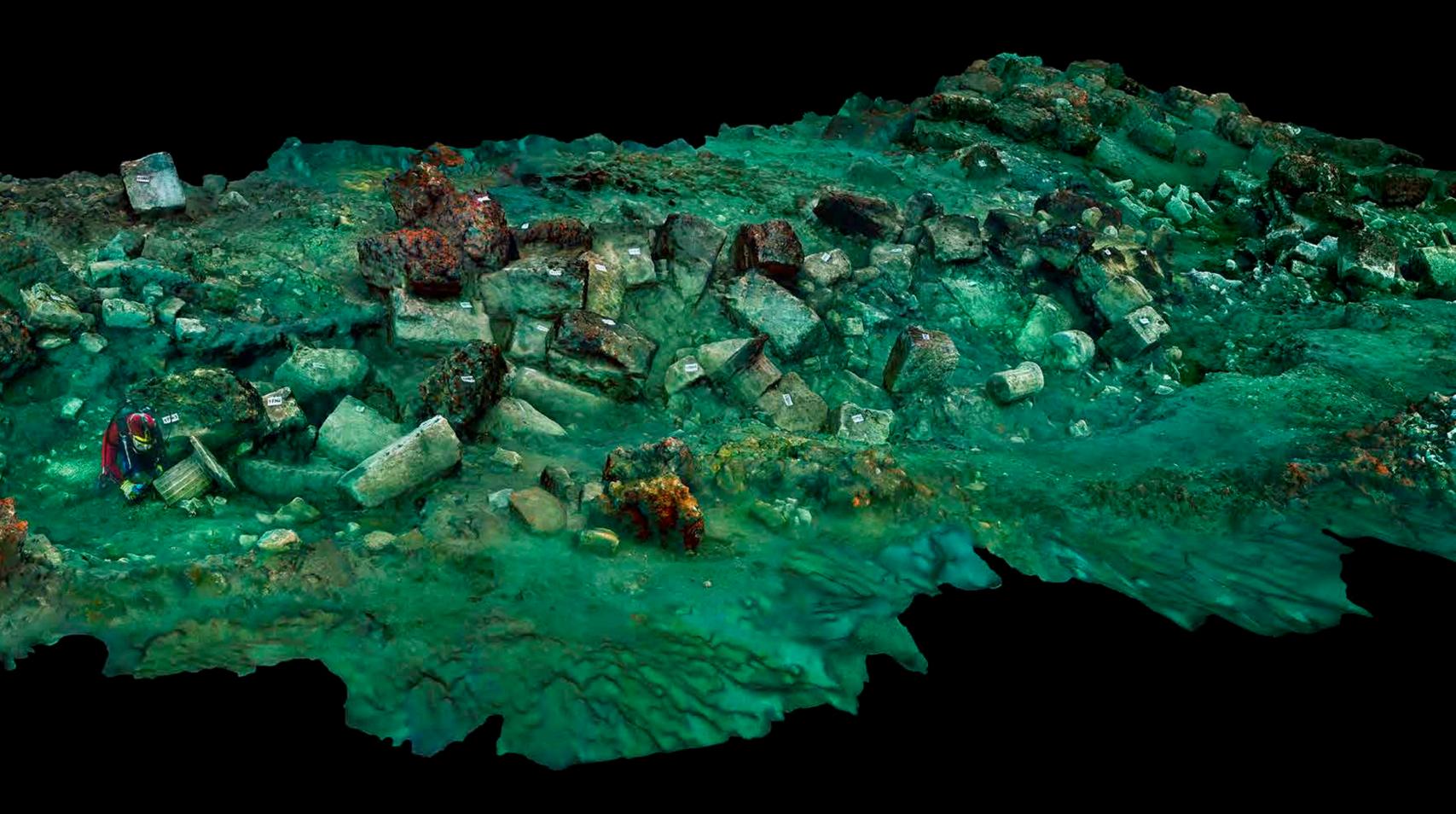




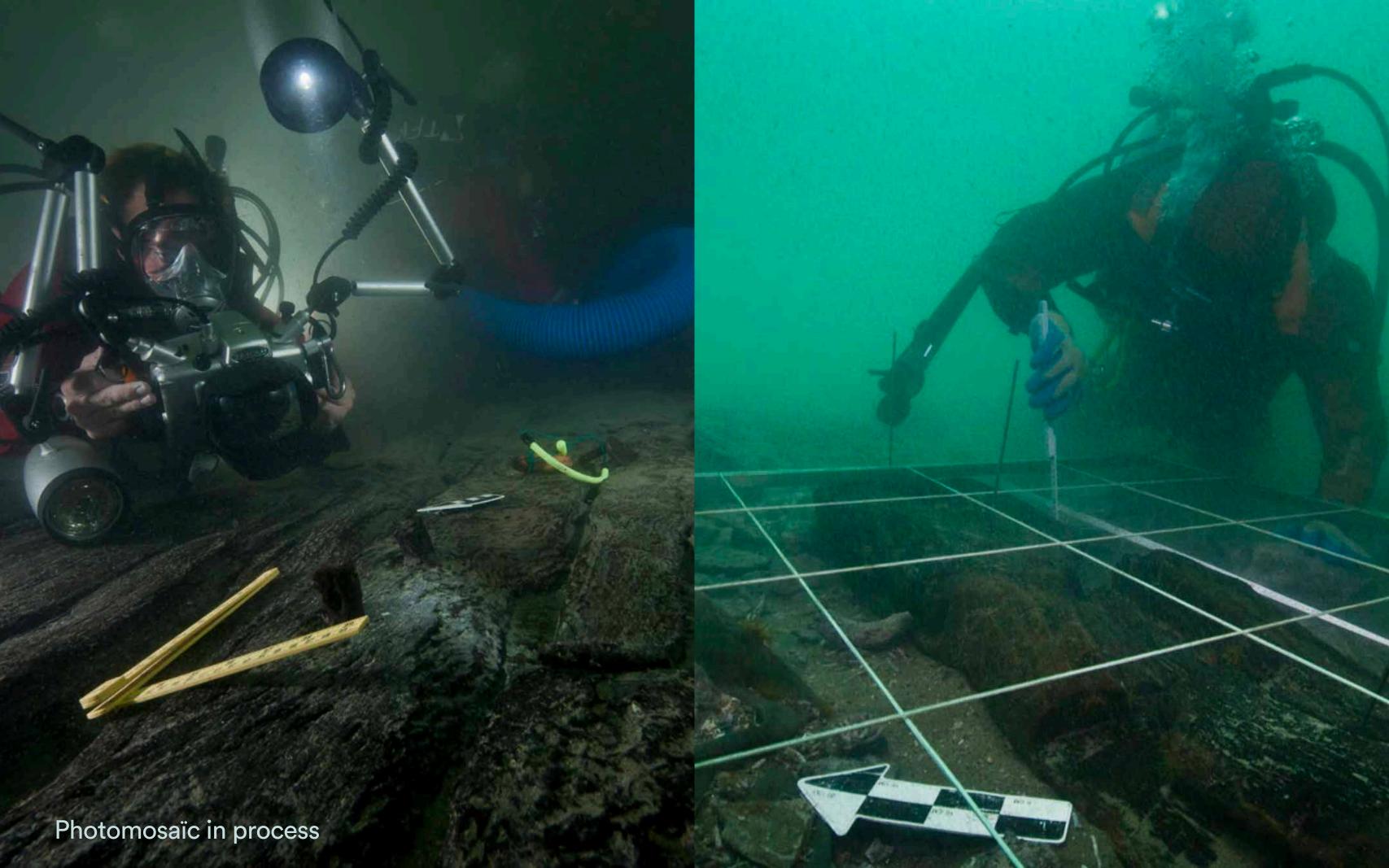


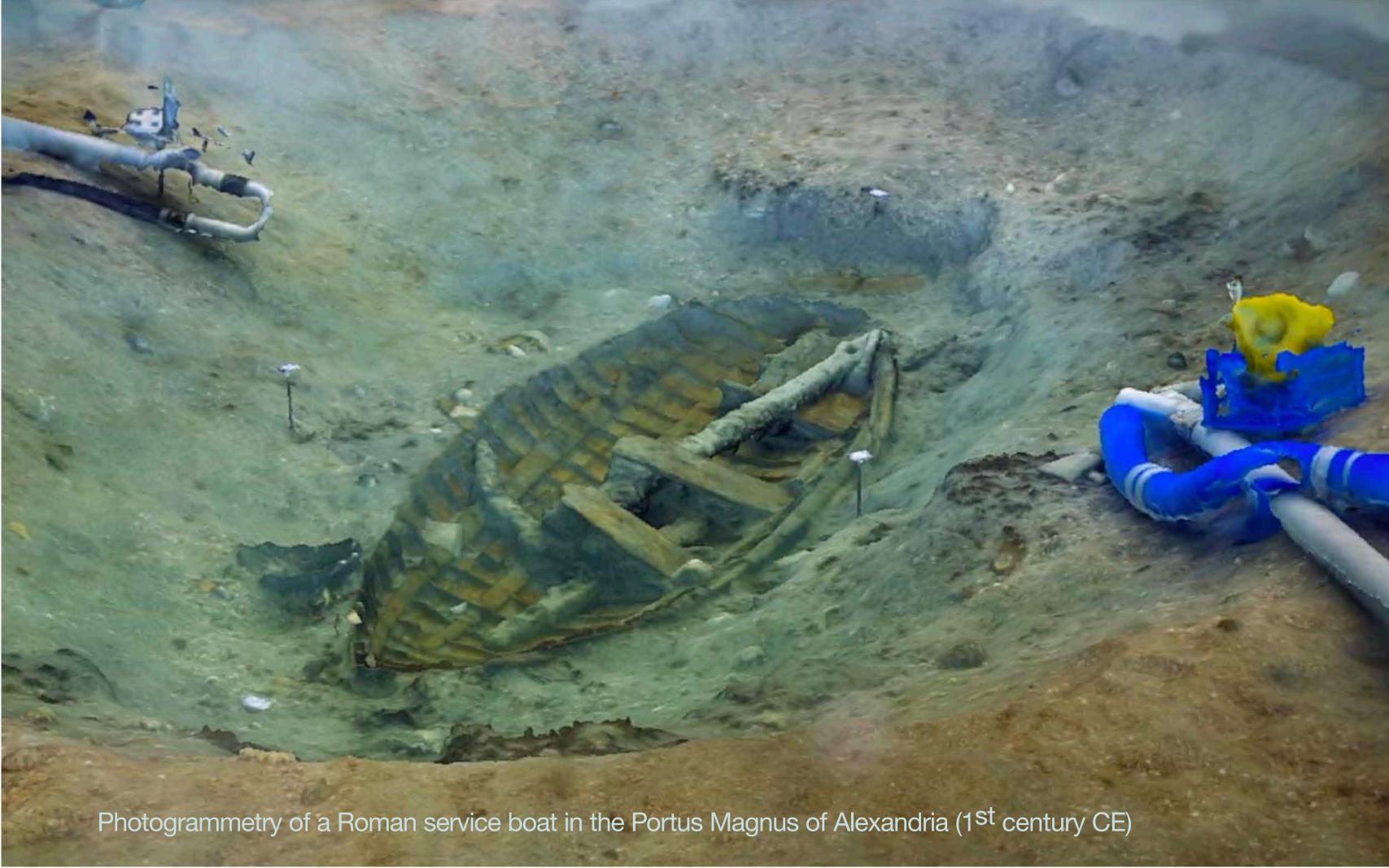
Latest exploration and analysis technologies

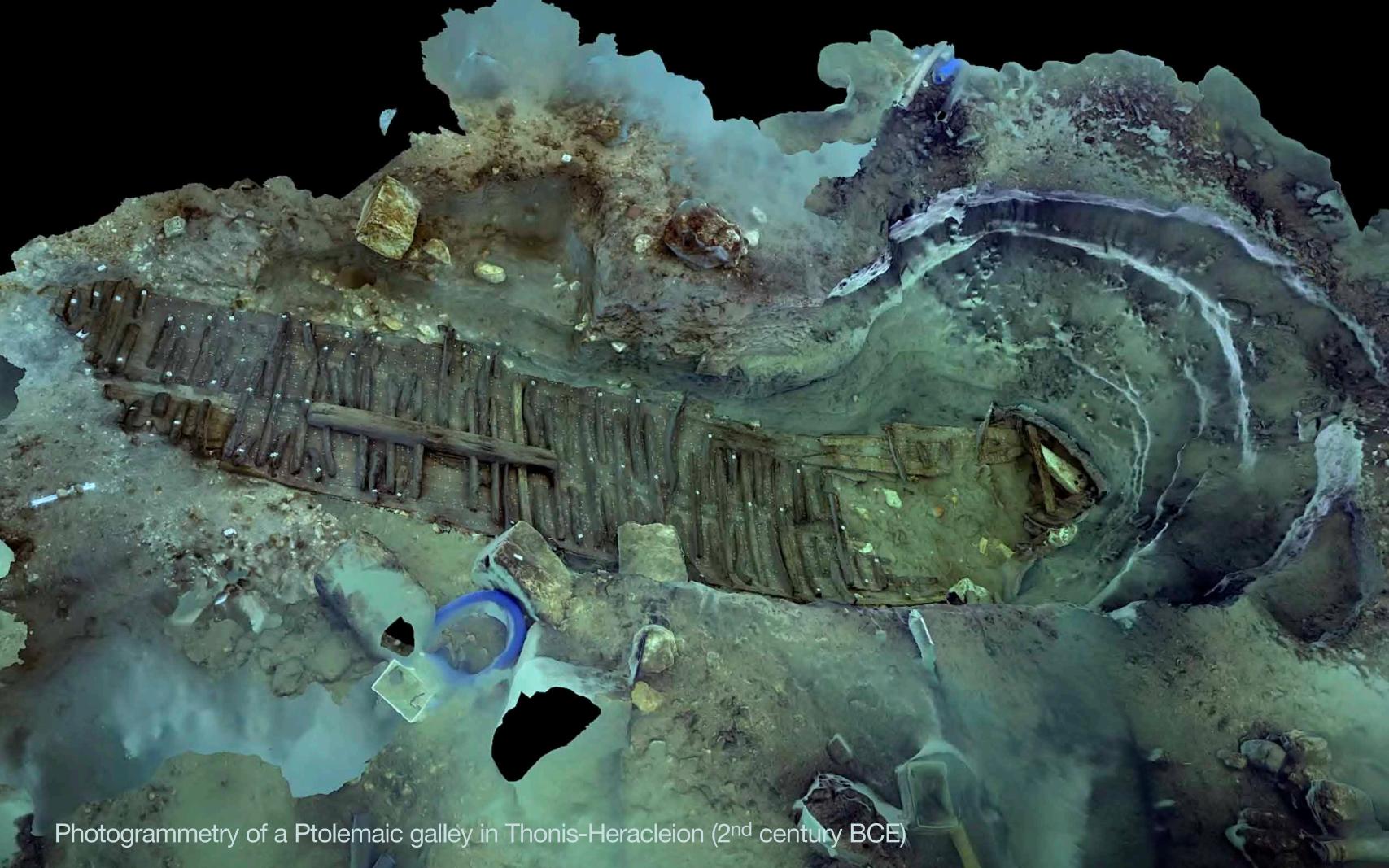


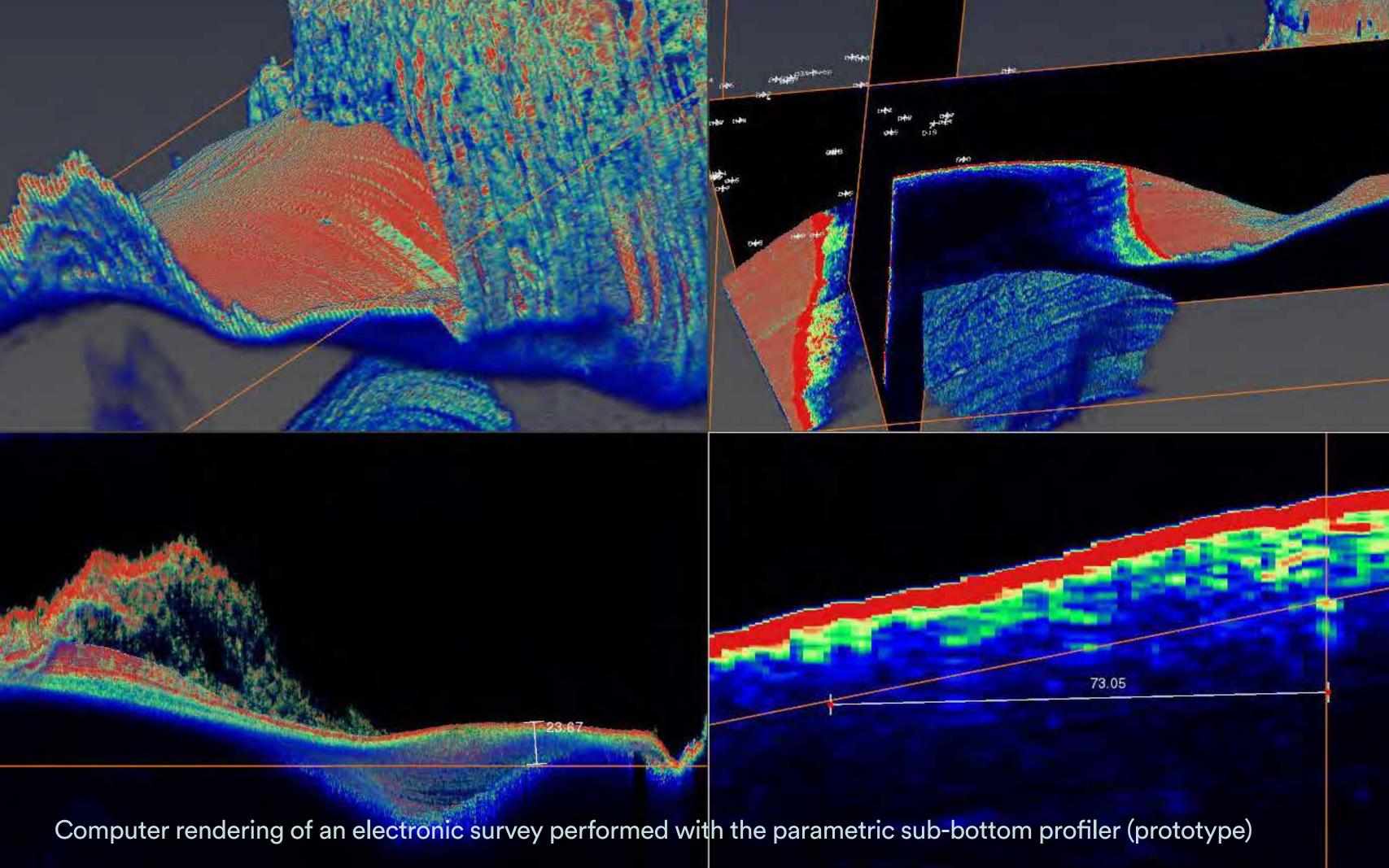


Photogrammetry of the remains of the famed temple of Amun of Thonis-Heracleion destroyed in the 2nd century BCE by an earthquake









Strong and accessible story

GREEKS IN EGYPT

The exhibition covers the period from the visit of Queen Helena and Paris, to the conquest of Alexander the Great, and through the foundation of the Ptolemaic dynasty to the death of Queen Cleopatra VII.

This part illustrates the Egypt's creation myth and the Greek legend of the Trojans, with Paris, Queen Helena and King Menelaus disembarking in Thonis-Heracleion according to Herodotus.

The second section is the most important one. It presents the interaction and the mixing of these two great civilizations in all aspects of life: religious, political cultural economic and military.

The Greeks were mercenaries and traders and the settlers built their own sanctuaries in order to worship their gods, side by side with Egyptians temples.

Egyptian art was influenced by Greek artists and Greek gods were equated with Egyptian ones.

In the third section, the visitor discovers how, after Alexander the Great became Pharaoh of Egypt and established the city of Alexandria, his successors founded the Ptolemaic dynasty and went on to rule Egypt for three centuries, until the death of Cleopatra VII.

The power of Ptolemaic dynasty was based on Egypt's immense wealth and on its naval power, both merchant or military. Egyptian cults were respected and a cult to a new syncretic god, Serapis, was created.

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The first section presents the city of Thonis-Heracleion and its famed temples. The city was the gateway through which Greek mercenaries and merchants could enter Egypt in the Saïte dynasty (7th century ^{BC}) with the permission of the Pharaohs, settle in the country.

PROLOGUE

A presentation of the myth of the creation of Egypt and of the Trojan legend of Paris, Queen Helena and King Menelaus disembarking in Thonis-Heracleion as told by Herodotus, who visited the city in 450 BCE.

MYTH, LEGEND AND REALITY

The first section presents the famed city of Thonis-Heracleion, now totally submerged. Its great temple to Amun was home to the dynastic cult and the place where the Mysteries of Osiris were celebrated. All its other sanctuaries in the city that existed at the time of the arrival of the Greeks are also represented.

It was on this site that the Pharaohs allowed the Greeks to enter Egypt.

Thonis-Heracleion was the "Gateway" and customs control for the Kingdom and acted as the emporium of Egypt on the Mediterranean Sea until the foundation of Alexandria. After Alexander became new Pharaoh of Egypt, he ordered the transfer of the maritime trade to the Portus Magnus of Alexandria.

THE MUTUAL INFLUENCES OF BOTH CIVILIZATIONS

Thonis-Heracleion, Canopus and Alexandria were key cities for the Greeks in Egypt. The IEASM's underwater excavations have investigated the cities of Thonis-Heracleion and Canopus and the Portus Magnus, or the Great Port of Alexandria. All these sites have been totally submerged under the sea since the 8th century CE.

Several Egyptian temples were discovered in Thonis-Heracleion, as well as Greek sanctuaries. In Canopus, the famed Serapeum was uncovered. It was one of the major sanctuaries devoted to the cult of the new syncretic god Serapis, who visited the king Ptolemy Ist in a dream.

Many traces of Egyptian and Greek workship have been discovered (such as sculptures, figurines, liturgical instruments and a naos). Votive boats and objects associated with the celebration of the Mysteries of Osiris were found along the 3.5 km canal linking Thonis-Heracleion, where the ceremony began, with the city of Canopus, where the ritual ended.

THE GLORY OF THE PTOLEMAIC DYNASTY AND ITS DOWN FALL

The Ptolemies ruled Egypt for three centuries until the time the Romans seized Egypt. Egypt was a rich colony for the Romans and important source of cereals. Every year a grain fleet left Portus Magnus for Rome.

The Roman Empire adopted Egyptian cults and Greek art strongly influenced its artists.

The Greek religion was influenced by Egyptian cults. Equivalences were found between the various gods from each religion: the Mysteries of Osiris were interpreted by the Greeks as Dionysiac ceremonies.

Greek art strongly influenced Egyptian visual culture.

Artefact highlights







Statue of Arsinoe

Granodiorite
H. 150 x 55 x 28 cm

3rd century BCE

Canopus

Museum of Antiquities, Bibliotheca

Museum of Antiquities, Bibliotheca Alexandrina – IEASM excavations (SCA 208)



Statue of Osiris

Greywacke

H. 89 cm

XXVIth dynasty, Amasis (570-526 BCE)

Saqqara

Egyptian Museum, Cairo (CGC 38358)

Statue of Isis

Greywacke

H. 90 cm

XXVIth dynasty, Amasis (570-526 BCE)

Saqqara

Egyptian Museum, Cairo (CGC 38884)







Statue of Taweret

Greywacke
H. 96 cm
XXVIth dynasty, Psamtek I (664-610)
Egyptian Museum, Cairo (CGC 39194)





Granodiorite

Stele of Thonis-Heracleion H. 195 x 1,88 x 34 cm XXXth dynasty, year I of Nectanebo (380 BCE) Thonis-Heracleion National Museum, d'Alexandrie **IEASM** excavations (SCA 277)





Priest bearing an Osiris hydreios surrounded by two sphinxes

Granodiorite

H. 122 cm

1st century CE

Eastern Harbour of Alexandria

National Museum of Alexandria

IEASM excavations (SCA 449)

Diorite, Grey Granite

L. 140 x 75 cm

1st century BCE

Eastern Harbour of Alexandria

National Museum of Alexandria

IEASM excavations (SCA 451)

Grey Granite

L. 150 x 70 cm

1st century BCE

Eastern Harbour of Alexandria

National Museum of Alexandria

IEASM excavations (SCA 450)





Head of Serapis with calathos

H. 86 x 24 cm

2nd century BCE

Museum of Antiquities, Bibliotheca Alexandrina

IEASM excavations (SCA 169 et 206)

Colossal head of Caesarion

Granodiorite

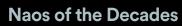
1st century BCE

H 80 x 60 x 50 cm

Bibliotheca Alexandrina (SCA 88)







Basalt
H. 130 x 87 x 78 cm
XXXth dynasty, Nectanebo I (380-343 BCE)
Canopus

Greco-roman Museum, Alexandria IEASM excavations (SCA 161-164),



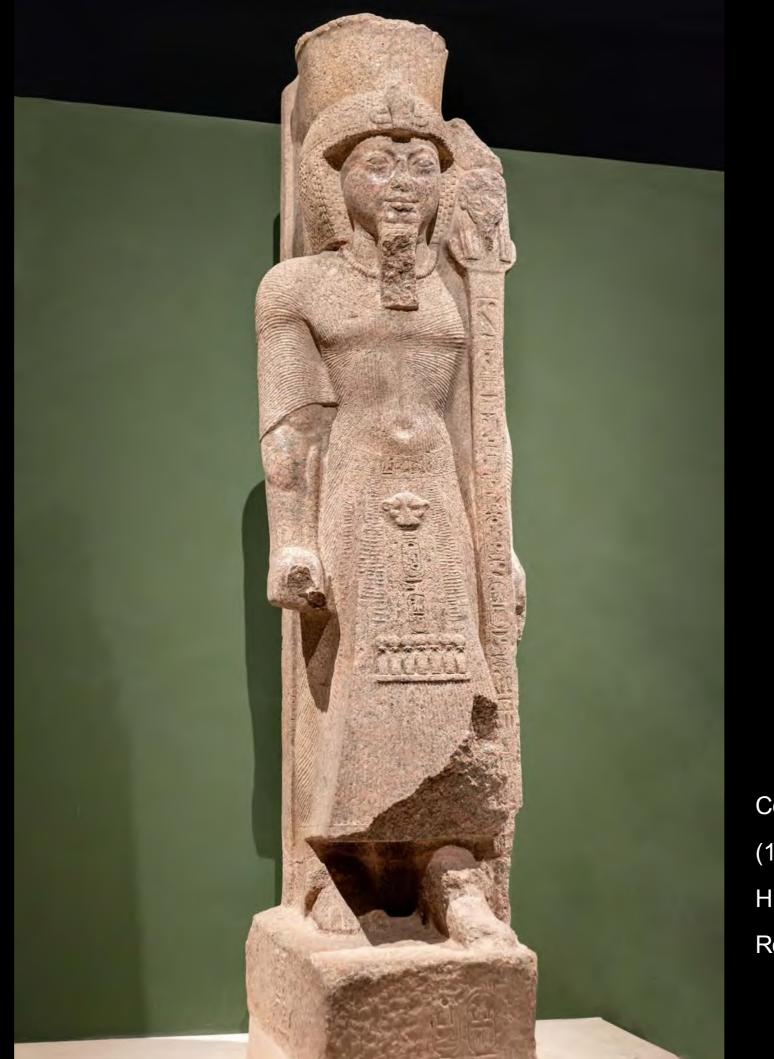








King Akhenatum
(1353 - 1336 BCE)
who established a new cult
dedicated to Aton, the sun god.
Colossal head H.155 cm



Colossal statue of Ramses II
(1303 BC – 1213 BCE)
H.292 cm x W.56 cm
Red granite

An experienced dedicated conception team



GENERAL CURATORSHIP, Franck Goddio

President and founder of the European Institute of Underwater Archaeology (IEASM), Franck Goddio is an archaeologist of almost 40 years standing. He instigated underwater research and excavation in Aboukir Bay, where the two long lost towns of Thonis-Heracleion and Canopus were discovered.

In Alexandria, he explored, mapped and excavated the famous Portus Magnus, the great eastern port of the city. He co-founded the Centre of Maritime Archaeology at Oxford University (OCMA). His most recent exhibition, "Osiris, Egypt's Sunken Mysteries" is the outcome of his and his team's work.

Franck Goddio began work in Egypt in 1992 in the eastern port of Alexandria, creating a precise and detailed map of the harbour and its environment in the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods. Excavation work is still ongoing, together with the study and identification of the ancient harbour infrastructure, its temples, and the buildings discovered in the great port.

In 1996, with the collaboration of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities, Franck Goddio launched a vast survey in Aboukir Bay, some 30 km northeast of Alexandria. Geophysical research on such a grand scale resulted in the mapping of the precise contours under the sea in the Canopic region, as well as the location of its main archaeological remains and the course of the river bed of the ancient, but no longer existant, western branch of the Nile. Preliminary excavations followed and led to the discovery, 7 km out to the sea, of the town of Thonis-Heracleion, and its harbour and temple, as well as the town of Canopus, some 2.5 km off the coast.

Since then, excavations have continued and each new mission deepens our knowledge of the sites. The exhibition "Osiris, Egypt's Sunken Mysteries presented a selection of artefacts excavated during these missions. Since 1996, Franck Goddio's archaeological work has been sponsored by the HILTI Foundation and has produced numerous scientific publications, articles in the press and documentaries. The Oxford Centre for Maritime Archaeology (OCMA) coordinates research projects on specific groups of material recovered in the excavations and offers scholarships to doctorate students.

IEASM

The underwater discoveries behind the exhibition "The Greeks in Egypt» are the product of the team working of the IEASM under Franck Goddio's leadership. This dedicated international group includes diverse specialists such as archaeologists, Egyptologists, divers, numismatists, ceramic specialists, academics and conservators, electronic engineers, technicians, artists, cameramen, and photographers. In total, some thirty — sometimes up to fifty — people from France, Egypt, Great Britain, the United States, Germany, Spain, Russia and the Philippines work side by side with the excavation director. Generally, the team gathers twice a year, in spring and autumn, on board the support vessel Princess Duda to search and excavate the sites of Alexandria Canopus and Thonis-Heracleion.

The Oxford Center for Maritime Arcaeology (OCMA) participates in the missions with post-graduate students and offers them the possibility, thanks to PhD scholarship grants, to focus their research on archaeological material discovered during the excavations of the IEASM. OCMA also supervises the academic publication of all studies resulting from the excavations. The IEASM (Institut Européen d'Archéologie Sous-Marine, a non-profit association) was created by Franck Goddio in 1987 and works in collaboration with the Supreme Council of Antiquities, a department of the Egyptian Ministry for Tourism and Antiquities, which supervises all archaeological work in the country.

CONCEPTION AND FOLLOW-UP TEAM ALONGSIDE FRANCK GODDIO

Franck Goddio developed a long standing relationship with museographers and designers. He works hand in hand with them and their experts in order to enhance the artefacts and optimise visitor experience.

Museographer

Martine Thomas-Bourgneuf is a freelance museographer, involved in earlier exhibitions with archaeologist Franck Goddio such as "The Treasure of the San Diego", "Egypt's Sunken Treasures", and "Osiris, Egypt's Sunken Mysteries".

Scenographer

Atelier Sylvain Roca is a world-across exhibit and interior design studio.

Previous exhibitions were designed by Philippe Delis, Bob Wilson, Roca & Groult, in collaboration with graphic and lighting studios.

3D restitutions

Iconem is an innovative startup that specialises in the digitisation of cultural heritage sites in 3D, collaborating with international organisations, national governments, local authorities, and world class museums such as UNESCO, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, the Sultanate of Oman, the City of Paris, and the Louvre.

Project coordination

Sophie Lalbat, communications and public relations officer. She has worked with IEASM since 1998. As well as her day to day communications work, she was actively engaged in the travelling exhibition «Egypt Sunken Treasures», and in the setting up, coordination and public relations of the exhibition «Osiris, Egypt's Sunken Mysteries»

Previous Franck Goddio's travelling exhibitions & media coverage

For Franck Goddio setting up an exhibition is the logical extension and the natural successful outcome of his work as an underwater archaeologist and excavation director. In the past, Franck Goddio has curated near 20 great exhibitions directly linked to his excavations in the Egyptian waters showcasing between 150 and 500 items throughout the world

Franck Goddio's travelling exhibitions are been designed to be modular and adaptable, easily installable and dismountable. Lighting systems are included in the majority of the displays.



main travelling exhibitions routes' map

"Egypt's Sunken Mysteries" 2015 - 2021

This exhibition consisted of 293 objects. It was shown in Paris, Institut du monde arabe; Londres, British Museum; Zurich, Rietberg Museum; Saint-Louis (MO) Saint Louis Art Museum; Minneapolis (MN) Minneapolis Art Museum; Simi Valley (CA), Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, and Richmond (VA), Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

"Cleopatra, the Search for the last Queen of Egypt" 2010 - 2013

Extension of exhibition "Egypt's Sunken Treasures", which presented 142 objects. A collaboration with National Geographic and Arts & Exhibitions International, the exhibition toured Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Milwaukee and Los Angeles in the United States.

"Egypt's Sunken Treasures" 2006-2009

Over 500 items discovered during underwater excavations in Egypt illustrated more than 1500 years of history, particularly the Ptolemaic period. It was shown in Berlin, Paris, Bonn, Madrid, Turin and Yokohama.

Some numbers:

Grand Palais - Paris - 2006
735,000 visitors over 100 days
Highest average of 7,350 paid entries per day up to now

British Museum - London - 2016

2nd most visited exhibition since the opening of the Sainsbury Exhibition Gallery 93% of visitors were pleased by the exhibition, far above the usual average of 75%

Pacifico - Yokohama - 2009 697,000 visitors

major international exhibitions: creations and participations

Osiris. Egypt's Sunken Mysteries

- Richmond (VA), Virginia Museum of Fine Arts,
 July 2020 Jan 2021 («Treasures of Ancient Egypt: Sunken Cities»)
- Los Angeles, Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, Simi Valley (CA), Oct 2019 - April 2020 («Egypt's Lost Cities»)
- Minneapolis, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Nov
 2018 April 2019 («Egypt's Sunken Cities»)
- Saint Louis, Saint Louis Art Museum, March Sept
 2018 («Sunken cities, Egypt's lost worlds»)
- Zurich, Museum Rietberg, Feb Aug 2017
- London, British Museum, May Nov 2016
 («Sunken cities, Egypt's lost worlds»)
- Paris, Institut du Monde Arabe, Sept 2015 Jan
 2016

Cleopatra - The search for the last queen of Egypt

Organized by National Geographic and Arts & Exhibitions International.

• Los Angeles, California Science Center, May 2012 - January 2013

- Milwaukee, Public Museum, Oct 2011 April 2012
- Cincinnati, Museum Center, February Sept. 2011
- Philadelphia, Franklin Institute, June 2010 Jan
 2011

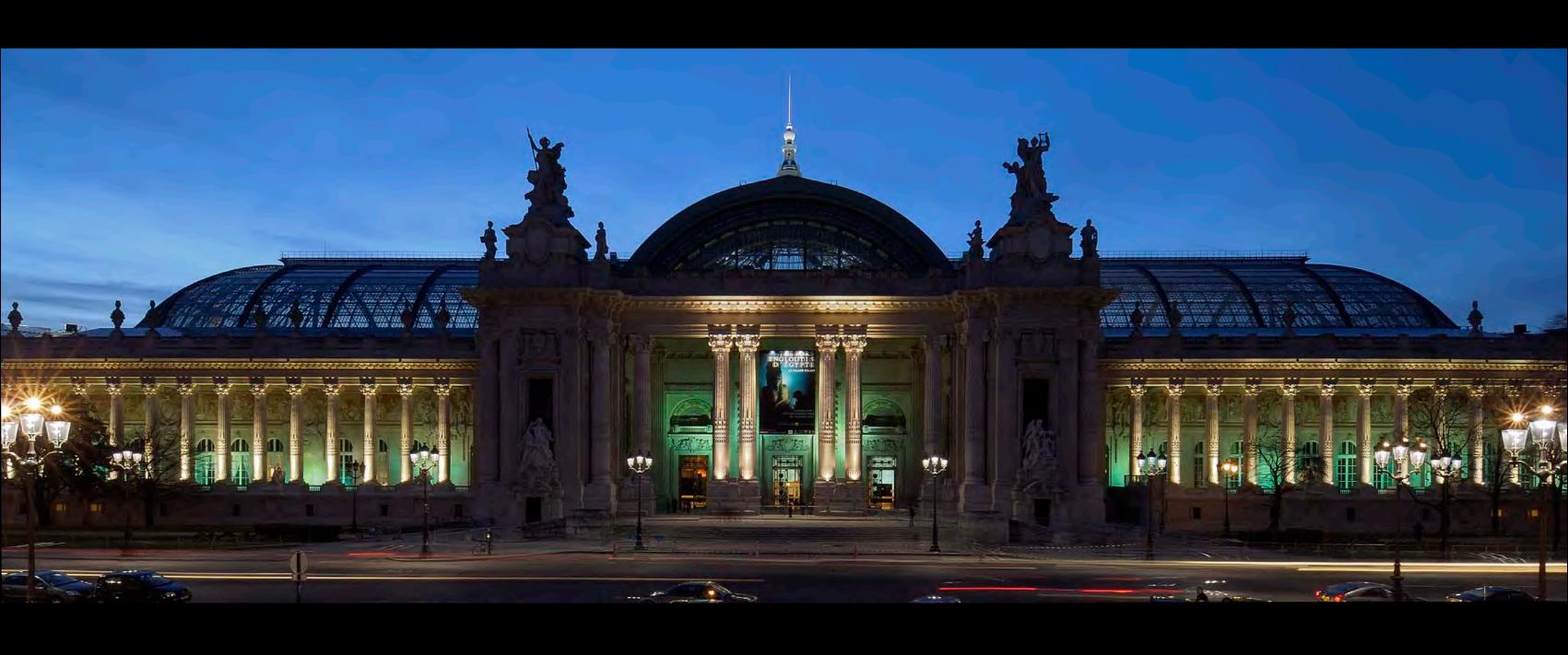
Egypt's Sunken Treasures

- Yokohama, Pacifico, June September 2009
- Turin, Venaria Reale, February May 2009
- Madrid, Matadero de Legazpi, April Dec. 2008
- Bonn, Bundeskunsthalle, April 2007 January 2008
- Paris, Grand Palais, December 2006 March 2007
- Berlin, Martin-Gropius-Bau, May September 2006

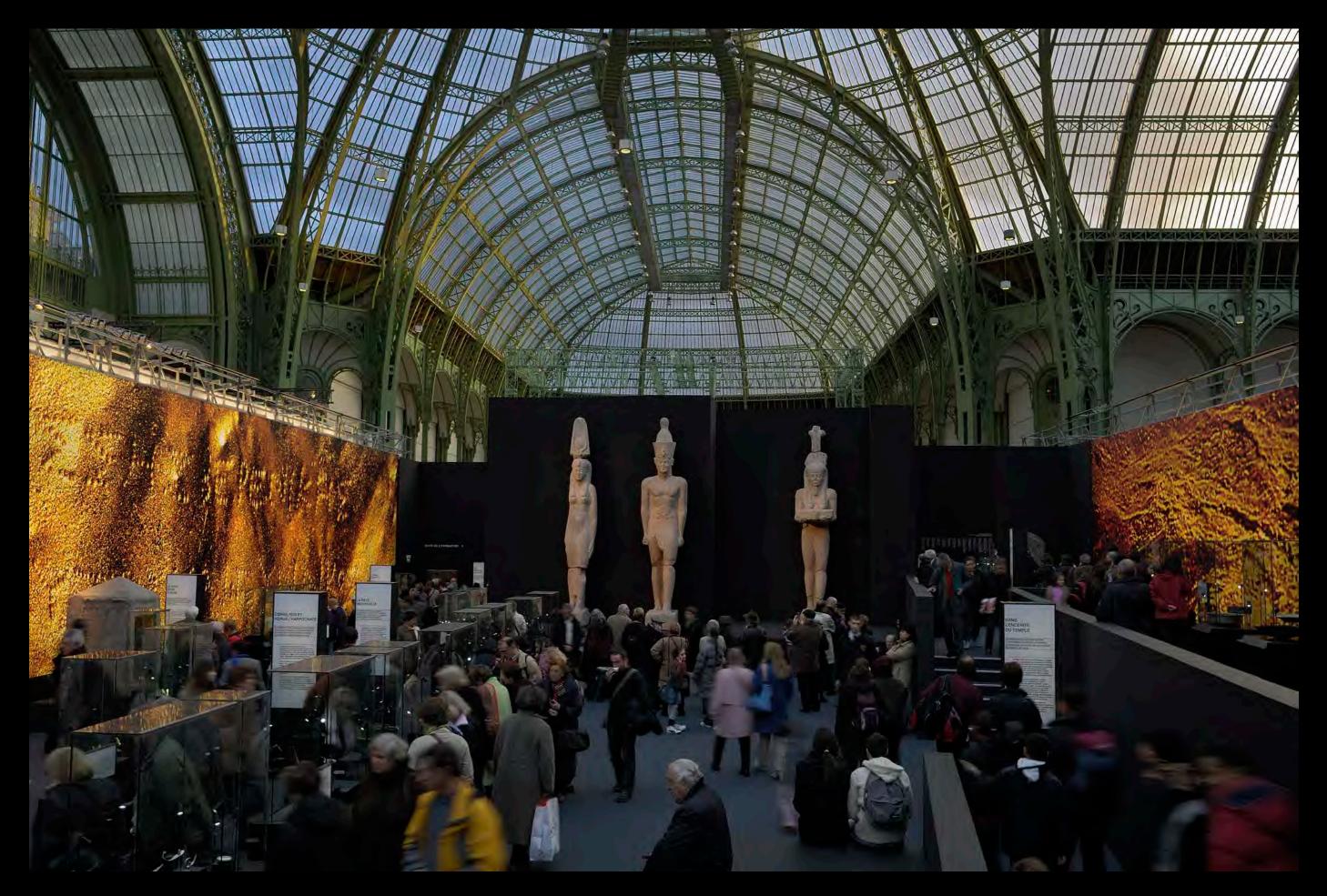
Cleopatra of Egypt – from History to Myth

Presentation of head of Caesarion, Alexandria.

- Chicago, Field Museum, Oct. 2001 March 2002
- London, British Museum, April August 2001



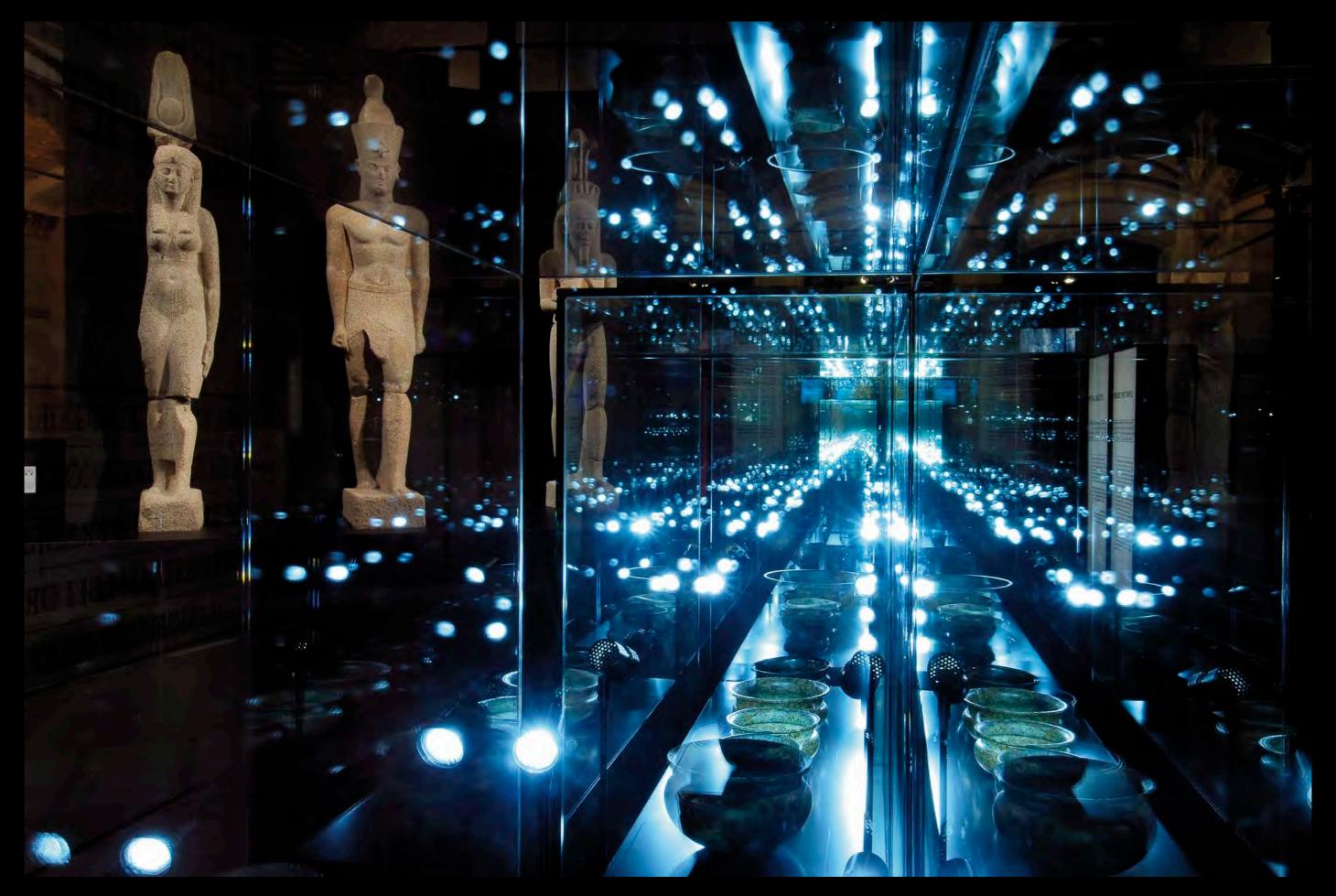
Egypt's Sunken Treasures, Grand Palais, Paris



Egypt's Sunken Treasures, Grand Palais, Paris



Ägyptens Versunkene Schätze, Martin-Gropius Bau, Berlin



Ägyptens Versunkene Schätze, Martin-Gropius Bau, Berin



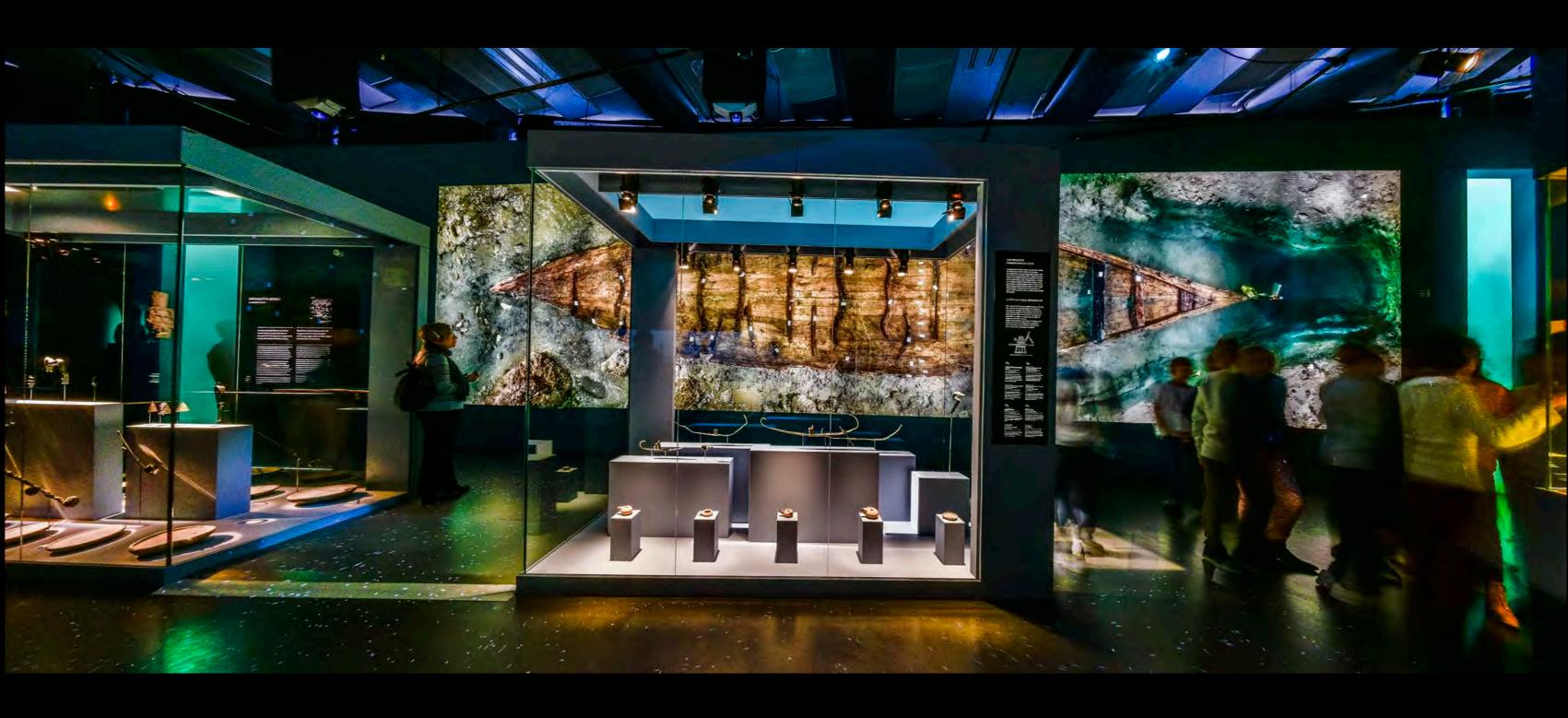
Tesoros sumergidos de Egipto, Matadero de Legazpi, Madrid



Egitto Tesori Sommersi, Reggia di Venaria Reale, Turino



Egitto Tesori Sommersi, Reggia di Venaria Reale, Turino





Osiris, Egypt's Sunken Mysteries , Institute of the Arab World, Paris



Osiris, Egypt's Sunken Mysteries, Institute of the Arab World, Paris



Sunken Cities, Egypt's lost Worlds, The British Museum, London



Sunken Cities, Egypt's lost Worlds, The British Museum, London



Sunken Cities, Egypt's lost Worlds, The British Museum, London



Egypt's Sunken Cities, Minneapolis Institue of Art, Minneapolis (MN) USA



Continuous Media Presence

The results of archaeological excavations undertaken since 1984 have been laid out in scientific publications and books. International exhibitions have been well received by scientists and the general public. The exhibitions «Osiris, Egypt's Sunken Mysteries» and "Egypt's Sunken Treasures", presenting finds from Franck Goddio's missions off the coast of Egypt, attracted over 3 million visitors in Europe, the USA and Asia. Franck Goddio's archaeological work has also been in the eye of the public driven by the continuous interest of the media.

TV Media Coverage

Franck Goddio's expeditions have been covered by a large number of television stations and broadcast on primetime news programs all over the world, such as ABC, CBS, Al Jazeera, BBC, Rai, tve, TV Globo, ORF, DRS SF1/2, ZDF, France 2, NHK, TBS, Fuji TV, Nihon TV, Channel 1 Russia.

Print and Online Media Coverage

Since 1996, when the Hilti Foundation began supporting Franck Goddio's activities, over 8,000 print press clippings have been generated and catalogued. This amounts to a cumulative print press circulation of over 2 billion copies with a reach of 5 billion readers. Latest press work of new discoveries in Heracleion generated over 1.5 million YouTube clicks as well as over 500,000 visits on the Franck Goddio website. Numerous articles appeared in online media such as The Guardian, The Telegraph, The Weather Channel, The Times, Algemeen Dagblad, Bild, Daily Mail, Spiegel Online, Yahoo News, Huffington Post as well as on Social Media and numerous Science, Culture and Egyptology sites and blogs.

Documentary Films

The documentaries on Franck Goddio's excavation work in Egypt and the Philippines were soaked up by international audiences. In a genuine media event, "Cleopatra's Palace", was broadcast on Discovery Channel in 142 countries on the same day – and achieved Discovery Channel's second best documentary audience score back then. Further documentaries on Goddio's expeditions were produced by National Geographic, CNN, Discovery Channel, BBC, ZDF, Spiegel TV, Point du Jour, TBS (Tokyo Broadcasting System) and Arte. In addition, a number of TV documentaries feature Franck Goddio's work as part of a wider topic, e.g. productions of the National Geographic Channel, the History Channel, the BBC, etc.

Wrap up and technical informations

WRAP UP

- Proven successful record at leading world institutions
- Target a wide range of audiences: scholars, experts, academics, scientists, and most of all the general public, families, young and old alike. (special programms and itineraries are/can be designed for a young audience)
- Strong scientific, educative and entertaining value
- About 300 artefacts, some of them being groups. Many were discovered and excavated recently and have never been shown before
- Exclusive and unique opportunity to exhibit Egyptian objects with outstanding historical, scientific and cultural value from and outside of Egypte
- Exceptional and outstanding scenography using the latest technology for an enhanced and immersive experience designed by a household name in the industry

TECHNICAL INFORMATIONS

- Required space area: about 1,000 m2
- Required height: general exhibition space has to be about 5m high.
 For one particular artefact, the giant Stele of Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II, space has to be locally at least 7m high. This Stele has sometimes been set-up outdoors in appropriate temporary micro-architectures.
- Installation time: about 6 weeks total, scenography, artefacts and settings
- Dismantling time: about 3 weeks total, artefacts and scenography

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