



**Communications**

**T 773.834.9777**

**[isac-communications@uchicago.edu](mailto:isac-communications@uchicago.edu)**

**Contacts**

**Kiersten Neumann, Special Exhibits  
Coordinator, [neumann@uchicago.edu](mailto:neumann@uchicago.edu)**

**Kate Ayres, Asst. Director, Programs and  
Education, [clayres@uchicago.edu](mailto:clayres@uchicago.edu)**

**Exhibition Dates:**

April 16–August 16, 2026

**Exhibition Location:**

ISAC Museum  
1155 E. 58<sup>TH</sup> St.  
Chicago, IL 60637

**Press/Members preview:**

April 15, 2026  
5:00 – 7:00 P.M.

**Exhibition Webpage:**

[isac.uchicago.edu/bestiarynubia](http://isac.uchicago.edu/bestiarynubia)

**ISAC**

The University of Chicago  
1155 E. 58<sup>th</sup> St.  
Chicago, IL 60637

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**For Immediate Release**

**A new exhibition at the Institute for the  
Study of Ancient Cultures Museum of the  
University of Chicago reveals ancient  
Nubia’s animal world**

Ancient Nubia, a region along the Nile in what is today southern Egypt and northern Sudan, lived in symbiosis with animals. The Kushites were renowned throughout West Asia and North Africa as suppliers of animals and animal by-products, such as skins and ivory. They were also represented as such, whether in the context of bearing tribute or in scenes of presenting diplomatic gifts. Wild or domesticated, fantastic or realistic, hunted or feared, animals were depicted in temples and tombs, on the walls of palaces, on ceramics, and in the niches of houses. Companions of daily life, sources of artistic and religious inspiration, subjects of trade, familiar even in the afterlife, animals in the ancient world had their place at the top of society and power.

Opening April 16, 2026, *A Bestiary of Ancient Nubia* presents a fascinating panorama of animals in ancient Nubia from the A-Group culture to the medieval period (3800 BCE–900 CE). From the lion to the crocodile, from the ibis to the ibex, from cattle to insects, the exhibition is an original take on the history of the Nubian civilization, with unparalleled information and a keen sense of storytelling. This comprehensive anthology of Nubian animal art is a world first, intended for all enthusiasts of Nubian civilization.

This exhibition is curated by Marc Maillot and organized by the ISAC Museum. It is supported by Deborah and Philip Halpern, Furthermore: a program of the J. M. Kaplan Fund, and ISAC Museum Visitors and ISAC Members.

This free special exhibition runs from April 16 through August 16, 2026, at the ISAC Museum.

The Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures Museum  
The University of Chicago  
*A Bestiary of Ancient Nubia*

**Jar with animal procession**

Baked clay, paint  
Sudan, Semna South Cemetery, Tomb N224  
Meroitic period (270 BCE–350 CE)  
Excavated in 1966–1968  
ISAC Museum E35579



**Ba Statue**

Sandstone, paint  
Nubia, Ballana, Tomb B245  
Meroitic phase IIIB–IV (225–300 CE)  
Excavated in 1963  
ISAC Museum E22487



**Signet Ring representing Apedemak**

Copper and tin alloys  
Nubia, Ballana, Tomb B-242  
Meroitic Period (270 BCE–350 CE)  
Excavated in 1963  
ISAC Museum E22771



**Lion-Shaped Furniture Leg**

Wood (Sycamore Fig, *Ficus sycomorus*)  
Egypt/Sudan  
Third Intermediate Period, Dynasty 25 (747–656 BCE)  
Charles Edwin Wilbour Fund, 1948  
Brooklyn Museum 37.42E

