



October 2006

**Brooklyn Museum Presents *Ancient Egyptian Magic: Manipulating Image, Word, and Reality*
On View December 22, 2006–August 12, 2007**

Ancient Egyptian Magic: Manipulating Image, Word, and Reality, an exhibition of twenty objects from the Brooklyn Museum's world-famous ancient Egyptian art collection, explores how the Egyptians, known throughout the ancient world for their expertise in magic, addressed the unknown forces of the universe.

In ancient Egypt there was no distinction between religion and magic. The gods could use a divinely created force known as *Heka*, personified as the son of the solar creator Atum, to control and sustain the universe. Through the manipulation of written words, images, speech, and ritual, humans could also use *Heka* to influence the world and solve problems.

Included in *Ancient Egyptian Magic* are a relief depicting a son of Ramesses II, Prince Khaemwaset, who became a legendary sage and magician; a bronze of the Goddess Isis (shown holding a divine cobra), considered to have great magical powers; a magical healing stela inspired by myths of Isis healing Horus from scorpion stings and snakebites; and a headrest with images of Bes and Tawaret, deities believed to protect the dead and the living.

The exhibition also examines the close links between magic and medicine, including the idea that a cure could be achieved by swallowing a liquid over which a spell had been recited, and the use of magic after death through such objects as shabtis: funerary figurines created to do any work the gods might demand of the deceased in the afterlife.

Ancient Egyptian Magic: Manipulating Image, Word, and Reality is organized by Richard Fazzini, Curator Emeritus and Head of the Museum's excavation at the Temple Precinct of the Goddess Mut in Egypt.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Admission:

Contribution \$8; students with valid I.D. and older adults \$4. Free to Members and children under 12 accompanied by an adult. Group tours or visits must be arranged in advance by calling extension 234.

Directions:

Subway: Seventh Avenue express (2 or 3) to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum stop; Lexington Avenue express (4 or 5) to Nevins Street, cross platform and transfer to the 2 or 3. Bus: B71, B41, B69, B48. On-site parking available.

Museum Hours:

Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; First Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; all other Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.