

**Save Ancient Studies Alliance**

**January 2023 Master Class**

**Hieroglyphic Stelae: A Study in Image and Text  
with Mayanist Catherine Nuckols-Wilde and Egyptologist Stacy  
Davidson**

**Handouts:**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CetFEcCVnroRh\\_uhHUSBOOp07\\_6EljFE?usp=share link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CetFEcCVnroRh_uhHUSBOOp07_6EljFE?usp=share_link)

**What we need from the class leaders**

-A headshot

✓ Images related to the topic that can be used for advertising

Maya stela ([image from Cleveland Art Museum here](#))

Egyptian stela ([image from Cleveland Art Museum here, CC license](#))

✓ Title for the group

✓ Full name, what you study/where you are getting your degree, email address, social media handles



Stacy Davidson  
Egyptologist/ Historian

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Catherine Nuckols-Wilde  
Mayanist Art Historian & Epigrapher  
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✓ **Time and dates for the group:** Saturday, 21 Jan 2023, 2pm Central/ 3pm Eastern

**-Links to the readings:**

#### **Further resources on Egyptian stelae**

§ Olabarria, L. (2020). "Coming to terms with stelae: a performative approach to memorial stelae and chapels of Abydos in the Middle Kingdom." *Studien zur altägyptischen Kultur (SAK)*, 49

<<[http://pure-oai.bham.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/76676788/OLABARRIA\\_Coming\\_to\\_terms\\_with\\_stelae.pdf](http://pure-oai.bham.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/76676788/OLABARRIA_Coming_to_terms_with_stelae.pdf)>>

§ Thum, J. (n.d.)." Stelae: Ancient Egypt's Versatile Monumental Form."

<<<https://www.arce.org/resource/stelae-ancient-egypts-versatile-monumental-form>>>

✓ **Group Size:** 24 (max)

✓ **Blurb=**

Both the Maya and the ancient Egyptians created and displayed the object type we call a stela (a sizable slab of stone with images and writing) for different purposes, including: to record major events and provide for the dead in the Afterlife. You can see stelae (the plural of *stela*) in museums around the world today. When they are displayed in museums, particularly in art museums, the focus is on the striking visuals of these objects—less so on the valuable cultural information their inscriptions contain. If you have ever been curious about the pictographic writing of the Egyptians and the Maya, want to understand basic linguistic information about the two hieroglyphic writing systems, and would like to study cultural information that will bring ancient Egyptians and Maya people to life, this Master Class is for you. Both Catherine Nuckols-Wilde (Mayanist) and Stacy Davidson (Egyptologist) will give a brief overview of the stela form and how they were used similarly and differently in the two respective cultures they study. They will then provide basic hieroglyphic language instruction that you can apply the next time you see a Maya or Egyptian stela in a museum or look at a museum’s catalog online. The Master Class will end with a practical application of your newly-acquired hieroglyphic and cultural knowledge when you design your own ancient Egyptian stela and choose which information you would include on a Maya stela.