

**Invitation to the Press Conference  
4th April 2007**

***Egypt's Sunken Treasures*  
Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany, Bonn  
5 April 2007 to 27 January 2008**

*Egypt's Sunken Treasures* presents a spectacular collection of artefacts recovered from the seabed off the coast of Alexandria and in Aboukir Bay. Lost from view for more than a thousand years, they were brought to light as part of an ongoing series of expeditions first launched in 1992 by the European Institute of Underwater Archaeology headed by Franck Goddio in co-operation with Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities. Franck Goddio's expeditions and this exhibition are supported by the Hilti Foundation.

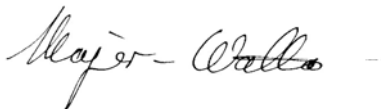
French underwater archaeologist Franck Goddio explored the seabed off the coast of the modern city of Alexandria in Egypt and in the Bay of Aboukir for ten years and discovered magnificent artefacts of Egyptian history dating from 700 B. C. to 800 A.D. These objects sank into the sea as a result of a series of natural disasters. Monumental statues as well as coins, jewellery, and cult items were located with state-of-the-art techniques and then salvaged through years of hard, painstaking work. Legendary locations such as the ancient port of Alexandria with its royal quarters, the long-lost city of Heracleion and remnants of the city of Canopus have been rediscovered. Approximately 500 artefacts from these spectacular underwater excavations will be shown in Bonn. These objects offer insights into 1,500 years of Egyptian history from the last of the Pharaohs to Alexander the Great and the Greek rulers on the Nile up to the Roman and Islamic era. Their uniqueness also reflects the prestige of the three cities, once famous centres of commerce, science, culture, and religion. Influences from Greece and Rome merged with the several-thousand-year-old culture of the Pharaohs. The result was the emergence of new religious and cultural ways of life that powerfully shaped ancient Egypt. This exhibition also provides a glimpse into the fascinating work of divers and underwater archaeologists.

The exhibition "Egypt's Sunken Treasures" celebrated its world premiere in the summer of 2006 in Berlin's Martin-Gropius-Bau as a great success. Until now more than 1,2 Mio visitors have seen the exhibition in Berlin and its second venue the Grand Palais in Paris. The Art and Exhibition Hall is now offering interested parties another chance to experience "Egypt's Sunken Treasures" up close. An exhibition of the Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany in collaboration with Franck Goddio and the Hilti Arts & Culture GmbH. The accomplishment of this unequalled scientific realisation was made possible thanks to contributions from the Hilti Foundation.

**The press conference will be held on 4th April 2007 at 11.00 a.m. in the  
Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany.**

Please register by Fax (+49/228/9171-211) or E-Mail ([ferreira@kah-bonn.de](mailto:ferreira@kah-bonn.de)). **Extensive essays and photo material are available at the press office or [www.bundeskunsthalle.de](http://www.bundeskunsthalle.de). Please direct all requests for interviews to this office.**

We are looking forward to your visit.



Maja Majer-Wallat  
Press Officer

