



**Egypt's Sunken Treasures**  
**5 April 2007 to 27 January 2008**

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## Exhibition Dates

Duration	05.04.2007 – 27.01.2008
Director	Wenzel Jacob
Managing Director	Wilfried Gatzweiler
Project manager	Susanne Kleine
Exhibition architecture	Lippsmeier + Partner GbR, Düsseldorf
Press officer	Maja Majer-Wallat
Catalogue / Press Copy	€ 29 / € 15
Opening hours	Monday closed Tuesday / Wednesday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday to Sunday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Admission Standard/Reduced rate/Family ticket	€ 12 / € 7 / € 19
Public transport	Underground lines 16, 63, 66 to Heussallee, Bus route 852 to Ollenhauerstraße, Routes 610 and 630 to Heussallee
Press information	<a href="http://www.bundeskunsthalle.de">www.bundeskunsthalle.de</a> Press file (German/English)
Guided group tours	Information and registration: Telephone +49 (0)228-9171-247 Fax +49 (0)228-9171-244 E-mail: <a href="mailto:paedagogik@kah-bonn.de">paedagogik@kah-bonn.de</a>
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## **Information on the Exhibition**

### **Egypt's Sunken Treasures 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, Bonn, in cooperation with Franck Goddio and the European Institute of Underwater Archaeology (IEASM), the Hilti Arts & Culture GmbH and the Supreme Council for Antiquities of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

#### **Lenders**

Arab Republic of Egypt  
National Museum, Alexandria  
Graeco-Roman Museum, Alexandria  
Archaeological Museum of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria  
Maritime Museum, Alexandria

#### **France**

Musée du Louvre, Department of Egyptian Antiquities

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Presse

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## Wall Texts

### **Commitment by the Hilti Foundation**

The fascination of history – researching the past, making new discoveries, presenting findings. These are the goals shared by Franck Goddio and the Hilti Foundation.

Established in 1996 by the Martin Hilti Family Trust, the Hilti Foundation finances and coordinates all global “Social Responsibility”-activities on behalf of the Hilti Group and the Trust. The Foundation is committed to a select range of innovative and sustainable projects, particularly in the cultural, social and educational domain. Just as the Hilti logo has long been recognized as the hallmark of innovative products and market services, the name Hilti Foundation stands for the promotion of innovative ideas and projects that build a better future, as put forth in the Hilti mission statement.

The focus of the Hilti Foundation’s current cultural commitment, ongoing for more than ten years, is the support of the underwater archaeological work of Franck Goddio and his team off the Egyptian coast. Franck Goddio works closely with renowned experts and scientists and enjoys the scientific support of the Centre for Maritime Archaeology at Oxford University. The current exhibitions are presenting the finds and research results to a broad public audience for the first time.

### **The Franck Goddio Society**

Nations around the globe regard the recovery and better understanding of their heritages as critically important and valuable. Franck Goddio and his team are dedicated to bringing history alive and making it accessible to the public with total integrity. It is Franck's policy to perform every exploration in close cooperation with the national authorities and to safeguard the knowledge and artefacts for future generations. Without Franck Goddio’s dedication and commitment it would have been impossible to achieve these outstanding results.

The purpose of the Society is to inform and involve the general public through the World Wide Web, books and CD-Roms / DVDs as well as by means of other media created around the explorations by Franck Goddio and his team.

Your free membership!

With your free membership you will be part of the exciting work of Franck Goddio and his team. You will receive the free newsletter and have access to the Member Services of the Franck Goddio Society website. Join Franck Goddio today and become a member of the Society!

### **Franck Goddio**

After studying at the *École Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Administration Économique* in Paris, from which he holds a degree in mathematics and statistics, the French underwater archaeologist Franck Goddio held key positions as adviser for national and international organizations and various governments for over 15 years. In the early 1980s he decided to focus entirely on his passion and founded in 1985 the *Institut Européen d'Archéologie Sous Marine* (IEASM) in Paris. After many years of experience in detecting and recovering ancient shipwrecks and in searching for the remains of sunken cities, Franck Goddio has developed and improved a systematic approach to underwater archaeology. He is now one of the leading marine archaeologists in the world.

In the last 20 years, Franck Goddio has found and/or excavated 14 sunken ships of historic importance, which had been resting on the ocean bed for hundreds of years. Among them are Chinese junks dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the Spanish galleon *San Diego*, and Napoleon Bonaparte’s flagship *L'Orient*. Some of his most important discoveries have been parts of the ancient submerged Royal Quarter of Alexandria in 1996, the lost city of Herakleion, and suburbs of Canopus in the Bay of Aboukir in the year 2000.

Franck Goddio uses strict archaeological standards during the exploration and excavation phases and works in close co-operation with national and local authorities, archaeological experts and institutions of



international renown. In 2003, in co-operation with Oxford University, the Oxford Centre for Maritime Archaeology was founded. Franck Goddio's research projects have been financed by the Hilti Foundation for the last 10 years. The underwater archaeologist is author of many books, scientific articles and publications where he reports on research projects and excavations. Various exhibitions have presented the finds and made them accessible to a wide audience.

### **Cities under the Sea**

It all began in 1984, when Franck Goddio, a French archaeologist fascinated by underwater exploration, participated in the excavation of Napoleon Bonaparte's flagship, *L'Orient*, sunk when Nelson defeated the French fleet in the famous Battle of the Nile in 1798.

During this expedition, archaeologists from the Supreme Council of Antiquities of Egypt (SCA) informed Goddio that some building remains found close to the shore in the Bay of Aboukir in 1934 had been identified as belonging to a suburb of the city of Canopus. This discovery confirmed the hypothesis that archaeologically important parts of land had been submerged.

Goddio also learnt that the ancient city of Heracleion had never been discovered. Furthermore, 35 km to the southeast, observations made along the coast showed that the Great Harbour of Alexandria, the legendary Portus Magnus, had also been submerged. Close examination of numerous hypothetical maps based on written ancient descriptions of the Harbour revealed that these did not stand up to scrutiny for topographical and maritime reasons. A reliable map of this important site had yet to be drawn up.

Canopus, the Great Harbour of Alexandria and Heracleion were partially or totally destroyed and submerged in the 8th century, due to the combined effects of earthquakes, subsidence of land, and a steady rise of the sea level.

The huge underwater excavation adventure began in 1991. It is led by the *Institut Européen d'Archéologie Sous-Marine* (IEASM), under the direction of Franck Goddio.

### **An exceptional Site**

Underwater archaeology uses the same scientific methods as terrestrial archaeology, but water makes each step much more complex.

Survey required a team of scientists. Engineers and geophysicists mapped out the seabed using cutting-edge technologies – sonars, depth-finders, NMR magnetometers, sounding equipment.

Archaeologists, historians and Egyptologists interpreted the new data and compared it with historical evidence and previous research. Working together, they followed the project from beginning to end, examining and analysing the findings.

Specialised divers – with a range of necessary skills – did the excavation, accompanied by photographers and cinematographers. When the objects were brought to the surface, conservation and restoration specialists immediately took over. Various teams provided the complex logistics for equipment, transportation, storage and food.

### **Results of the Excavations**

The discoveries exceeded all expectations. The remains of Canopus and Heracleion were identified, and the great harbour of Alexandria revealed its ancient infrastructures.

The excavations brought to light hundreds of statues, everyday and liturgical objects, pottery, jewellery, coins, etc. spanning sixteen centuries – from the most ancient remains of the cities (8<sup>th</sup> century BC) until the time they were submerged (8<sup>th</sup> century AD).

The relics tell the story of a long period of fifteen centuries of Egyptian history under several influences –



Greek, Roman, Byzantine, and Arab. But the story highlights the Greco-Roman period in particular – if Egypt changed during these times, so did the Greeks and Romans. Myths were intertwined and reinvented.

The objects are presented here in three large groups, each dedicated to one of the three sites. Browsing through them, it is hoped, will be an adventure for the imagination as exciting as the extraordinary history of these three mythical cities.

### **Back to the beginnings**

The archaeological investigation of sites begins with an analysis of historical sources. Both ancient texts and documents from recent centuries are studied and compared.

Back in the 18th century, engineers and historians were already trying to discover the topography of Ancient Alexandria, which had been partially submerged. Their work was primarily based on accounts provided by scholars and travellers, which they then reinterpreted. But although these ancient texts may be literary gems, they are often founded very loosely on reality.

A more rigorously documented approach for Alexandria's Great Harbour began at the end of the 19th century during the reign of Napoleon III. This historical approach of the texts was completed by some observations made on site, and new cartographical techniques, which allowed the experts to base their hypotheses on more solid foundations.

The work nevertheless remained theoretical. The first underwater excavations only took place at the beginning of the 20th century under the leadership of Omar Toussoun, in the Bay of Aboukir. Then in 1961, an amateur diver discovered a broken colossal statue in the waters of Alexandria. At the request of the Egyptian government, UNESCO began underwater exploration. In 1975, they published a report that mentions the remains abounding in the seabed just outside of the Great Harbour.

In Alexandria, the IEASM decided not to base the research on the basis of the existing theoretical interpretation of ancient texts but rather to perform an exhaustive geophysical survey on the whole area of the Bay. Only after geophysical maps were established, archaeological excavations were performed in order to characterize the electronic signals from various survey equipment. The topography of the sunken lands and port structures were so defined. After this work achieved, the ancient texts were then used, after historical scrutiny, for identification of the discoveries. At the end, the topography of the Great Harbour, appearing for the first time, was totally different from what the theoretical maps showed.

The same approach was taken for the Bay of Aboukir on a much larger scale.

### **The Capital of the Ptolemies**

Alexander the Great founded the city that bears his name in 331 BC. As the seat of the Ptolemaic rulers of Egypt it became the most important centre of Hellenistic civilisation.

Alexandria was built on a narrow strip of land between the Mediterranean Sea and Lake Mareotis, an inland sea fed by the Nile. Laid out on a checkerboard plan, the city grew to be one of the biggest cities of the ancient world, second only to Rome.

The splendour of Alexandria is the work of the Ptolemies. They made it a Greek city with open squares, magnificent temples and a gymnasium. Surrounded by walls nearly 15 km long, it included a vast palatial complex with gardens reserved for the king and his court and unequalled harbour facilities.

Today this ancient city of trade and commerce is remembered chiefly as a wellspring of culture and art. Thought to have been founded under Ptolemy II, the museum was a centre of scientific study and home to the largest library of the ancient world. Some 700,000 papyrus scrolls concentrated all the knowledge of the world in one city.

The Ptolemaic capital became the cultural and commercial centre of the Hellenistic world. Canopus and



Heracleion quickly came to be seen as mere suburbs of Alexandria.

### **The Ancient City of Canopus**

Mentioned in Greek texts as early as the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC, the city of Canopus was claimed by the sea in the 8<sup>th</sup> century AD. The discovery of its remains and its famous temple has brought new life to the ancient city.

Under the Ptolemies (305 BC/30 BC), Canopus, which the Egyptians called Perguti, was a popular resort of the royal families and a major religious centre closely associated with royal power. This is illustrated by the Decree of Canopus, which set forth in 238 BC the royal policy regarding Egypt's sanctuaries, forty-two years before the first Decree of Memphis, engraved on the famous Rosetta stone.

*“They [the rulers] unceasingly maintained the cult of Apis, Mnevis and all the divine animals that are venerated in Egypt; they gave magnificent gifts and went to great expense in order to provide for the upkeep of the images of the gods, that the vile Persians had removed from Egypt. His Majesty went to war against the lands of Asia. He rescued the divine images, returned them to Egypt and reinstalled them in the temples from which they had been taken.”*

Closely linked to Alexandria, Canopus continued to attract many visitors during the Roman period. People went there on pilgrimage or to enjoy its places of entertainment, which were famous all over the Mediterranean world.

At the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century, the city became Christian. A monastery was founded near the former temple. Canopus fell under Byzantine domination until the Arab conquest of 642.

### **Heracleion, the Ancient City**

Excavations have shown that the Egyptian Thonis and the Ptolemaic Heracleion were one and the same city. According to the written sources, the city existed at least since the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC.

Heracleion was famous for its large temple, which was discovered during the excavations. Its naos was one of the elements that enabled archaeologists to identify the city. A stele with hieroglyphic inscriptions showed that Heracleion was the Greek name of the well-known Egyptian trading centre of Thonis.

Long before the arrival of Alexander the Great, a Greek community had settled there and established a stopping place on the way to Naukratis, a Greek trading station situated further upstream. With the rise of Alexandria, Heracleion lost its economic importance. However, the city remained an important religious centre until the Roman conquest. Under the Romans this once wealthy city was gradually abandoned. In Byzantine times, all that was left of it was a small settlement centred on a convent.

Struck by several natural disasters, Heracleion was eventually claimed by the sea at the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> century, two centuries after the Arab conquest.



**Preview 2007**  
*subject to alteration*

**Russias Soul**

**16 May - 26 August 2007**

**Icons, paintings and drawings of the Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow**

**Press Conference, 15 May, 11 a.m.**

In 2006 the State Tretyakov Gallery will be celebrating its 150 anniversary: In 1856 Moscow businessman Pavel Tretyakov (1832 – 1898) purchased his first painting of a contemporary Russian artist, laying the foundation for his famous painting gallery. Today his gallery is regarded as the most important collection of Russian art in the world. Around 170 outstanding paintings, icons, and drawings will be selected from this rich collection for the exhibition in Bonn. This exhibition will trace the development of Russian art as it charted its unique course between the pan-European tradition and its own cultural tradition. The paintings range from the courtly culture of the late eighteenth century to the avant-garde movement around 1917.

The focus of the exhibition is on the latter half of the nineteenth century. During this eventful period all of Moscow was seized by an unprecedented painting fever. The influential collector and art patron Tretyakov especially admired the young generation of realist painters such as Ilya Repin, Ivan Kramskoy, Vassily Polenov, Nikolai Ghe, to name a few. Their social critical scenes of life in Russian society, lyrical landscapes, and penetrating portraits are masterly expressions of the fervent and much evoked search for the 'true Russia'. Introducing this extensive group of works are seldom shown paintings from the eighteenth and early nineteenth century. A selection of exquisite icons also provide insight into the spiritual sources of Russian aesthetics. The upheavals that characterised the turn of the century are manifest in the rich diversity of artistic positions, beginning with the symbolism of Michael Vrubel and Victor Borissov-Mussatov and extending to the representatives of Russian modernism.

**National Geographic - Planet Meer / Plant Ocean**

**1 June - 30 September 2007**

Glittering shoals of fish cavort in the coral reefs, a whale majestically manoeuvres weightlessly through the tides, rays hover like flying saucers in the eternal blue: Laurent Ballesta and Pierre Deschamp have captured the magic of the sea with their priceless photography. Fifty fascinating photos present a magic world with a virtually unfathomable wealth of underwater flora and fauna that reveals the tropical diversity of the oceans as well as the icy depths of the Arctic Sea.

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