

EGYPTIAN ARCHAEOLOGIST MONICA HANNA TO RECEIVE 2014 SAFE BEACON AWARD IN NEW YORK CITY

New York, N.Y., (March 20, 2014)--SAFE/Saving Antiquities for Everyone, a New York City-based nonprofit, will present the 2014 SAFE Beacon Award to the highly influential female archaeologist, Dr. Monica Hanna, in recognition of her efforts to raise public awareness of the devastating effects of the looting of ancient sites and the trade in illicit antiquities.

Dr. Hanna will deliver the SAFE Beacon Award Lecture "Saving Ancient Egypt, One Tweet at a Time: How Social Media is Saving One of the World's Oldest Civilizations" and accept the Award at **The Frederick P. Rose Auditorium (41 Cooper Square, Third Avenue between 6th and 7th Streets)** on **Thursday, April 10, 2014** at 6:30pm. The free lecture will be followed by dinner at **Apiary, 60 Third Avenue between 10th & 11th Streets**. Tickets: \$150. Dr. Hanna will also lead **SAFE Tours at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on April 11 at 6pm**, and at the **Brooklyn Museum on April 12, at 3pm**. Tickets: \$50.

At only 30 years old, Monica Hanna has dedicated more than half her life to protecting and preserving the cultural heritage of Egypt. A native of Heliopolis, Egypt, she received her PhD from the University of Pisa and was conducting postdoctoral research in Berlin when she decided to return to Egypt to document the growing destruction of the country's ancient sites following the 2011 uprising.

As a woman in the Arab world, Dr. Hanna's work is all the more remarkable as she confronts armed tomb raiders, endangering her own life in an effort to document the looting of ancient sites such as tombs around the famous Black Pyramid of the 12th Dynasty king Amenemhat II (1929-1895 BCE) at Dahshur. Dr. Hanna faces criticisms and threats to her career by standing her ground: "if I cannot talk about this, then I really have no place to teach my students one day that we have done our best to protect our heritage."

Using social media tools to their fullest potential, Dr. Hanna created and maintains Egypt's Heritage Task Force on Facebook; and has more 26,000 followers on Twitter. This work has expedited the recovery of stolen objects, effectively reducing the supply side of the illicit antiquities trade. She also consults with government officials and recently lobbied for the introduction of new articles in the Egyptian Constitution specifically created to protect cultural heritage. She was voted one of the seven "People of the Year" by EGYPT TODAY magazine, as well as one of the "Top Arab Women in 2013" by AsiaN.

According to Cindy Ho, president and founder of SAFE, "Archaeologists are in a unique position to tell us about the loss of information that looting causes, because of their first-hand experience. This is exactly what Dr. Monica Hanna does, and we should be thankful. We all need to become more aware of the vulnerability of our shared cultural heritage."

About SAFE

SAFE/Saving Antiquities for Everyone, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, creates educational programs and media campaigns to raise public awareness regarding the importance of preserving cultural heritage worldwide. SAFE is a coalition of professionals in communications, media, and advertising working alongside experts in the academic, legal and law enforcement communities. SAFE has no political affiliations.

To find out more about the 2014 Beacon Award, the Beacon Award Winner, or SAFE, visit <http://www.savingantiquities.org/events/fundraisers/beacon-awards-monica-hanna/>

For Immediate Release



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