



Haifa Center for Mediterranean History
מרכז חיפה לחקר ההיסטוריה של הים התיכון
مركز حيفا لدراسات تاريخ البحر الأبيض

School of Archaeology and Maritime Cultures



בית הספר לארכיאולוגיה ואתרבויות ימיות
مدرسة الآثار والحضارات البحرية



אוניברסיטת חיפה
University of Haifa
جامعة حيفا



הפקולטה למדעי הרוח
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

Maritime Civilizations

& Art History

Joint Book Launch Event

Tuesday

May 24, 2022

14:15

Join us on Zoom

A Singular Mediterranean Monument: Justinian's Bronze Horseman and Its Global Reach

Prof. Elena N. Boeck

Department of History of Art and Architecture, DePaul University



This lecture is based on my new book, which explores seminal moments in the biography of a contested medieval monument between ca. 500 C.E and 1600 C.E. Justinian's triumphal column was the tallest, free-standing column of the pre-modern world was crowned by the largest metal, equestrian sculpture created anywhere in the world before 1699. The Byzantine empire's bronze horseman towered over the heart of Constantinople, assumed new identities, spawned conflicting narratives, and acquired widespread international acclaim. Because all traces of Justinian's column were erased from the urban fabric of Istanbul in the sixteenth century, scholars have underappreciated its astonishing agency and remarkable longevity. Its impact in visual

and verbal culture was arguably among the most extensive of any Mediterranean monument. Its agency can be recovered from Byzantine, Islamic, Slavic, Crusader, and Renaissance historical accounts, medieval pilgrimages, geographic, apocalyptic and apocryphal narratives, vernacular poetry, Byzantine, Bulgarian, Italian, French, Latin, and Ottoman illustrated manuscripts, Florentine wedding chests, Venetian paintings, and Russian icons. This lecture discusses some of the evidence analyzed in the book.

Responder: Gil Fishhof

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