



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Media Contact:
Lyndsay Hansen
501-396-0308
lyndsay@arkarts.com
www.arkarts.com

Fine Arts Club of Arkansas Presents *Discoveries in the Desert: the North Kharga Oasis Survey* with Dr. Salima Ikram at the Arkansas Arts Center

(LITTLE ROCK, AR) – The Fine Arts Club of Arkansas will present the lecture *Discoveries in the Desert: the North Kharga Oasis Survey* with Dr. Salima Ikram on Monday, April 26, 2010, at 11 a.m. at the Arkansas Arts Center as part of its annual meeting and fundraiser.

Dr. Salima Ikram, professor of Egyptology at the American University in Cairo, will present an overview of new discoveries made by the North Kharga Oasis Survey. The Kharga Oasis is the largest oasis in the western desert and has been relatively unexplored until recently. Archaeologists have now revealed a series of large Roman forts, petroglyphs and Pharaonic inscriptions that reveal the long and rich history of exploitation in this oasis.

Dr. Ikram has worked in Egypt since 1986 and has worked on several excavations in Egypt, Greece, Turkey and the Sudan. She is a grantee of the National Geographic

Society's Committee for Research and Exploration, founder and co-director of the Animal Mummy project at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, co-director of the North Kharga Oasis Survey and an international guest speaker. Dr. Ikram was featured in the November 2009 issue of *National Geographic*.

Coffee will begin at 11 a.m. followed by a brief annual meeting and the lecture. A luncheon will follow in Best Impressions Restaurant. Tickets for the coffee and lecture are \$10 and free for Fine Arts Club members. Tickets for the coffee, lecture and luncheon are \$45 and include admission to the exhibition *World of the Pharaohs*. The deadline for luncheon reservations is April 22. For reservations and additional information, call 501-396-0322.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Contact: 501-372-4000

Location: Arkansas Arts Center – 9th and Commerce, Little Rock, AR 72202

Gallery Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday - Friday

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday

Closed Monday & Major Holidays

Arkansas Arts Center programs are supported in part by: the City of Little Rock; Arkansas Arts Council, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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