



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Arkansas Arts Center Presents**

***Excavating in the Shadow of the Pyramids and More* by Dr. Rita E. Freed**

**(LITTLE ROCK, AR)** – *Excavating in the Shadow of the Pyramids and More*, a lecture by Dr. Rita E. Freed will be held at the Arkansas Arts Center on Thursday, February 11, 2010. A reception will be held at 6 p.m. followed by the lecture at 6:30 p.m. in the Arkansas Arts Center Children’s Theatre. The lecture is part of the *World of the Pharaohs: Treasures of Egypt Revealed* lecture series and is sponsored by University of Arkansas at Little Rock – Middle Eastern Studies Program and Anthropology Department.

Dr. Freed will discuss how famed archaeologist George A. Reisner uncovered the Egyptian treasures that make up the Egyptian Collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Freed will recount the history of those excavations and place some of the collection’s most important objects in their archaeological context. “We eagerly anticipate Dr. Freed’s visit to our presentation of *World of the Pharaohs* and her well-informed talk about

the historic and archaeological significance of the MFA’s Egyptian collections” says Joseph Lampo, Deputy Director of Programming and Curator at the Arkansas Arts Center.

Freed, currently the department chair of Art of the Ancient World at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, is well-known for curating the popular exhibition *Ramses the Great*, loan from the Cairo Museum. *Ramses the Great* toured several North American cities in the late ‘80s including Memphis, Tennessee. Dr. Freed is a graduate of Wellesley College where she double majored in Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology and Biblical Studies. She later received a doctorate in Philosophy and a Certificate in Museology from New York University. Freed has curated Egyptian shows at the University Gallery at Memphis State University, the Brooklyn Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. She has also taught Egyptian art and culture at institutions such as Wellesley College, Memphis State University and Adelphi University.

Admission to the lecture is free for AAC members and \$5 for the general public. Reservations are required. For reservations and more information, call 501-372-4000 or visit [www.arkarts.com](http://www.arkarts.com).

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Contact:** 501-372-4000

**Location:** Arkansas Arts Center – 9<sup>th</sup> and Commerce, Little Rock, AR 72202

Free Admission.

### **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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