



KELSEY
MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY

KELSEY



New Gallery

The Byzantine & Islamic Worlds, 400–1800

On Display Now

From late antiquity through the early modern era, the Eastern Mediterranean, Middle East, and North Africa formed a dynamic cultural region. The Kelsey Museum's new permanent gallery explores this world defined not by borders but by movement, encounter, and exchange.

Welcome to the Kelsey Museum



Photo: Ballogg Photo

Since 1928, the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology has explored the links between past and present through its collections, research, exhibitions, and fieldwork. The Kelsey supports teaching and research in Mediterranean, North African, and Middle Eastern archaeology. The museum houses more than 150,000 artifacts, of which approximately 1,500 are on permanent display, and regularly mounts special exhibitions. Each year, the Kelsey brings the ancient world to life for thousands of students and community members.

As we excavate the past, we invite you to join us in building a vibrant community, where curiosity about the ancient world inspires empathy and lifelong connection.

The Kelsey Museum of Archaeology

434 S. State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109
734-764.9304

Museum Hours

- ◆ Tuesday–Friday: 10:00 AM–4:00 PM
- ◆ Saturday–Sunday: 11:00 AM–4:00 PM
- ◆ Open late (7:30 PM) monthly on the third Thursday
- ◆ Closed Mondays and university holidays
- ◆ Admission is free, but donations are welcome

For more information, visit lsa.umich.edu/kelsey

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A Building with Many Lives

Newberry Hall was designed by Spier & Rohns of Detroit in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Dedicated in 1891, the building was named after railroad magnate John S. Newberry, whose widow donated a large sum toward its construction. Newberry Hall originally served as the headquarters of the Students’ Christian Association before being rented to the University of Michigan for classroom space. The archaeological collections were moved into the building in 1928, but it was not until 1937 that Newberry Hall was sold to the university. In 1953, the Museum of Classical Archaeology was officially named after Francis W. Kelsey—founder of the rich archaeological collections now housed here.

In 2003, a generous gift from Ed and Mary Meader funded the construction of the William E. Upjohn Exhibit Wing. This addition—opened in 2009 and named after Mary Meader’s grandfather—provided over 20,000 square feet of state-of-the-art, climate-controlled study, storage, and display space for the Kelsey Museum’s permanent collection.

Photo: Randal Stegmeyer

Join the Kelsey Community

Become a Member

Members enjoy special benefits such as behind-the-scenes programming, museum communications, and reciprocal admission to hundreds of cultural centers across North America. By becoming a member, you also sustain the Kelsey’s exhibitions, collections care, public events, and archaeological work around the world. Your support helps the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology share the ancient past with visitors of all ages. Become a member today at myumi.ch/e35Gx.

Support Our Mission

Gifts of any size make a meaningful impact on the Kelsey and its international community of archaeological collaborators, students, faculty, and visitors. Donate today to support museum education, including K–12 outreach and public programs; conservation, which helps care for the museum’s renowned collections; and fieldwork and research, which advances new discoveries about the ancient Mediterranean, North Africa, and the Middle East. Learn more and make your gift at myumi.ch/jVwxG.



Coming Soon

Ancient Abstractions:
Roman Visual Trends Beyond Naturalism
October 1, 2026–February 28, 2027

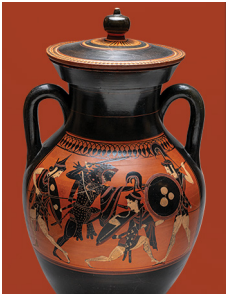
Roman art is typically known for its lifelike white marble statues, but ancient artists also played with color, pattern, and shape in ways that feel surprisingly modern. Curated by Nicola Barham, this exhibition looks beyond naturalism to reveal Roman art that today might be called “abstract.” Visitors will see ancient objects with interlocking forms, bright geometric designs, stylized animals, and experimental explorations of space and depth. Highlights include a sarcophagus with rows of waving lines, colorful millefiori glass, and mosaics once set into the floors of Roman villas. Bringing together works from the Kelsey Museum and other US collections, this exhibition shows that the visual world of ancient Rome was far more varied than we often imagine.

Current Exhibitions



Ancient Middle East

Learn about early written languages, cities, and long-distance trade networks.



Cyprus, Greece, Etruria

Trace ancient myths and everyday stories across decorated pottery.



Dynastic Egypt

Explore artifacts revealing Egyptian beliefs about life, death, and the afterlife.



Graeco-Roman Egypt

Step into the daily lives of Egyptians through objects used at home, at work, and for play.



Pompeii

Immerse yourself in an ancient Pompeian villa through watercolor fresco reconstructions.



Roman Empire

Meet the diverse communities connected by the far reaches of Roman power.



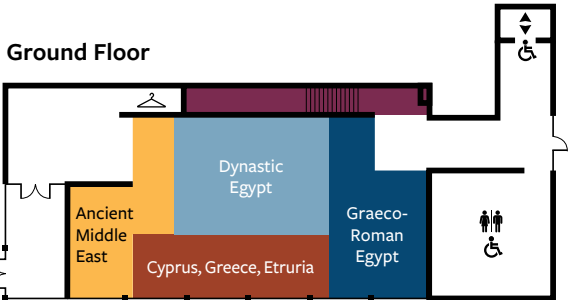
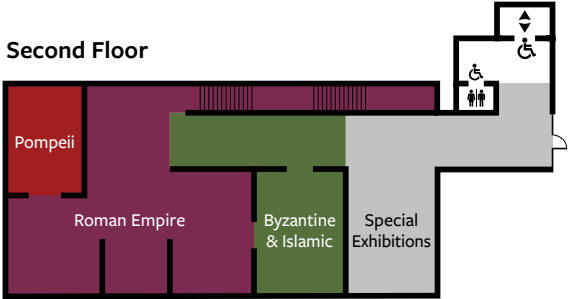
Byzantine & Islamic Worlds

Experience the vibrant history of the Eastern Mediterranean, Middle East, and North Africa.



Edwin E. Meader & Mary U. Meader Special Exhibition Gallery

View rotating exhibitions that bring archaeological research and ancient cultures into focus.



Accessible Elevator Restroom

How was your visit? Please take a moment to share your thoughts in our visitor experience survey. Your voice matters!

