

**The HEFS Ancient Egyptian Committee  
and The Vámbéry Ármin Oriental Academy**

kindly invite you  
to the next

Tóth Margit Coptic Memorial Lecture

**Ancestral Echoes: The Confluence of  
Myths in Early Coptic Artistry**

by ***Marwa Elkady***

Date: 24th June, 2024  
at 6 PM (CET / 9 AM UTC)

by person or

via zoom: [Ancestral Echoes: The Confluence of Myths in Early Coptic  
Artistry by Marwa Elkady](#)

(or copy this URL into your browser:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrcu-  
urjMjE9zh1ShhDoPJWiO8SLn9OxA6](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrcu-urjMjE9zh1ShhDoPJWiO8SLn9OxA6) )

If you need help in joining, please send a request to  
[mebt@mebt.hu](mailto:mebt@mebt.hu) or [2018mebt@gmail.com](mailto:2018mebt@gmail.com)



Funeral stela from the 5-6th c. AD

The lecture will focus on early Coptic motifs, which are a blend of Egyptian, Graeco-Roman, and Christian elements. They reflect the cultural melting pot of late antique Egypt and signify a shift from ancient pharaonic traditions to Christian beliefs. This shift is particularly evident in various artworks that showcase a fusion of Graeco-Roman and Egyptian motifs, symbolizing a rich, intercultural exchange. This art form embodies the transition and dialogue between old and new, local and foreign, resulting in a distinct visual narrative with a spiritual undertone. The lecture will showcase various examples of Coptic artwork that demonstrate these fusions. The examples will include stones and gravestones, textiles, wood, and bone and ivory objects. This presentation will explore how various traditions were smoothly incorporated into early Coptic art, manifesting in religious symbols and their concealed meanings, and highlighting the rationale behind these cultural amalgamations.

Marwa Elkady is currently serving as an adjunct professor in the History Department at Seattle University, a position held since January 2023. Previously, she was a professor of Graeco-Roman Egypt and chaired the Department of Tourist Guiding at Alexandria University. Her scholarly pursuits encompass the history and archaeology of Graeco-Roman Egypt, extending through the Byzantine era up to the Islamic conquest of Egypt in 641 AD. Over the years, she has taught courses and worked on research on Coptic traditions and culture, including aspects of art and architecture and also on cultural heritage and museum studies.