

Joan Aruz

Joan Aruz first worked in the Metropolitan Museum as a curatorial fellow from 1978 to 1981, studying textile patterns of Assyrian reliefs. In 1978-79 and 1980-81, she was awarded the Hagop Kevorkian Curatorial Fellowship for doctoral studies in the Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art; in 1983-84, she held the Norbert Schimmel Fellowship in the departments of Greek and Roman Art and Ancient Near Eastern Art; and, in 1985, she received the Museum's J. Clawson Mills Fellowship in the Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art. She returned to the Metropolitan in 1987 as a researcher on the Museum's collection of cylinder and stamp seals. In 1989, she was appointed Assistant Curator and, in 1995, Associate Curator. In 1999, Dr. Aruz was appointed Acting Associate Curator in Charge of the Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art. In July 2001, she was named Acting Curator in Charge and then, in February 2002, Curator in Charge of the Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Since 1995, Dr. Aruz has helped organize several exhibitions at the Metropolitan, including ***Assyrian Origins: Discoveries at Ashur in the Tigris*** (1995); ***Art and Empire: Treasures from Assyria in the British Museum*** (1995); ***Ancient Art from the Shumei Family Collection*** (1996). She curated ***The Golden Deer of Eurasia: Scythian and Sarmatian Treasures from the Russian Steppes*** (2000) and ***Art of the First Cities: The Third Millennium B.C. from the Mediterranean to the Indus*** (2003). Dr. Aruz received her Ph.D. from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University and has written extensively on the subject of art and intercultural exchange, with special focus on stamp and cylinder seals. Her book entitled ***Marks of Distinction: Seals and Cultural Exchange Between the Aegean and the Orient***, is presently in press.