

THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY PRESENTS

Carl Knappett, MA, PhD
Professor, History of Art, University of Toronto



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Social Sciences Building, Dean's Conference Room 107

“Modeling, Combining, Containing: Making Meaning in the Aegean Bronze Age”

The Bronze Age societies of the Aegean produced an array of artifacts so striking that they are commonly, if problematically, labeled “artworks”. Yet, these objects are rarely subject to the anthropological approaches that have contributed so much to our understanding of these societies. In this talk I will address some of the reasons for this oversight, and attempt to “rehabilitate” Aegean art from a perspective that combines insights from art history anthropology and archaeology. The focus will fall principally on technologies of modeling, combining, and containing, with an examination of the semiotic resources that these processes offered ancient artisans and consumers in their creative engagement with the material world.