

AFTER THE DESTRUCTION:

Reacting to Losses of Cultural Heritage in Syria and Iraq

*An Exhibition by Erin Thompson, John Jay College of Criminal Justice
City University of New York*

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW - 3RD FLOOR GALLERY

On display from **February 1, 2016 - April 1, 2016**

Open to the public during regular law college hours.

In 2015, the Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) gained control of many important archeological sites and museums in Syria and Iraq. Many of these sites, including Palmyra, Nimrud, Hatra, and the Mosul Museum, have suffered attacks by ISIS fighters wielding sledgehammers, earthmovers, and explosives.

ISIS is not the only insurgent group to have realized that the destruction of cultural property can serve its goals. The destruction of cultural heritage has long been a feature of war and cultural clash, and is currently an important part of conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Egypt, Yemen, Mali, Tunisia, Nigeria, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, and many parts of Central America. It is crucial to come up with new, powerful ways to fight these threats.

The current exhibit showcases this fight. Instead of wringing their hands and bemoaning the destructive influences of war, looting, and time, the artists and scholars featured here are expressing their love and need for vanished objects through the creation of artworks that react to the destruction, documenting the lost objects or creating painstaking reconstructions.

Reception & Presentation

There will be a reception for the exhibition on March 14, 2016 starting at 5:30pm in the 3rd floor gallery. At 6:30pm in the adjacent MSU College of Law Board Room, Erin Thompson will make a presentation titled: "The Destruction of Art During War: History, Consequences, and How We Can Stop It."

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

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This exhibition is co-sponsored by Michigan State University College of Law; Muslim Law Student Organization; Department of Art, Art History & Design; Muslim Studies Program; Global Studies in the Arts and Humanities; Digital Humanities Program; Department of Romance and Classical Studies; and Department of Anthropology.