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OEAI LECTURE SERIES »ARCHAIC MEDITERRANEAN«

ROUTES OF CONTACT WITH THE LEVANT:

THE DAWN OF THE ORIENTALIZING PERIOD IN GREECE

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The origins of the Orientalizing period in Greece have been the focus of history and archaeology for more than a century. Levantine artefacts in the Aegean and Greek artefacts in the eastern Mediterranean have inspired various scenarios about the origin of the earliest encounters. Several places in Greece and the Levant have been alternatively proposed so far as the host places, where the Greeks received the cultural enlightenment from the East. The origins of what we usually call Orientalizing period – which was a process of socio-cultural appropriation – are blurred and not measurable. Recent finds in the Levant and Greece may now enable a new reconstruction of the routes of contact and an alternative perception of the cultural exchanges between the Aegean and the Levant through the early Iron Age to the early Archaic period.

