The Palace of the Lord of the Sevenfold World: Sasanian Cities and Palaces and the Performance of World Sovereignty

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This lecture explores the role of architecture and urbanism in shaping and bolstering royal identity in the Sasanian Iran (224-643 CE), the last great Western Asian empire before Islam. Palaces and audience halls and the urban or natural environments that surrounded them, were thus not just an expression of Sasanian political cosmology but where that cosmology was ritually emplaced and experienced. The art and ritual of the Sasanian palace did not aim to reproduce what was visible in the world, rather it made visible realities otherwise inaccessible to the human eye, or from another perspective, brought these imaginary worlds into being.

Tuesday, April 24th, 5:30pm, 127 Memorial Hall
Presented by the Art History Graduate Student Lecture Series