



Interior of Civil Basilica, 3D visualisation

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Message from the Director

Welcome to this year's edition of the Institute's Archaeology Journal. This publication celebrates another vibrant excavation season, yielding numerous fascinating discoveries. In Aphrodisias, under the leadership of Roland R. R. Smith, a team of students and colleagues completed the excavation of Tetracylon Street, begun in 2008. They also discovered a small restaurant with its furnishings intact.

In Samothrace, under the direction of Bonna Wescoat, the team continued work on the hillside where James McCredie unearthed a deposit of plaster architectural moldings in 1995, with many Institute of Fine Arts students contributing to the documentation of the findings. In Selinunte, Clemente Marconi and his team conducted extensive investigations in the main urban sanctuary area on the Acropolis.

Due to travel and research restrictions, Matthew Adams and his team were unable to visit Abydos, and Kathryn Howley and her team could not travel to Sanam.

Our ongoing success in the archaeological program is made possible by the dedication of our exceptional faculty, students, close collaborators, and generous donors. We are excited to share this year's exhilarating fieldwork discoveries and look forward to many groundbreaking achievements ahead!

Christine Poggi

Judy and Michael Steinhardt Director

The Institute of Fine Arts

Aphrodisias, Turkey

The IFA-NYU team made exciting discoveries. Some projects were completed, others were begun, and publication remained a priority.

Civil Basilica. The anastylosis of four colossal columns at the front of the Basilica was completed, and the remaining chapters of Diocletian's Edict of Maximum Prices were set up on ten custom-designed metal panels on the line of the Basilica's west wall. A new edition of the Edict, by Michael Crawford, based on the Aphrodisias version, has been published as Aphrodisias XIII in our monograph series.

Pool. In the Urban Park / Place of Palms, restoration work continued on the sensitive marble perimeter of its 170-m-long pool. The collaborative volume on the whole complex is now in press. It will be Aphrodisias XIV.

Sebasteion. Its temple was the culmination of the whole Sebasteion, and its three-year anastylosis project was finished this year. Large parts of the temple's columnar façade were re-erected and have dramatically changed visitor experience of the complex.

Tetrapylon Street. The excavation of the street, begun in 2008, was completed this year. This was a busy thoroughfare of the late fifth to sixth century, destroyed in the early seventh century. Final excavation in the east colonnade discovered an inscribed weight standard, and in the west colonnade a small head from a statuette of Dionysos and fragments of an imported ceramic plate were found fallen from upper-storey apartments. Both items were probably precious heirlooms some two hundred years old at the time of the collapse. The project has opened a new vision of changing city life over the watershed of AD 600.

Kybele House. The House of Kybele was part of a city neighbourhood at the northeast City Wall that included a warehouse, workshops, and a city gate, as well as the Kybele House itself. Excavation this year confirmed that the neighbourhood remained vibrant into the second decade of the seventh century, after which it fell victim to sudden destruction that created a debris layer more than 1.5 m thick.

A stand-out discovery here was a small restaurant built over the street paving in the sixth century, excavated with all its furnishings still inside – a cooking stand, marble pestle, six

lamps, and extensive ceramics (one pot has food residue). A miniature head of a dog in blue marble was found on the restaurant floor.

North Temenos House. A new campaign of geophysical prospection was begun north of the city centre in connection with fresh investigation of the North Temenos House, located immediately next to the Sanctuary of Aphrodite. Two trenches at the northern limits of the house confirmed the geophysical results and that peristyles most likely belonging to the house extended to the north and east.

Marble conservation. Work focused on ten portrait heads and busts, many recently discovered, ranging from the first to the sixth century AD. They were prepared for mounting on independent pillars after careful assessment of their original postures. Three imperial statues, each badly fragmented, were also painstakingly restored, together with their heads. They came from the Propylon of the Sebasteion and represented the emperor Tiberius, his mother Livia, and a young imperial princess called Aemilia Lepida. The three are striking new imperial portrait statues of the Julio-Claudian period.

- Figure 1: Civil Basilica
- Figure 2: Pool in Urban Park, conservation
- Figure 3: Sebasteion Temple, anastylosis
- Figure 4: Column of Sebasteion Temple
- Figure 5: Dionysos from Street
- Figure 6: Red-slip plate from Street
- Figure 7: House of Kybele
- Figure 8: Head of dog from restaurant
- Figure 9: Conservation of Tiberius statue
- Figure 10: Tiberius statue
- Figure 11: Students at Kybele House



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

Samothrace, Greece



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

We had an excellent 2023 season on Samothrace. Excavation within the Sanctuary centered on the slope to the east of the Hieron, on the hillside where James McCredie had unearthed a deposit of plaster architectural moldings in 1995. To determine if the moldings belonged to a structure in the area, we continued excavation of the hillside, revealing a very large cache of similar architectural moldings and the remains of a thick marble chip working surface. IFA student Grace Vieaux was instrumental in identifying remains of mudbrick and moldings. The extent of the marble chip layer and its relation to the plaster moldings is a top question we hope to answer in the 2024 season.

Outside the sanctuary, the West Gate of the ancient city wall has proven to be a remarkable structure connecting the ancient city to the Sanctuary of the Great Gods. In uncovering the walls, we discovered stelai cuttings that show that all sides of the chambers and even the door passages were lined with inscriptions of all sizes and on multiple levels. Clearly, the gate was a prominent place of display. The inscriptions displayed here may well have included the remarkable lists recording the names of people who had undergone the initiation for which the sanctuary was famous. Like all Samothracian buildings, the design of the gate is unusual, with the first chamber being framed by two bastions composed of trachyte boulders, leading to a monumental door wall constructed in limestone. Both passages were later blocked by rubble and spoliated blocks from the original structure, making excavation particularly challenging. IFA student Ben Simmes worked particularly in this region.

IFA student Meghan Doyle worked both at the West Gate and at the breach in the city wall, where a pre-modern road led into the ancient city. PhD candidate Rebecca Salem made photogrammetric models of all of these areas as well as the remarkable Tower A. Although much admired since the 19th century, this structure is only now being fully investigated by our architectural team.

Our geospatial team was also hard at work. Continuing our research in the area between the sanctuary and the city wall began in 2022, Petra Creamer of Emory University conducted a magnetometry survey, which revealed extensive building activity in this seemingly deserted area.

In addition to excavation, we continued our final documentation of the region of the Stoa for the next volume in the Samothrace series. Finds experts worked on metals and pottery, while the architectural team completed the cataloguing and measuring of over 1700 blocks belonging to the 104-meter-long Stoa, the largest structure in the Sanctuary.

Figure 1: American Excavations Samothrace (AES) team photo in front of the Archaeological Museum of Samothrace, 2023.

Figure 2: AES research areas (Google Earth 2024).

Figure 3: AES geospatial survey of the Sanctuary of the Great Gods and the ancient city, 2022-2023.

Figure 4: Aerial view of excavations at the West Gate of the ancient city wall, 2023.

Figure 5: Photogrammetric model of the West Gate, Room 2, Trench 2, showing tiers of cuttings for marble stelai.

Figure 6: View of West Gate, Room 2, Trench 1, showing tiers of cuttings for marble stelai.

Figure 7: Arielle Hardy (Penn), Ben Simmes (IFA), and Elena Ghitan (Emory) reveal the first tier of stele cuttings in Room 2, Trench 2, of the West Gate.

Figure 8: Petra Creamer (Emory) making a magnetometry survey of the area between the Sanctuary of the Great Gods and the ancient city wall.

Figure 9: Preliminary results of the magnetometry survey, revealing subsurface evidence of architectonic features.

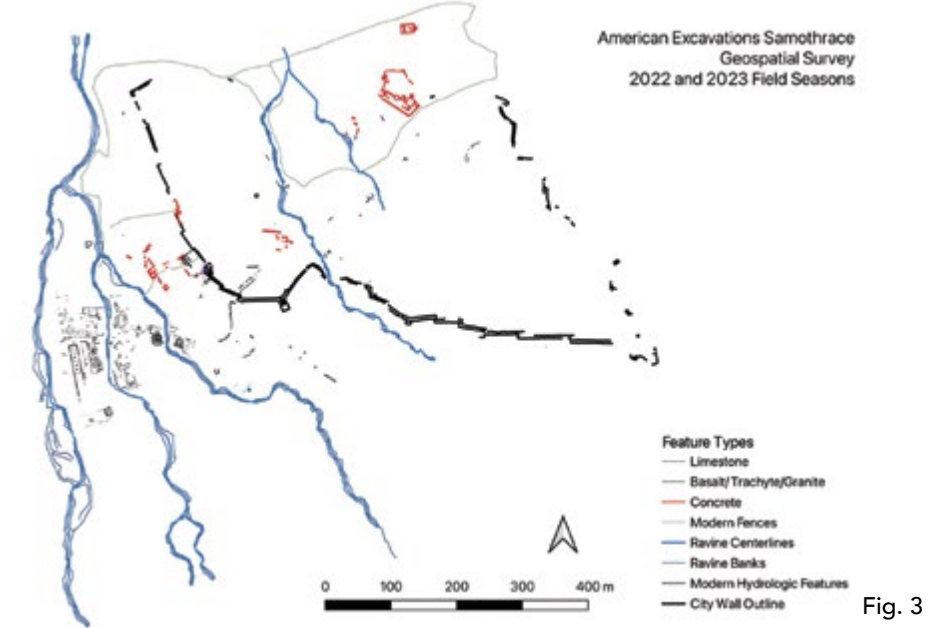


Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

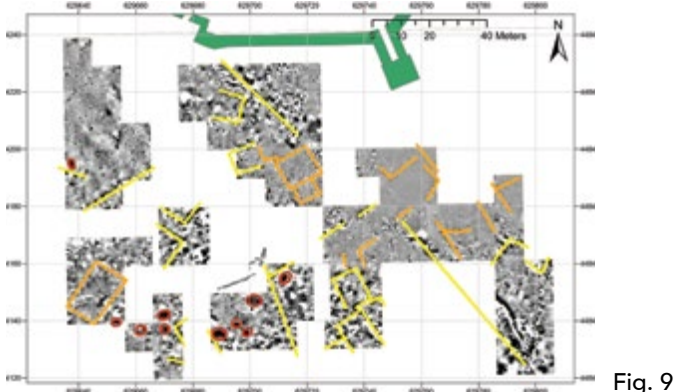


Fig. 9

Selinunte, Sicily



Fig. 1

In the summer of 2023 (from June 5 to July 7), the mission of the Institute of Fine Arts–NYU and the University of Milan, in collaboration with the Archaeological Park of Selinunte, Cave di Cusa and Pantelleria, conducted a series of investigations in the area of the main urban sanctuary on the Acropolis. Thanks to the initiative of the park director, Felice Crescente, the permit for our mission was extended from the area of Temples B and R to the entire main urban sanctuary, one of the most monumental sacred areas in the Greek world during the Archaic and Classical periods.

The new agreement gave a great impetus to the mission's research, which for the first time was able to work in extension, starting from a large trench (SAS V, supervised by Kate Minniti) along the southern peribolos wall for a length of ca. 49 m and a width of ca. 5 m. (Figure 1). This trench made it possible to establish for the first time the archaeological dating of the southern side of the peribolos wall, which appears to have been built between 580 and 560 BCE, based on the pottery from the foundation trench. It can therefore be concluded that the south side of the peribolos wall was built in conjunction with the construction of Temple R, confirmed by the use of a similar limestone. Furthermore, the construction of the peribolos wall, and with it more generally the reorganization of the sanctuary area, appears to correspond chronologically with the implementation of the great urban plan of Selinunte.

The excavation of SAS V also highlighted a series of partitions orthogonal to the south side of the peribolos wall (Figure 2). The preserved partitions have a distance between the axes of 10 Doric feet (3.4 m) and formed niches. It is possible that these orthogonal walls, not always preserved, had a regular cadence for a length of approximately 75 m and for a total of twenty-one septa and twenty niches. Likely, these partitions helped to support the high peribolos wall, in the absence of structures attached to it in this sector of the sanctuary. It is also possible that the niches in turn had multiple functions, including the display of votive offerings. The monumental structure thus formed was to represent a characteristic element of the sanctuary landscape. In the fifth century BCE, two doors were opened on the south side of the peribolos wall to connect Temples A and O with the main urban sanctuary. The circumstance reinforces the idea that Temples A and O represent an extension toward the south of the main urban sanctuary, although sacred areas were already present in this sector of the Acropolis in the Archaic period. To return to the results of SAS V, in the Punic period, the remains of the south side of the peribolos wall and the related partitions were reused to create a large stoa, probably with a commercial function, which overlooked the great east-west artery SB and which may have been the largest public building in Selinunte during the phase of Carthaginian control of the city.

In parallel with this large-scale excavation along the south side, excavation continued inside and immediately outside Temple R. As for the interior, an excavation at the northeast corner of the naos (SAS T, supervised by Andrea Bertaiola and Agnese Lojacono), conducted in depth up to the level of the construction site of the temple (570 BCE), brought to light new votive offerings, along the walls and toward the center of the naos, linked to the foundation deposit of the temple, including Corinthian perfume vessels, loom weights, and weapons (Figure 3).

Particularly important in this trench was the identification of additional offerings (essentially a new foundation deposit) associated with the renovation of the temple in the first quarter of the fifth century BCE, probably including redeposited objects from the original foundation deposit. The latter include two iron spear cusps and a javelin cusp positioned vertically with the tip upward near the north wall (Figure 4), plus a loom weight against the threshold.

Finally, a trench against the west and south sides of Temple R (SAS U, supervised by Daniele Bursich) brought to light the foundations of Punic structures against the south side of the building, which were largely removed in the nineteenth-century excavations directed by Francesco Saverio Cavallari. Furthermore, this excavation made it possible to identify, against the west side of the temple, a deposit with numerous votive materials datable to before the mid-sixth century. Standing out among the finds are a sanguisuga-type fibula and a metal chisel with a broken hollow handle for working stone and wood and with the blade well preserved and slightly curved due to wear. Among the terracottas are a clay statuette of a kouros of Samian production with extensive traces of polychromy (Figure 5) and a statuette of a banqueter. Various ivory elements were also in the deposit, including a fragment of personal ornament.

Finally, it is worth mentioning the cleaning of the area of the main urban sanctuary, which allowed us to identify the presence of post-ancient structures and a semicircular statue base in front of the east front of Temple C, plus a series of banquet halls with characteristic off-axis doors along the north side of the peribolos wall.

Figure 1: SAS V. Drone photo by Filippo Pisciotta.

Figure 2: The partitions and doors along the south side of the peribolos wall. Digital reconstruction by Massimo Limoncelli.

Figure 3: Part of the foundation deposit of Temple R, ca. 570 BCE. Area of SAS O and T. Photograph by Andrea Bertaiola and Agnese Lojacono.

Figure 4: SAS T: javelin cusp positioned vertically with tip upward near the north wall. Photograph by Andrea Bertaiola and Agnese Lojacono.

Figure 5: SAS U: terracotta statuette of a Samian kouros. Photograph by Carlotta Borella.



Fig. 2



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

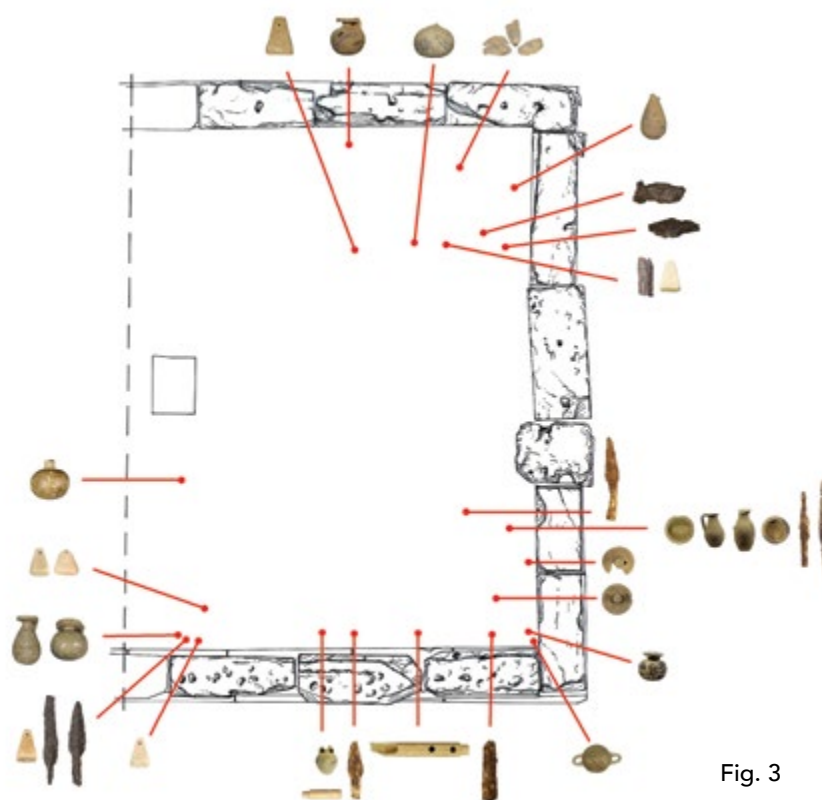


Fig. 3

Student Spotlight



Megan Gatton

Before arriving at the IFA, I had not yet had the opportunity to conduct archaeological fieldwork and the IFA's impressive program of top-notch excavations is one of the many things that drew me to the program. During my first season at Selinunte in 2022, while performing small finds photography as part of my laboratory duties, I came across a small piece of worked bone. Intrigued by a material class I had yet to encounter during my studies, I began to think about the many social and ecological concerns evoked by objects in hard animal materials. This onsite object interaction eventually led me to my dissertation topic! Over the coming years, I will study worked bone objects from a variety of contexts across the Northern Mediterranean during the seventh century BCE to develop a non-anthropocentric view of ancient making and to demonstrate the interpretive value of an under-discussed class of materials.

In addition to stimulating new thoughts and ideas, participating in the excavations at Selinunte has taught me the importance of hard work and good friends. Being able to spend time with both my advisor, Clemente Marconi, and his other students has been one of the most valuable aspects of my time at Selinunte. I have also been able to learn from the excavation's outstanding group of experts and specialists, particularly the archaeozoology team, Roberto Micciché and Arianna Romano. During the past two seasons at Selinunte, I have learned innumerable lessons and had countless laughs. There is truly no better way to spend a summer.



Rebecca Salem

Since 2019 I have been a member of the Institute of Fine Arts excavation teams at both Selinunte and Samothrace. This opportunity is incomparable for a PhD student specializing in ancient Greek architecture, and it was a deciding factor for me to come to the IFA.

At Selinunte I am a project architect and have been engaged in an architectural study of Temple R, doing a block-by-block analysis of the structure as well as looking at other architectural features. Selinunte offers a unique opportunity to study the temple alongside the excavations so we can better understand its multiple construction phases and its changing uses over time. For me this is especially useful, as my doctoral dissertation considers alterations and adaptations to Greek religious architecture in the Archaic and Classical periods, for which Selinunte is a crucial case study. In 2023 we also began studying the peribolos wall that surrounds the sanctuary. I have already had the opportunity to present this new and ongoing research.

At Samothrace I specialize in 3D modeling which allows me to work on multiple aspects of the project. During excavation I make photogrammetric models of our trenches as a method to document the multiple layers of the trench. As we start to look beyond the sanctuary, I have begun to document the city walls that creep up the mountain. Another developing project is the modeling of sculpture from the Hieron at Samothrace, pieces of which are dispersed between Samothrace and Vienna. 3D modeling these various fragments allows us to join them together in a digital environment in a way that is not possible given their differing repositories.

Working on these two projects continues to be extremely rewarding and I am immensely grateful to the IFA for supporting my research and participation on these projects.



Student Spotlight



Emily Prosch, Elena Evnin, Meghan Doyle, and Miltos Kyliandreas take a quick break to strike a trench team pose.

Meghan Doyle

It takes two airplanes and a ferry to arrive on Samothrace, the Aegean island home to the Hellenistic Sanctuary of the Great Gods. The air changes almost immediately upon disembarking the boat alongside the colleagues with whom you'll be bunking for the next seven weeks. And not just bunking, but eating and swimming and discussing and, of course, digging. These are the people who took me under their wing(ed victory) and taught me how to wield a trowel, classify a sherd, and think spatially about how the human body might have traversed the terrain we were walking 2,500 years later. My background in twentieth-century Western art meant I was in dire need of these lessons, yet the team at Samothrace was undeterred by my naïveté and will entrust me to the trenches again this coming summer.

Knee-deep in the ground, fingernails encrusted with dirt and shirt soaked through with sweat – this was where I began to piece together the flesh-and-blood existences indexed in the shattered bowls and crumbling plaster before me. Less relics than reliquaries, less artifacts than affects, the products of an archaeological season reanimate the minds, hearts, hands, and feet echoed in the excavators ourselves. The physical demands of such a project preclude the sterile study of art history abetted by the standard slideshow; the scholar turns chanteuse in the ceaseless siren song that bears us back to the past. And without Institute support, these revelations for students across specialties would remain as buried as the Hieron pillars once were.



Gage Blevins, Meghan Doyle, Leah Neiman, and Elena Evnin battle boulders with hard hats and pickaxes.

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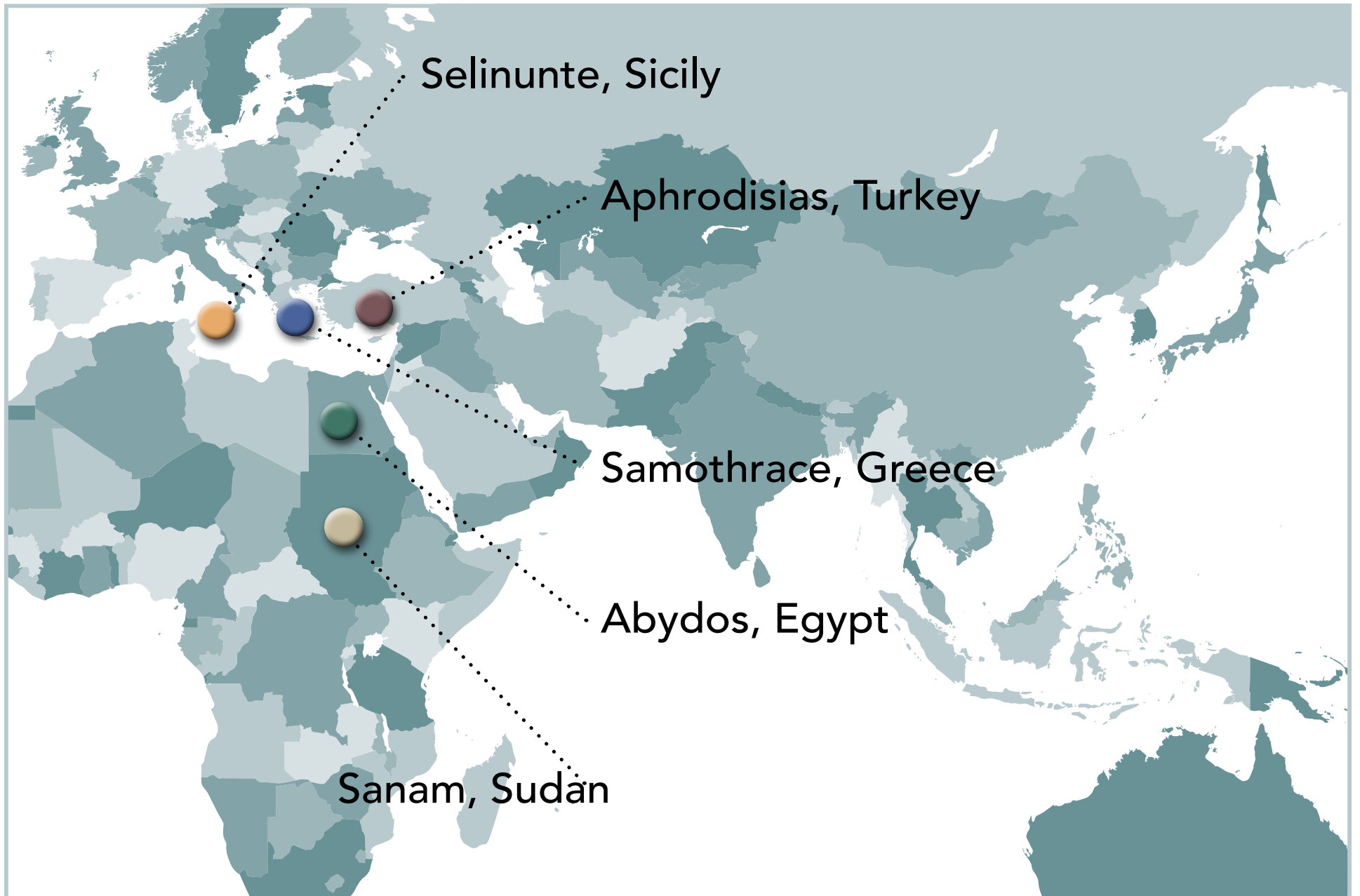
Since 1938 the Institute has had an active archaeology program. Contribute to research, excavation discoveries, and conservation work at one of our current sites by visiting:
<https://giving.nyu.edu/ifa>.

This list includes contributions to the projects received from October 31, 2022 – October 31, 2023.

Selinunte excavation team, 2023



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