**Amenirdas I, the Divine Consort**

**Third Intermediate Period, 25th Dynasty, 700 BCE**

Granite, height: 25 1/4 inches. Museum Purchase

**Provenance:**
- The sculpture was brought from Egypt to Paris by General La Marquise (Centre la Marquise) during the Napoleonic campaigns in 1801.
- The sculpture was shipped in the general's family in Normandy until it was acquired by his great-grandson by Paul Mallon, the collector.
- Mallon sold the piece to Joslyn Art Museum in 1953.

When Amenirdas first arrived at Joslyn Art Museum in 1953, she had been misidentified as Amenirdis (Amonirdis) from Karnak. Kamak (pictured) is thought to be Ethiopian (modern-day Ethiopia). The sculpture is renowned. A uraeus once adorned her brow, but is now broken, as is the tip of her nose. Her right arm is missing below the elbow while only the upper left arm remains. She holds a lily scepter in her left hand, symbolizing Upper Egypt, and it also often described as a lotus flower (symbol of femininity). Hieroglyphic signs carved into the back of the sculpture form part of a title proclaiming her as the Mistress of Upper and Lower Egypt.

**Discussions Questions**

- **What homes can be identified in ancient Egyptian art?**
- **How were women perceived in ancient Egypt?**
- **Why was it important for Egyptians to be sustainable?**
- **Why was the office of the Divine Consort important?**
- **What is the significance of the Divine Consort?**
- **How were women perceived in ancient Egypt?**
- **What role did women play in the Egyptian government?**
- **How did women contribute to the economy of ancient Egypt?**
- **What were the responsibilities of the Divine Consort?**
- **How did Amenirdas I, the Divine Consort, contribute to the government of Egypt?**
- **What was the role of women in ancient Egyptian society?**
- **How did the role of women change over time in ancient Egypt?**

**The Story of a Princess and Her People**

As early as 3100 BCE, farming communities had settled along the banks of the Nile River in what is now present-day Egypt. By the 1st millennium BCE, powerful, militaristic empires such as the Hittites and the Assyrians dominated the Near East and the Mediterranean. The ancient Egyptians, however, continued to develop their civilization and maintain their independence.

**Amenirdas I**

Amenirdas I, the Divine Consort was a high-ranking noblewoman who served as the Divine Wife to the Egyptian pharaoh Piankhi in the 25th Dynasty of Egypt. Amenirdas I was known for her intelligence, beauty, and her role as a counselor to the pharaoh.

**Amenirdas I, the Divine Consort**

**Amenirdas**

Amenirdas I, the Divine Consort was a black granite statue fragment of a full-length female portrait statue. The high standard of commemorative portrait sculpture maintained during the Late Period (700 BCE to 400 BCE) is reflected in this work. It demonstrates the independence, status, and respect commanded by certain women in ancient Egyptian society.

**The Nubian style**

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**Nubian style**

The Nubian style was characterized by its distinctive artistic features, which are thought to have originated in the ancient Nubian kingdom of Kush. The style is known for its use of hieroglyphic inscriptions, which often included the names of the pharaohs and their consorts. The Nubian style was also notable for its emphasis on the depiction of the divine and the mystical, with many sculptures depicting the pharaohs as gods or goddesses.
ARTIST UNKNOWN, EGYPTIAN; KUSHITE (NUBIAN)

AMENIRDAS I, THE DIVINE CONSORT
THIRD INTERMEDIATE PERIOD, 25th DYNASTY, 700 B.C.E.
GRANITE, MUSEUM PURCHASE
JOSLYN ART MUSEUM®, OMAHA, NEBRASKA