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978-1-107-01739-9 - The Lives of Sumerian Sculpture: An Archaeology of the Early Dynastic Temple
Jean M. Evans
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The Lives of Sumerian Sculpture

This book examines the sculpture created during the Early Dynastic period (2900–2350 BC) and originating in Sumer, a region corresponding to present-day southern Iraq. Featured almost exclusively in temple complexes, some 550 Early Dynastic stone statues of human figures carved in an abstract style have survived. Chronicling the intellectual history of ancient Near Eastern art history and archaeology at the intersection of sculpture and aesthetics, this book argues that the early modern reception of Sumer still influences ideas about this sculpture. Engaging also with the archaeology of the Early Dynastic temple, the book ultimately considers what a stone statue of a human figure has signified, both in modern times and in antiquity.

Jean M. Evans is a Research Associate at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. She has been the recipient of fellowships from the Getty Foundation, The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq, and the Warburg Institute of the University of London. She was the co-organizer of the international exhibition *Beyond Babylon: Art, Trade, and Diplomacy in the Second Millennium B.C.* and co-editor of its corresponding publication.

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