News > Visual Arts > Museums > Reviews

## **Exhibition review:** Ramses & the Gold of the Pharaohs, Australian Museum A harmonious blend of ancient wonders and

Illustrious pharaoh, Ramses the Great. 21 Nov 2023

modern innovation that explores the life of the

Leo Chau

\*\*\*\*



Ramses II (1303-1213 BC) ruled over a stable and prosperous Egypt, overseeing many accomplishments, including securing its borders, bringing unparalleled wealth, widening trade and

facilitating massive building programs. Living to over 90 and reigning for an astonishing 66 years, his death shocked his subjects, who were mostly born under his reign. It is this lauded royal's sensational story and riches that grace the Australian Museum's highly anticipated blockbuster exhibition, Ramses & the Gold of the Pharaohs. With 180 immaculately

contemplate. Walking through the exhibition, visitors are taken on an enriching yet beautifully presented journey detailing different aspects of

preserved artefacts still reminiscent of their glory, everyone will certainly find something to admire and

feel as if we are getting to know Ramses personally. We learn that Ramses was a prolific builder, overseeing one of the most extensive ancient building programs - the scale of his buildings such that they towered

Ramses' life and qualities. The

exhibition's multisensory nature heightens the sense of wonder,

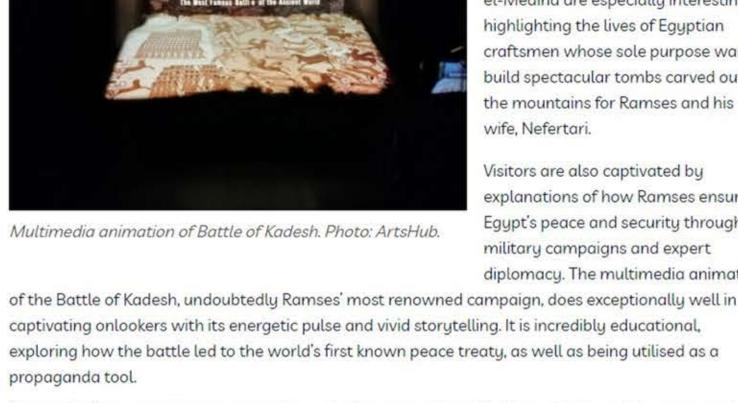
interweaving modern technology and ancient splendours to make us



such as Abu Simbel, complete with

artificial sunlight, add another layer of dimension in depicting Ramses' building prowess. Artefacts from Deir el-Medina are especially interesting,

throughs within the **Ramesseum** and his prosperous capital city of Pi-Ramesses.

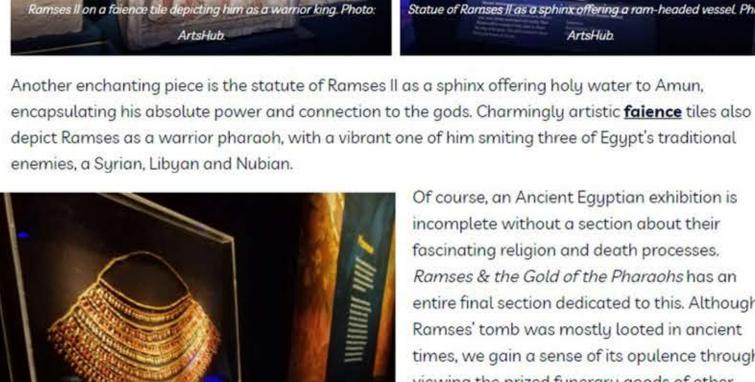


highlighting the lives of Egyptian craftsmen whose sole purpose was to build spectacular tombs carved out of the mountains for Ramses and his wife, Nefertari. Visitors are also captivated by explanations of how Ramses ensured Egypt's peace and security through military campaigns and expert diplomacy. The multimedia animation

Finely crafted mini replicas of temples

the frequent appearance of his image across Egypt – on stelae, obelisks and monuments to having his cartouche engraved onto other pharaohs' works. The towering limestone and pink granite colossus statues that dominate the start and end of the exhibition, are remarkable and jaw-dropping depictions of his excellence.

Ramses' skill as a master propagandist underpins the entire exhibition, with his position cemented by





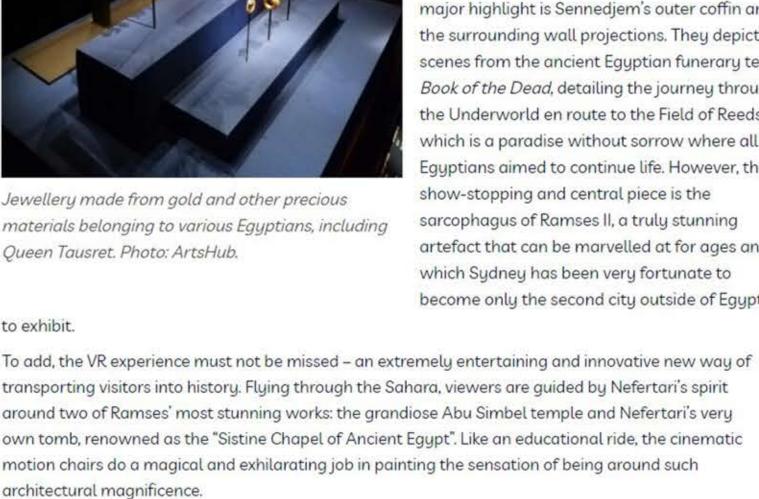
Egyptian nobilities, including exquisitely

coffinettes.

intricate jewellery made of various precious materials, gold funerary masks and canopic

Cultivating an other-worldly atmosphere, a

major highlight is Sennedjem's outer coffin and the surrounding wall projections. They depict scenes from the ancient Egyptian funerary text, Book of the Dead, detailing the journey through the Underworld en route to the Field of Reeds, which is a paradise without sorrow where all Egyptians aimed to continue life. However, the show-stopping and central piece is the sarcophagus of Ramses II, a truly stunning artefact that can be marvelled at for ages and which Sydney has been very fortunate to become only the second city outside of Egypt



Although the cancellation of the **Tutankhamun exhibition in 2021** disappointed many ancient history students and enthusiasts, this spectacular experience more than makes up for it. Living up to its world-class appeal, if there is any indication of what the future of museum exhibitions will look like, it is showcased in Ramses & the Gold of the Pharaohs. Ramses & the Gold of the Pharaohs is on view now until 19 May 2024 at Australian Museum;

Read: Exhibition review: Discovering Ancient Egypt, WA Museum Boola Bardip

Leo Chau is a freelance writer living in Western Sydney on unceded Dharug land. He currently studies journalism at UTS, hoping to contribute to

Event Advertising

Grant Advertising Course Advertising

Opportunity Advertising

Copyright (C) 2023 ArtsHub & Screenhub



Choose a Membership

Personal Membership

Student Membership

Organisation Membership

**NEWS** 

News

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the Traditional Owners of the land on w

Series: So you want my arts job?

Podcost The ArtsHubbub

Subscribe to Newsletters

tickets from \$29.

some of which include multiculturalism, politics, culture, sociology and history. **ADVERTISING** MEMBER SUPPORT **ENQUIRIES & HELP** Job Advertising My.Account About Us Reviews & Opinions Display & Soonsared Forgat My Password Contact Us

promoting diverse voices in the arts and media. His topic interests are varied,

Newsietter Preferences

Member Doshboard

EAQs