

Michael Rakowitz

***The invisible enemy should not exist –
72 cylinder seals and their impressions***

2021

144 objects from Middle Eastern packaging and
newspapers, glue, museum labels

144 Objekte aus Verpackungsmaterialien und Zeitungen
aus dem Nahen Osten, Klebstoff, Museumsschilder
Dimensions variable / Maße variabel

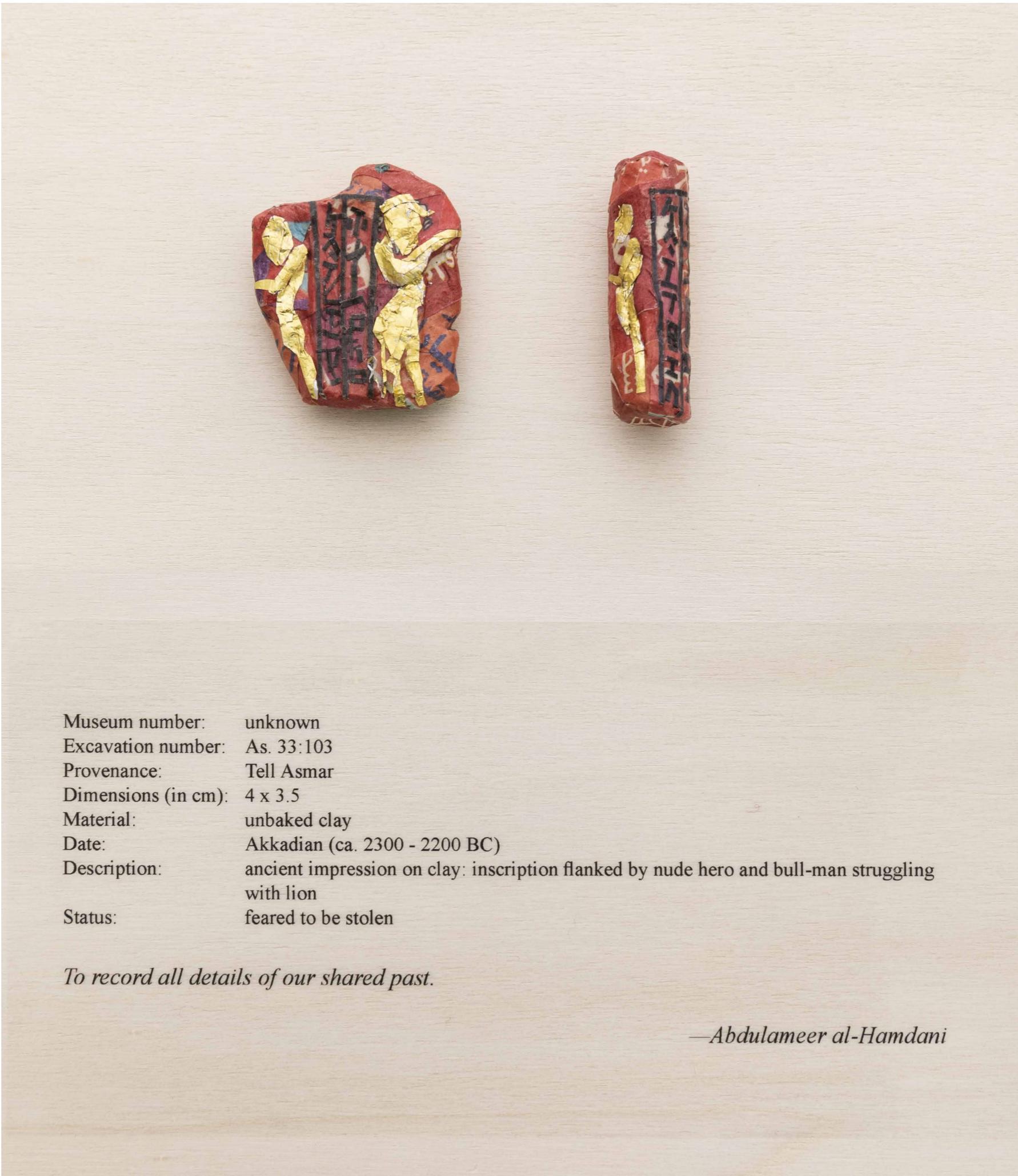
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Installation Michael Rakowitz: Reappearances, Frac Lorraine, Metz, France, 2022







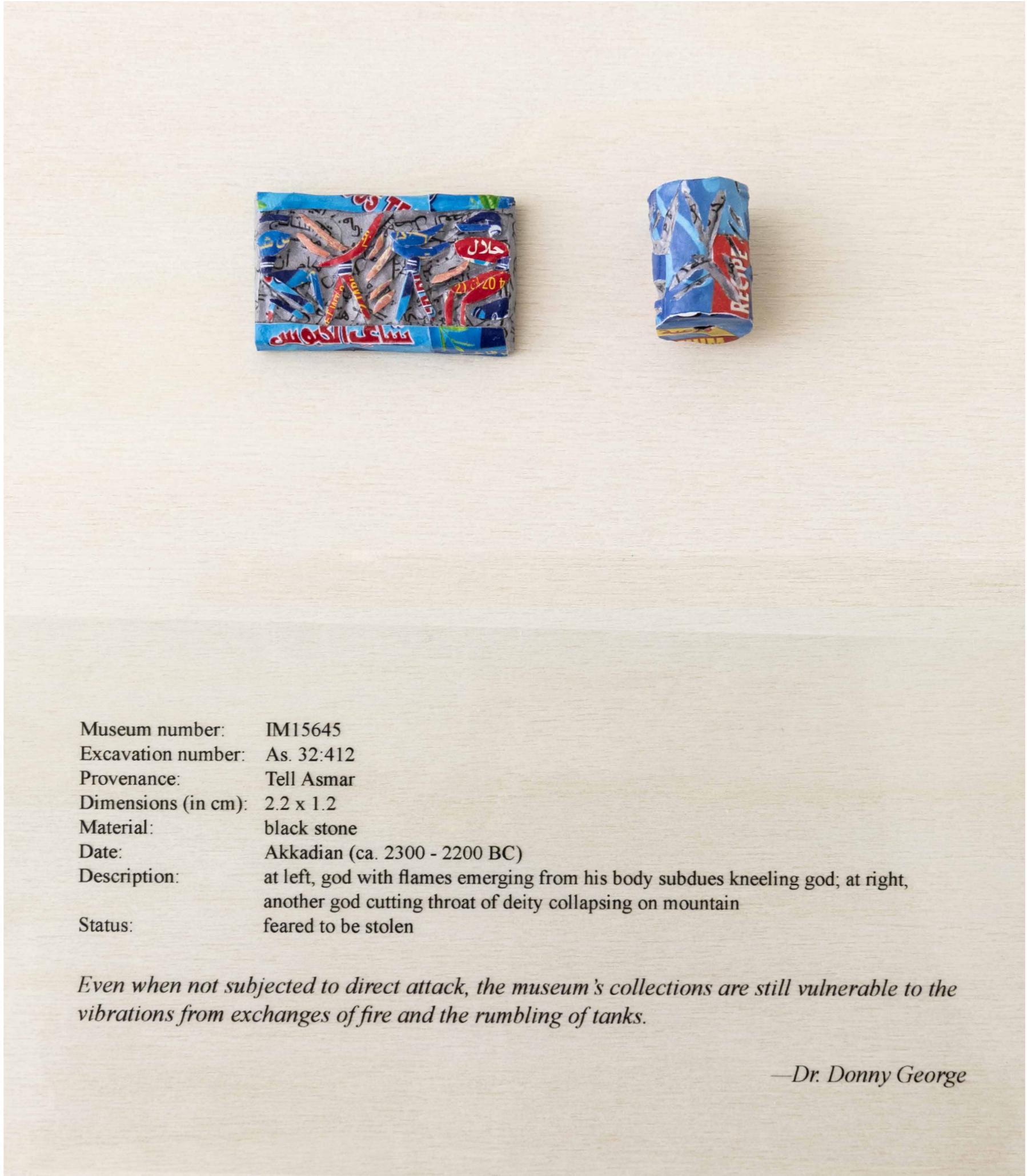
Museum number: unknown
Excavation number: As. 33:103
Provenance: Tell Asmar
Dimensions (in cm): 4 x 3.5
Material: unbaked clay
Date: Akkadian (ca. 2300 - 2200 BC)
Description: ancient impression on clay: inscription flanked by nude hero and bull-man struggling with lion
Status: feared to be stolen

To record all details of our shared past.

—Abdulameer al-Hamdani







Museum number: IM15645
Excavation number: As. 32:412
Provenance: Tell Asmar
Dimensions (in cm): 2.2 x 1.2
Material: black stone
Date: Akkadian (ca. 2300 - 2200 BC)
Description: at left, god with flames emerging from his body subdues kneeling god; at right, another god cutting throat of deity collapsing on mountain
Status: feared to be stolen

Even when not subjected to direct attack, the museum's collections are still vulnerable to the vibrations from exchanges of fire and the rumbling of tanks.

—Dr. Donny George





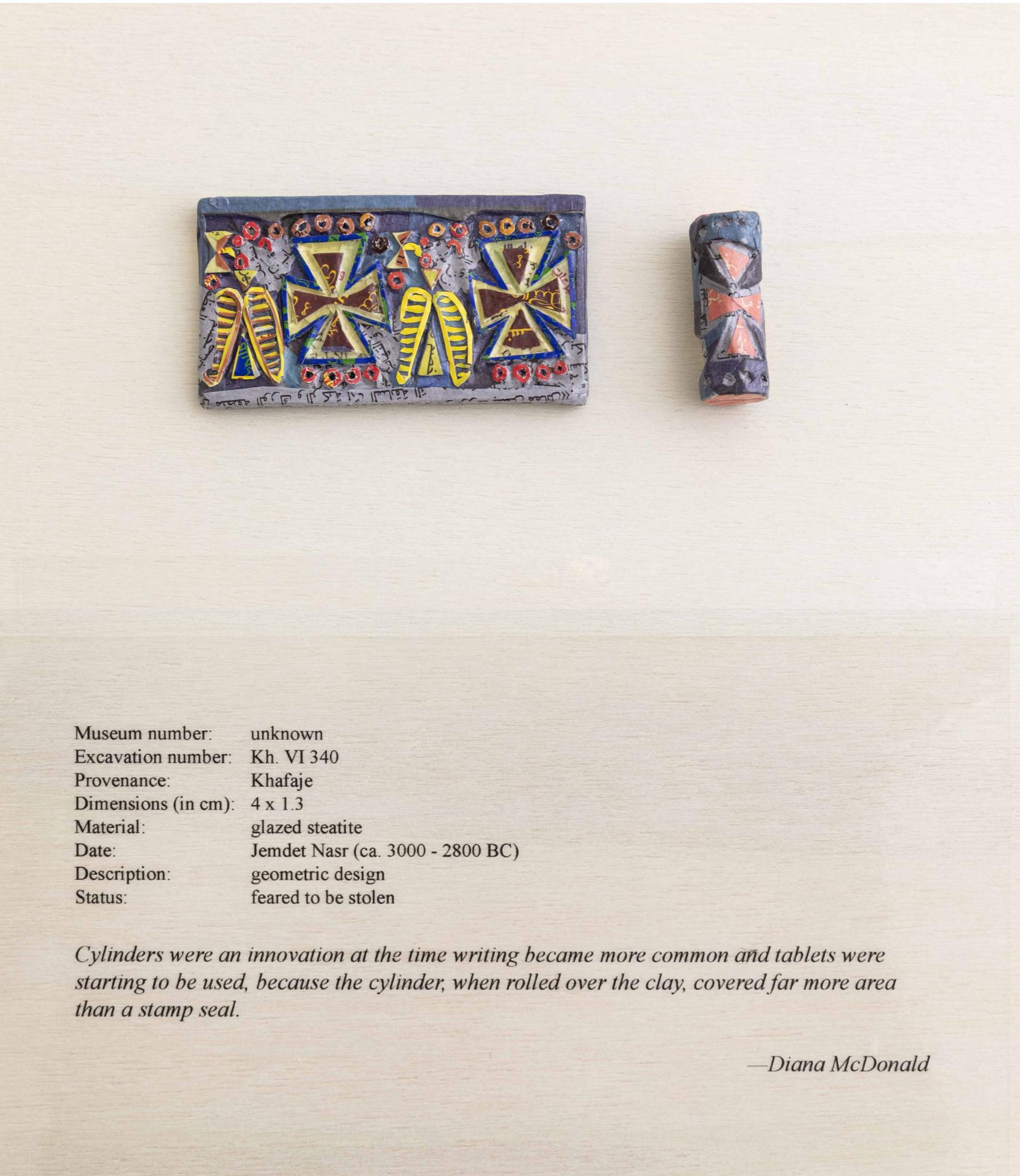












Museum number: unknown
Excavation number: Kh. VI 340
Provenance: Khafaje
Dimensions (in cm): 4 x 1.3
Material: glazed steatite
Date: Jemdet Nasr (ca. 3000 - 2800 BC)
Description: geometric design
Status: feared to be stolen

Cylinders were an innovation at the time writing became more common and tablets were starting to be used, because the cylinder, when rolled over the clay, covered far more area than a stamp seal.

—Diana McDonald

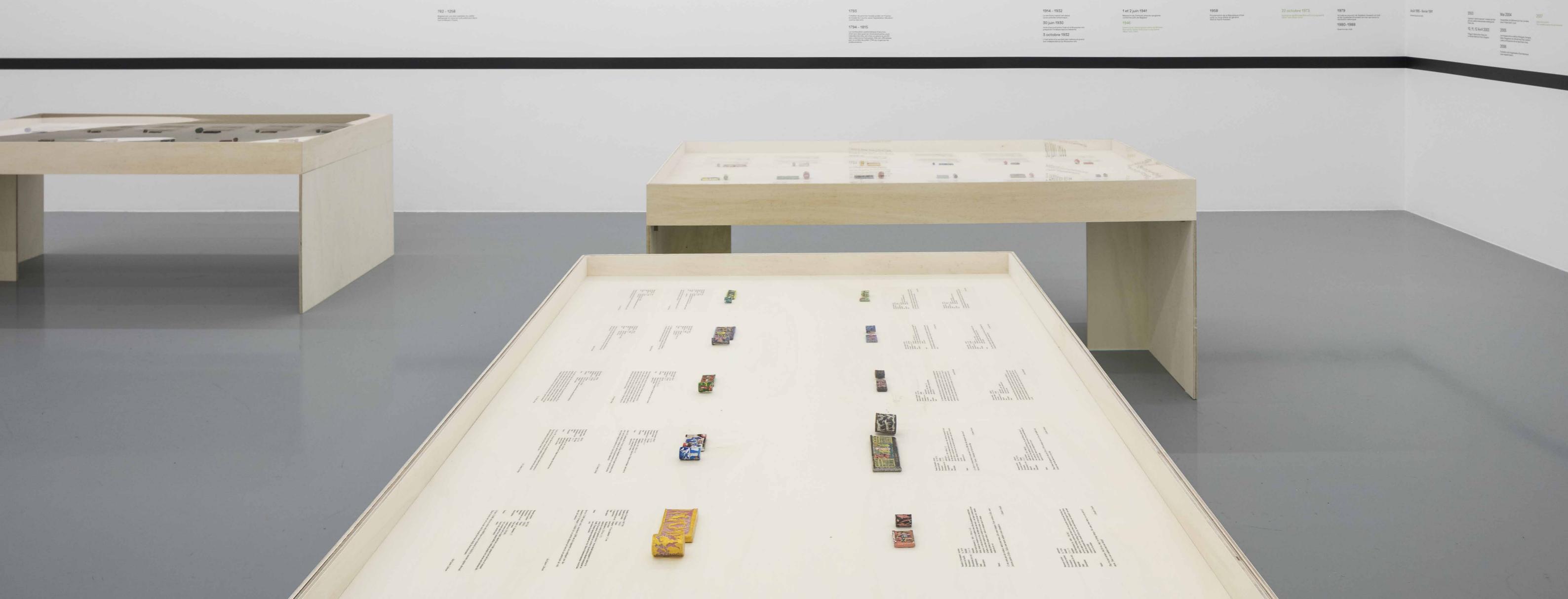








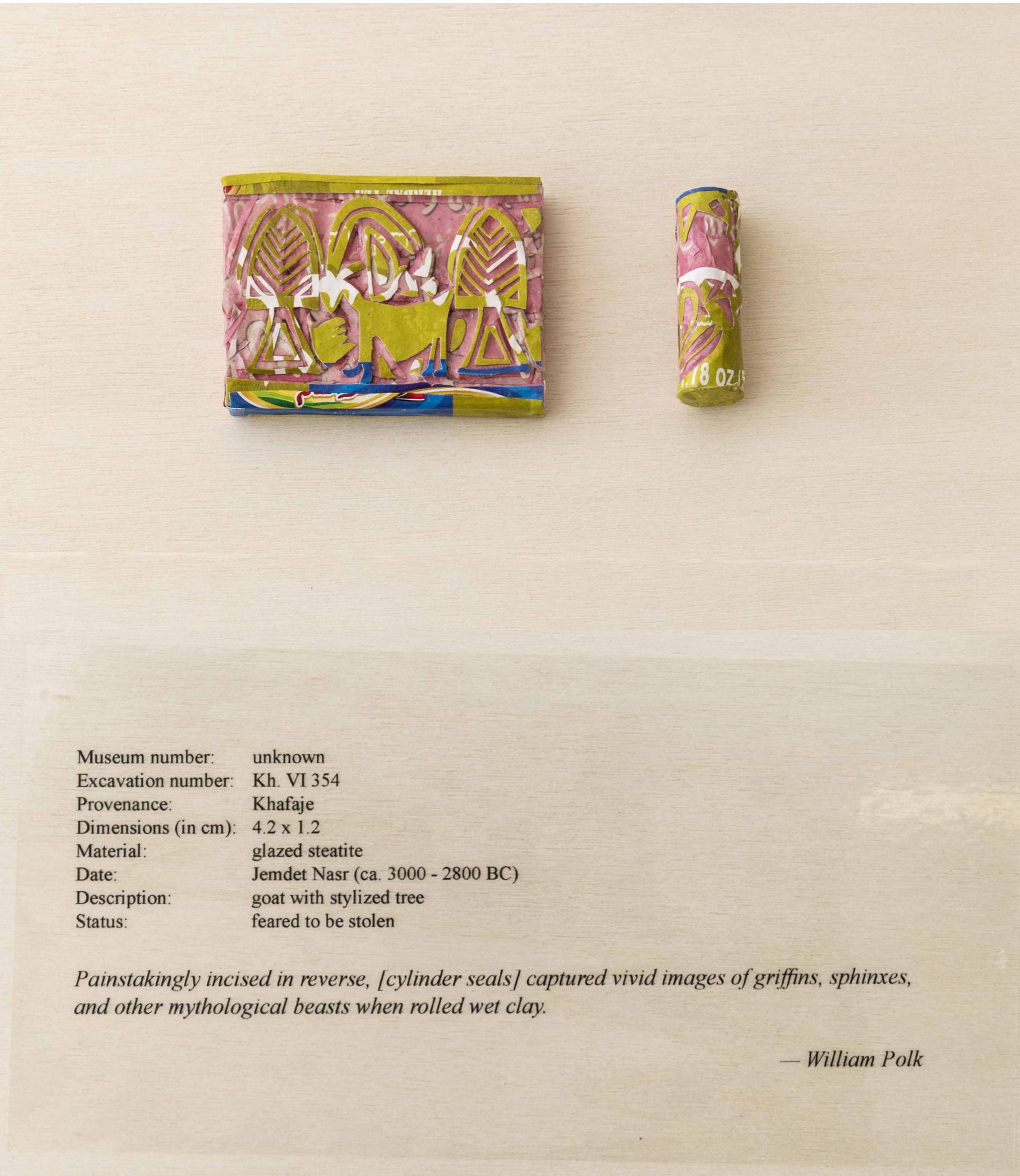












Museum number: unknown
Excavation number: Kh. VI 354
Provenance: Khafaje
Dimensions (in cm): 4.2 x 1.2
Material: glazed steatite
Date: Jemdet Nasr (ca. 3000 - 2800 BC)
Description: goat with stylized tree
Status: feared to be stolen

Painstakingly incised in reverse, [cylinder seals] captured vivid images of griffins, sphinxes, and other mythological beasts when rolled wet clay.

— William Polk









Museum number: unknown
Excavation number: Kh. VII 256
Provenance: Khafaje
Dimensions (in cm): 4.1 x 3.5
Material: gray limestone
Date: Jemdet Nasr (ca. 3000 - 2800 BC)
Description: tailless lion or bear standing erect behind tree; two goats feeding at other side of tree; another tree, with bird in branches, behind monster; three-towered building with door at left side; watercourse along bottom of scene
Status: feared to be stolen

These items will appear for sale for \$50 or \$100 in antique stores all over the Middle East, Europe and North America or on eBay.

—Eleanor Robson









Installation Michael Rakowitz: *The invisible enemy should not exist*, Galerie Barbara Wien / Showroom, Berlin, 2023



