

MARC MAILLOT

Born on October 4, 1985

Director and Chief Curator

Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures Museum, The University of Chicago

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<https://arthistory.uchicago.edu/faculty/curators/maillot>

<https://www.orient-mediterranee.com/member/maillot-marc/>

<https://sciences.ucf.edu/anthropology/person/marc-maillot/>

ACADEMIC CURRICULUM

- **2008-2013: PhD in Egyptology** at the University of Paris IV-Sorbonne, with honors and unanimous congratulations from the jury. Subject: *"Palaces and great residences of the kingdom of Meroe, relays of central power. Local and Mediterranean traditions"*. Jury: Dominique Valbelle (thesis director), Charles Bonnet, Salah ed-Din Mohamed Ahmed, Guillemette Andreu-Lanoë, Vincent Rondot, Pierre Tallet.
- **2006-2008: Master's degree in Egyptology** at the University of Paris IV-Sorbonne, with honors.
- **2003-2006: Bachelor's degree in art history and archaeology** at the University of Paris IV-Sorbonne, with honors.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Since January 2023: Director and Chief Curator of the Museum of the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures (formerly Oriental Institute), University of Chicago, USA.
- Since November 2015: Courtesy Assistant Professor at Central Florida University, Anthropology Section, Orlando, United States.
- Since February 2013: Associate member of UMR 8167 Orient et Méditerranée CNRS, "Pharaonic Worlds" section.
- June 2019 - December 2022: Deputy Director of the CNRS UAR 3336 "South Africa/Sahara", UMIFRE 4 (SFDAS-Khartoum).
- April 2019 - December 2022: Director of SFDAS (French Section of the Sudan Antiquities Service/French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Khartoum).
- September 2014 - August 2018: Deputy Director at SFDAS (Khartoum).
- October 2008 - September 2011: PhD student at the University of Paris IV-Sorbonne.
- November 2007 - December 2007 : Collection manager at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, François Mitterrand site.

RESEARCH AXES

- Architecture and Urbanism in Egypt and Sudan.
- Urban and religious topography in the Nile Valley.
- Iconography and Architectonics in Meroitic Sudan.
- Funerary and urban material culture in the Nile Valley.
- Social Anthropology.

AWARDS, DISTINCTIONS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2026: University of Chicago Women's Board Award (60.000 USD)
- 2023: Knight of the Order of Academic Palms (French Ministry of Education).
- 2021: TAIEX program, European Union (20,000 euros).
- 2021: Emergency call, Aliph Foundation (US\$75,000).
- 2019-2023: Annual call, Aliph Foundation (US\$1.2 million).
- 2019: Michela-Schiff Giorgini Foundation Prize (2,000 euros).
- 2016: Max Serres Prize, Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres (1,200 euros).
- 2008-2011: PhD Fellowship, Paris IV-Sorbonne (50,400 euros).
- 2007-2008: Master's research grant, Paris-IV-Sorbonne (4,800 euros).

EXHIBITIONS

- 2026: A Bestiary of Ancient Nubia, Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures Museum, April - August 2026.
- 2025: Megiddo, a city unearthed, a past imagined, Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures Museum, September - March 2026.
- 2025: *Staging the East. Orientalist photography in Chicago collections*, Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures Museum (April - August 2025).
- 2024: *Chicago on the Nile. A century of work of the Epigraphic survey of the University of Chicago*, Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures Museum (September 2024 - March 2025).
- 2024: *Pioneers of the Sky. Aerial archaeology and the Black Desert*, Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures Museum (April - August 2024).
- 2023: *Back to School in Babylonia*, Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures Museum (September 2023 - March 2024).
- 2023: *Artifacts also die*, Oriental Institute Museum (April - August 2023).

- 2022: *Renaissance*, Sudan Heritage Festival, French Institute of Sudan, Khartoum (November 2022).
- 2022: *Pharaoh of the Two Lands, the African Epic of the Kings of Napata*, Louvre Museum (April - July 2022), Organizing Committee.
- 2019: *Fiftieth anniversary of the SFDAS, the exhibition*, National Museum of Sudan, Khartoum (September 2019).
- 2017: *From Timbuktu to Zanzibar. Islams of Africa*, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, (April - August 2017), organizing committee.

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

- MAILLOT M., *Le palais de Mouweis et les niveaux méroïtique ancien. Fouilles 2007-2011*, Paris, Louvre éditions, forthcoming.
- MAILLOT M., *Damboya, ville royale de l'empire de Méroé*, Paris, Soleb / SFDAS, forthcoming.
- MAILLOT M. et al. *A Bestiary of Ancient Nubia, an ISAC Museum special exhibition catalogue*, ISACMP 4, 2026.
- MAILLOT M., *A Day in the life of a 19th century photographer*, ISACMP, 2025.
- MAILLOT M. et al., *Leila and Karim discover the archaeology of Sudan*, Paris, Soleb / SFDAS, 2021.
- MAILLOT M. et al., *50 ans d'archéologie française au Soudan*, Paris, Soleb / SFDAS, 2020.
- MAILLOT M., *Palais et grandes demeures du royaume de Méroé, les relais du pouvoir central. Traditions locales et méditerranéennes*, Paris, PUPS, 2016.

Articles, book chapters, conference proceedings

- MAILLOT M., « Ancient Iran in the ISAC Museum collection Preface », ISAC Museum Publication Series, 2026.
- MAILLOT M., « The Palace of Muweis. The Early Meroitic Levels », *Kush* 20, 2024.
- MAILLOT M., « A new iteration of the architectural program of Natakamani and Amanitore: The archaeological site of Damboya », National Museum of Prague publication series, 2023.
- MAILLOT M., POUDROUX S., « The archaeological site of Damboya in the Shendi reach: Third season », *Sudan and Nubia* 26, 2023.
- MAILLOT M., « In memoriam John Carswell, ISAC Museum Director, 1978-1985 », ISAC Museum Annual Report, 2023.

- MAILLOT M., « Back to School in Babylonia. Preface », exhibition catalogue, ISAC Museum Publication Series, 2023.
- MAILLOT M., القصر الملكي والمدينة الملكية - Meroitic Palace and Royal City, SFDAS Arabic collection, 2023.
- MAILLOT M., « Kushite Palaces », *The Encyclopedia of Ancient History: Asia and Africa*, New-York, Wiley, 2022.
- MAILLOT M., « The archaeological site of Damboya in the Shendi reach: Second season », *Sudan and Nubia* 25, 2022.
- MAILLOT M., « The archaeological site of Damboya: A Royal City of the Meroitic Empire », *Egyptian Archaeology* 59, 2021.
- MAILLOT M., « The archaeological site of Damboya in the Shendi reach: First season », *Sudan and Nubia* 24, 2020.
- ARDAGNA Y., MAILLOT M., « The palace of Muweis and its medieval necropolis », *Sudan and Nubia* 24, 2020.
- ARDAGNA Y., MAILLOT M., « Leprosy in a Medieval Cemetery from Sudanese Nubia (Mouweis, Shendi Area, Sudan) », *BMSAP* 33, 2020.
- MAILLOT M., « L'archéologie française au Soudan : la SFDAS, 50 ans d'histoire », *ArchéOrient-Le Blog*, 2020.
- MAILLOT M., « Les fouilles françaises au Soudan : la SFDAS », *Pharaon magazine* 40, 2020.
- DE VOOGT A., MAILLOT M., LANG J., EERKENS J., « Cultural transmission of architectural traits: From the Near East to the Meroitic kingdom », *Journal of Archaeological Science, Reports* 26, 2019.
- MAILLOT M., « Un fil d'Ariane : les plateformes cellulaires (Soudan, Égypte et Levant) », *Routes de l'Orient* hors-série n°3, 2018.
- MAILLOT M., « Un siècle de fouilles archéologiques au Soudan », in CABON O. *et al.*, *Histoire et civilisations du Soudan*, Paris, Soleb / Bleu autour, 2017.
- MAILLOT M., « Le royaume de Méroé, un monde urbain », in CABON O. *et al.*, *Histoire et civilisations du Soudan*, Paris, Soleb / Bleu autour, 2017.
- MAILLOT M., SACKHO-AUTISSIER A., « Osiris et ses hypostases. Les bassins en pierre méroïtiques et la confirmation du pouvoir royal », *JSSEA* 43, 2017.
- MAILLOT M., « Le palais méroïtique et la ville royale », *BIFAO* 115, 2016.
- MAILLOT M., « The Palace of Muweis and the Early Meroitic Levels: Contribution of the Technological Analysis to the Architectural Study », *Dotawo* 3, 2016.
- MAILLOT M., « The Meroitic Palace and Royal City », *Sudan and Nubia* 19, 2015.
- MAILLOT M., « Architecture et urbanisme du royaume de Méroé », *Égypte, Afrique et Orient* 78, 2015.

- MAILLOT M., « The Palace of Muweis in the Shendi reach, a comparative approach », in ANDERSON J., WELSBY D., *The Fourth Cataract and Beyond, Proceedings of the 12th International Conference of Nubian Studies*, Leuven / Paris / Walpole, Peeters, 2014.
- MAILLOT M., « The Palace of Muweis in the Shendi Reach: A case study », in MARCHI S., *Les maisons-tours en Égypte durant la Basse Époque, les périodes ptolémaïques et romaines, Nehet 2*, Paris, 2014.
- MAILLOT M., « Meroes Paläste. Schaltstellen der Macht », *Spektrum der Wissenschaft*, 2014.
- MAILLOT M., « Les palais de Méroé, relais du pouvoir », *Dossiers pour la science* 80, 2013.
- MAILLOT M., « Palais et grandes demeures du royaume de Méroé, les relais du pouvoir central », *Cameneae* 2, 2008.

EDITION

- Since 2021: Founding member of the editorial board of the journal *Nubia: Studies in the History and Archaeology of Northeast Africa*, Brepols.
- 2020-2023: Founding member of the editorial board of the inter-IFRE journal *Sources. Materials & Fieldwork in African Studies*.
- 2020-2022: Director of the "Archaeology" collection in the journal *Africae* (CNRS / OpenEdition).
- 2019: Scientific curator and editor of the book *50 years of French archaeology in Sudan*, Soleb / SFDAS, Paris, 2020.
- 2018: Scientific curator and co-editor of the special issue n°3 of the journal *Routes de l'Orient* entitled "French archaeological news in Sudan".
- 2016: Scientific curator and editor of volume n°3 of the journal *Dotawo* entitled "Know-Hows and Techniques in Ancient Sudan".
- 2015: Scientific curator and editor of volume n°78 of the journal *Egypt, Africa and the Orient* entitled "Ancient Sudan, an urban world".

COLLOQUIUMS AND CONFERENCES

- June 2026: conference organizer (w/Gil Stein and Matt Perley): "Digital Innovations in Cultural Heritage Preservation", University of Chicago Boyer Center, Paris.
- May 2026: "A Bestiary of Ancient Nubia, an ISAC special exhibition", AMSARC lecture series, online.
- Novembre 2025 : "A Bestiary of Ancient Nubia, an ISAC special exhibition", ASOR annual conference, Boston.

- June 2025: "An exploration of Orientalist Photography", panel moderator and contributor, Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, University of Chicago.
- June 2025 : "Staging the Orient: Photography & the Western Imagination", French Alliance Chicago.
- May 2025: conference organizer (w/Gil Stein and Matt Perley): Frontiers and emerging challenges in cultural heritage preservation », University of Chicago Boyer Center, Paris.
- May 2025: « A tale of two houses in the Middle Nile Valley: The temple-palace relationship in ancient urbanism », Society for Asian Arts Museum, San Francisco.
- March 2025: « Navigating justice in cultural heritage: Intersections of ethics, law, and museum practice », DePaul University, US Committee of the Blue Shield, Chicago.
- November 2024: « The Archaeological site of Damboya in the Shendi reach: Latest results », American Society for Overseas Research, annual conference, Boston.
- February 2024: « Museums as a community-center, a long-term approach », Purdue University, Lafayette.
- November 2023: « Archaeological heritage: A four-year feedback in implementing an Aliph sponsorship », American Society for Overseas Research, annual conference, Chicago.
- June 2023: "The University of Chicago Museum of Oriental Archaeology," French-American Chamber of Commerce, Chicago.
- May 2023: « The Sudan Archaeological Heritage Protection Project: a cultural heritage program in reaction to contemporary threats », African Studies workshop, University of Chicago.
- April 2023: « 10 years in the Sudan National Museum, a feedback on the French Archaeological Unit (SFDAS) », Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, University of Chicago.
- April 2023: « Architecture and urbanism in Ancient Nubia », American Research Center in Egypt, Chicago Chapter.
- March 2023: Participation in the Aliph 2023 forum (speaker for the Sahel), Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation, United Arab Emirates.
- September 2022: "Damboya, a royal city of the Meroitic empire", 15th International Conference on Nubian Studies, Warsaw (keynote speaker).
- July 2022: « From the excavation to the museum: A cultural hub for communities », Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, University of Chicago.
- October 2021: "Damboya, royal city of the Meroe Empire", French Institute of Sudan, Khartoum.
- September 2019: "SFDAS, fifty years of archaeological cooperation", French Institute of Sudan, Khartoum (organizer).

- September 2018: "The Palace of Muweis: The Early Meroitic Levels", 14th International Conference on Nubian Studies, Sorbonne University / Louvre Museum, Paris.
- April 2018: "The Meroitic Palace and Royal City", Ca'Foscari University, Venice.
- May 2017: « The Palace of Muweis and its Medieval necropolis », 82nd International Congress of the Society for American Archaeology, Vancouver.
- August 2016: « Royal Adventures », University of Central Florida Conference Cycle, AIA Lecture Anthropology.
- August 2016: « French-Sudanese Cooperation in Archaeology », University of Central Florida Conference Cycle, GAA Lecture Anthropology.
- August 2016: « Mediterranean Influences in Ancient Sudanese Architecture », University of Central Florida Conference Cycle, UG Lecture Anthropology.
- November 2015: « 60 years of Franco-Sudanese cooperation in archaeology », conference *Safeguarding the Cultural Heritage: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities in the Sudanese Context*, dir. P. Kroupkine (UNESCO), Sharjah Hall, Khartoum.
- September 2014: "The Meroitic Palace and Royal City", 13th International Conference on Nubian Studies, University of Neuchâtel.
- September 2013: "The palatial sector of Mouweis, contribution of technological analysis to architectural study", symposium *Know-how and techniques in ancient Sudan*, Charles de Gaulle-Lille 3 University.
- September 2012 : "The Palace of Muweis in the Shendi Reach: A case study", colloquium *Les maisons-tours en Égypte pendant la Basse Époque, les période ptolémaïques et romaines*, CRES (Centre de Recherches Égyptologiques de la Sorbonne), Paris.
- September 2011: "The palace of Mouweis, assessment of five archaeological campaigns", symposium *The Ancient and Medieval Societies of Sudan*, CRES, Paris (also organizer and administrator).
- August 2010: "The palace of Muweis in the Shendi reach, a comparative approach", 12th International Conference on Nubian Studies, British Museum, London.
- August 2008: Participation in the 12th International Conference on Meroitic Studies, University of Vienna, Austria.
- May 2008: "Palaces and Great Residences of the Kingdom of Meroe, the Relays of Central Power", study day *The Forms of Authority*, Doctoral School I - Ancient and Medieval Worlds, University of Paris IV-Sorbonne.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AND SURVEYS

- 2020-2023: Director of the archaeological mission of Damboya, Sudan.

- 2015-2020: Field director of the Pharaonic City, island of Saï, Sudan (dir. Vincent Francigny, CNRS).
- 2013-2019: Excavations of the Meroitic site of El-Hassa, Sudan (dir. Vincent Rondot, Musée du Louvre).
- 2008-2011: Archaeological survey in the Meroe region (El-Hassa, Damboya, Meroe, Naga, Mussawwarat es-Sufra and Mouweis), Sudan: study of foundations, building materials, architectural elements and surface material.
- 2007-2017: Excavations of the archaeological site of El-Mouweis, Sudan (dir. Michel Baud then Marie Millet, Musée du Louvre).
- 2007-2011: Archaeological survey in the Meroe region (Hosh Ben Naga, Ouad Ben Naga and Gandetto), Sudan: identification of structures and ceramic ensembles (dir. Michel Baud, Musée du Louvre).
- 2006: Excavations of a *castellum* of the Late Roman Empire, Mandeure, Doubs (dir. Jacques Monnier, University of Lausanne).
- 2006: Excavations in the courtyard of the Palace of Versailles and at the Petit Trianon (dir. Annick Heitzman, Versailles Research Centre).
- 2005: Excavations in the Chelles-Gournay artisanal zone under the authority of the Seine-Saint-Denis General Council; post-excavation work at the Épinay-sur-Seine centre on the material from these excavations (dir. Ivan Lafarge).
- 2005: Post-excavation work on the ceramic material of excavations related to the renovation of the radiology department of the Avicenne hospital in Bobigny (dir. Cyrille Le Forestier).
- 2004: Excavations on the Roman site of Chelles-Gournay under the authority of the General Council of Seine-Saint-Denis; anthropology internship at the Épinay-sur-Seine center on the equipment of the archaeological site of the RD 40, Tremblay-en-France (dir. Cyril Le Forestier).

TEACHING

- March - June 2024 : « Cultural Heritage Management in Conflict Areas », spring quarter 2024, University of Chicago.
- 2020-2021: Supervision of PhD students, Damboya archaeological site.
- December 2019: Seminar on the history and archaeology of the Nile Valley, Lycée Dupuy de Lôme, Lorient.
- July 2018: Jury of the "My thesis in 180 seconds" challenge, University of Khartoum / French Embassy in Khartoum.
- June 2017: Participation in the jury and supervision of Silvia Callegher's master's thesis (subject: "*The Meroitic palace B1500 at Napata – Jebel Barkal. An architectural perspective*"), Ca'Foscari University, Venice.

- August 2016: Lecturer in seminars on the Kingdom of Meroe and its architecture, Department of Anthropology, Central Florida University, Orlando.
- November 2013: Supervision of PhD students, archaeological site of El-Hassa, Sudan.
- January - February 2012: Supervision of master's students, archaeological site of Mouweis, Sudan.
- February 2009: Seminars on the excavation of the Mouweis palatial sector, Shendi University, Sudan.
- September 2009 - September 2013: Lecturer, the study of architecture and urban topography in Egypt and Sudan, Sorbonne University, Paris.
- September 2008 - December 2008: Private lessons in History, French and English with the organization "Premier de la Classe".

MEDIA

- 2026: "A Bestiary of Ancient Nubia", *ANE Today*.
- 2026: "Are Animals Connected to Souls? Exhibit Showcases Power of Animals in Ancient Nubia", Bible History Daily.
- 2026: "A Bestiary of Ancient Nubia", *CIPEG e-News* 25.
- August 2024: In the Library of Marc Maillot, ISAC's Chief Curator », channel Youtube *The Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures*.
- May 2024: « Why were Ancient Egyptians obsessed with cats? », Youtube channel *The Brain Scoop's*.
- 2023: « Sudanese Heritage under Threat: A brief report », *CIPEG e-News* 19.
- October 2023: "The Collections of the ISAC Museum in Chicago", French-American Chamber of Commerce, "7 Days, 7 Talks" series.
- October 2023: "Sudan. Amanirenas: Discovering the Candaces", documentary "African Empires" series, *Special Touch Studios*.
- June 2023: "Store explorer: Marc Maillot," *Chicago Magazine*.
- June 2023: « An interview with chief curator Marc Maillot », *ISAC News and Notes Quarterly Newsletter* 254.
- April 2023: « UChicago's Oriental Institute starts a new chapter », *WBEZ Radio*.
- May 2021: « Exploring Sudan's Pyramids », *Radio France International*.
- April 2021 : "In Sudan, excavation sites facing the scourge of looting", *Le Quotidien de l'Art* 2153.
- April 2021: "Sudan. In the footsteps of the black pharaohs", *Figaro Magazine*.

- April 2021: "Sudan: Archaeological Treasures in Danger", *France 24*.
- September 2020: « Sudan Heritage at risk from record Nile floods », *The Times*.
- September 2020: « Nile flood threatens cultural site in Sudan », *Der Spiegel*.
- September 2020: "Floods threaten archaeological sites", *Radio France International*.
- September 2020: "Sudan floods", *BBC with Tim Francks*.
- September 2020: "Floods in Sudan", *Radio Monte-Carlo Doualiya*.
- August 2020: "In Sudan, archaeological sites under threat from gold prospectors", *France Culture*.
- November 2019: "50 years of French archaeology in Sudan: history of the SFDAS", *Libération*.

IT PROFICIENCY

- Proficiency in Macintosh and PC environments.
- Microsoft Office suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher and Outlook).
- Adobe suite (Photoshop, Illustrator and Acrobat).
- FileMaker software.
- Surveying software and 3D surveys (AutoCad, Surfer, Covadis and ShiftN).

LANGUAGES

- French (mother tongue).
- Written, read and spoken English (bilingual).
- Written, read and spoken Spanish (bilingual).
- Spoken Arabic (bilingual).
- German read.
- Italian read.

NGOs AND PRO-BONO

- Since April 2024: President of the NGO "Netsanet" dedicated to the mobility of researchers in the humanities and social sciences in the Horn of Africa.
- September 2011 - September 2013: Vice-president of the NGO "The water dries up" focused on the study of water pollution and clandestine goldmining in Mongolia (2012 Spotlight prize of the EDF Foundation).

- May 2010: Voice-over of the documentary “*L'or bleu des steppes*” produced by the NGO "L'eau tarit".
- October 2006 - October 2011: Vice-president of the NGO "Bacchus": organization of cultural events, conferences, exhibitions and publication of a fanzine.
- January 2004 - October 2011: Vice-president of the NGO "A.S.I.A.A" for the promotion of the history of art and archaeology: organization of cultural trips, partnerships with bookstores, cinemas and museums, meetings with curators, organization of conferences and development of a newspaper for students.

ACADEMIC SOCIETIES

- Since 2023: *American Research Center in Egypt* (ARCE), Chicago Chapter.
- Since 2023: *American-Sudanese Archaeological Research Center* (AmSARC).
- Since 2023: *American Society for Overseas Research* (ASOR).
- Since 2022: *International Society for Nubian Studies*, member of the executive committee.
- Since 2016: *Society for American Archaeology* (SAA).
- Since 2015: *French Society of Egyptology* (SFE).
- Since 2014: *Sudan Archaeology Society* (SAS), Great Britain.