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Visual tactics in Kush/Sikoot: colonial control, Nubian agency, archaeological knowledge production and family curation

Focusing on the Amara West/Abri region of northern Sudan, I explore image-making strategies deployed under colonial rule and postcolonial aftermaths, particularly in the late second millennium BCE and the 20th century CE. Ancient pharaonic statuary and formal monumental scenes, but also photographs from the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium (1899-1955), were deployed to convey control, project superiority, and position Nubia as distinctly other. Archaeological knowledge (especially image) production, characterised by the Egypt Exploration Society excavations at Amara West (1938-1950), further reified these classifications, even extending the use-life of abandoned colonial power relationships. I seek to contribute to a counter-archive that foregrounds biographies of Nubian and Sudanese agency, resistance and creativity in image production, further enriched through oral histories and contemporary family photography in the region.

