

SICILY

ART AND INVENTION
BETWEEN GREECE AND ROME

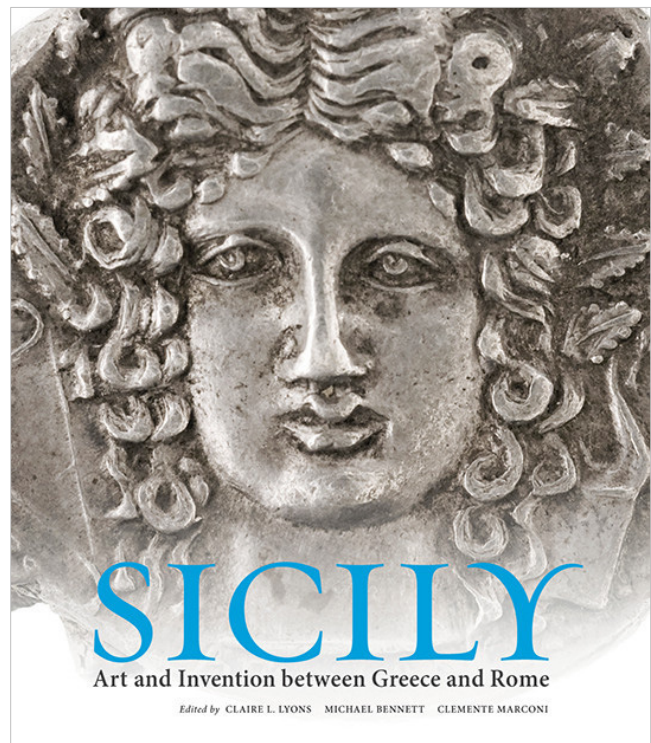
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**SICILY'S ESSENTIAL ROLE IN SHAPING THE CULTURE OF THE ANCIENT
MEDITERRANEAN WORLD EXPLORED IN A RICHLY ILLUSTRATED ANTHOLOGY**

Sicily: Art and Invention between Greece and Rome

LOS ANGELES—Ancient Sicily, a prosperous island at the crossroads of the Mediterranean, occupied a pivotal place between Greece, North Africa, and the Italian peninsula. In the late eighth century B.C., émigrés from the Greek mainland founded colonies along the shores of the region they knew as Sikelia, bringing with them the dialects, customs, and religious practices of their homelands. Dearest of all lands to Demeter, goddess of the harvest, Sicily grew wealthy from its agricultural abundance, and colonial settlements emerged as formidable metropolises.



Sicily: Art and Invention between

Greece and Rome (Getty Publications, \$60.00, hardcover) is the only English-language book that focuses on the watershed period between the victory over the Carthaginians at the Battle of Himera in 480 B.C. and the Roman conquest of Syracuse in 212 B.C., a time of great social and political ferment. Intended as a sourcebook for Classical and Hellenistic Sicily, this anthology features current research by more than forty international scholars.

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The essays investigate Sicily not simply as a destination for adventurers and settlers, but as a catalyst that shaped Greek culture at its peak and transmitted Hellenism to Rome. In the opulent courts of the Sicilian city-states, artists, poets, and scientists attained levels of refinement and ingenuity rivaling, even surpassing, those of "old Greece." Innovation in architecture, engineering, coinage, philosophy, and literature flourished in mixed cultural communities, which offered room for experimentation and gave birth to such influential figures as Empedokles, Theokritos, and Archimedes.

This volume accompanies the exhibition *Sicily: Art and Invention between Greece and Rome*, presented at the J. Paul Getty Museum at the Getty Villa (April 3– August 19, 2013), the Cleveland Museum of Art (September 30, 2013–January 5, 2014), and the Palazzo Ajutamicristo in Palermo (February 14–June 15, 2014).

ABOUT THE EDITORS: **Claire L. Lyons** is acting senior curator of antiquities at the J. Paul Getty Villa and a specialist in the archaeology of Greece and pre-Roman Italy. **Michael Bennett** is the Cleveland Museum of Art's first curator of Greek and Roman Art and has overseen the reinstallation of the museum's collections of Ancient Near Eastern, Greek, Etruscan, and Roman antiquities. **Clemente Marconi** is James R. McCredie Professor in the History of Greek Art and Archaeology at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts. His area of specialty is archaeology of ancient Sicily.

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