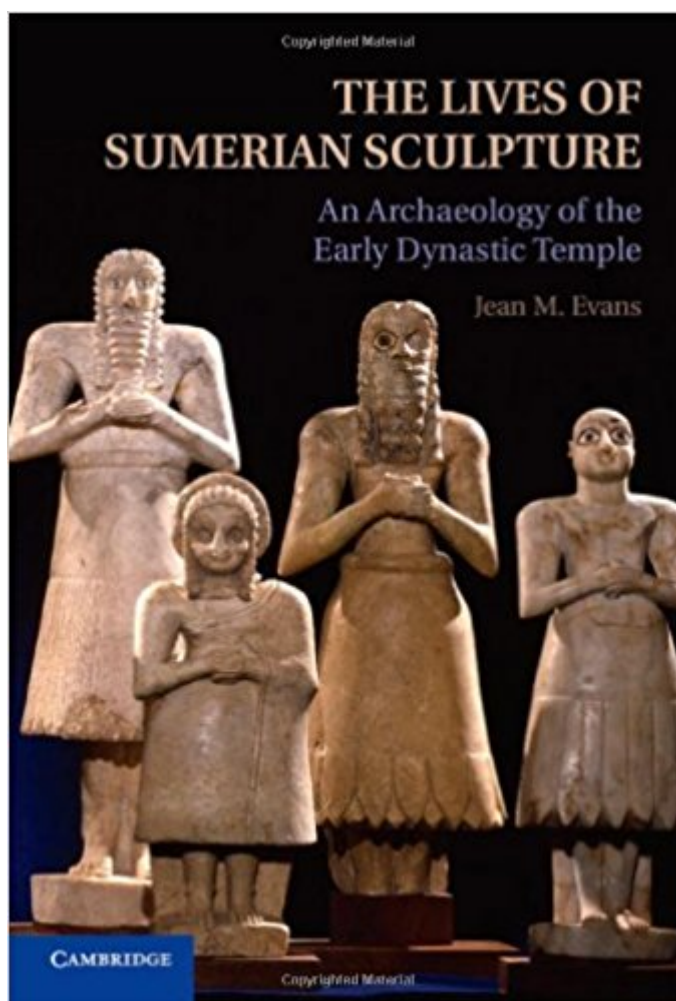


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# The Lives Of Sumerian Sculpture: An Archaeology Of The Early Dynastic Temple



## Synopsis

This book examines the sculptures created during the Early Dynastic period (2900-2350 BC) of Sumer, a region corresponding to present-day southern Iraq. Featured almost exclusively in temple complexes, some 550 Early Dynastic stone statues of human figures carved in an abstract style have survived. Chronicling the intellectual history of ancient Near Eastern art history and archaeology at the intersection of sculpture and aesthetics, this book argues that the early modern reception of Sumer still influences ideas about these sculptures. Engaging also with the archaeology of the Early Dynastic temple, the book ultimately considers what a stone statue of a human figure has signified, both in modern times and in antiquity.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Well written, with copious footnotes and bibliography, this is an interesting art, historical, and anthropological approach to Sumerian sculpture." E. H. Cline, *Choice*"Evans' study of Sumerian statues in the Early Dynastic Period gives new arguments and ideas on a long interpretation of material, with a very interesting new perspective that is based on the importance of the archaeological contexts where statues have been recovered and, possibly, lived." Davide Nadali, *Bibliotheca Orientalis*

This book examines both the early modern reception and the ancient context of the temple sculptures created during the Early Dynastic period (2900-2350 BC) of Sumer. Chronicling the intellectual history of ancient Near Eastern art history and archaeology at the intersection of

sculpture and aesthetics, this book also engages with the archaeology of the Early Dynastic temple to consider the meaning and function of these sculptures.

This book is a scientific publication. For a general audience, it is too restrictive. The author presents very interesting new research results concerning a particular genre of the art of the ancient Near East. For all those who are concerned with discussing "Beterfiguren," the book is required reading.

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