

Block 7

A16

(Popular) Amarna Reception

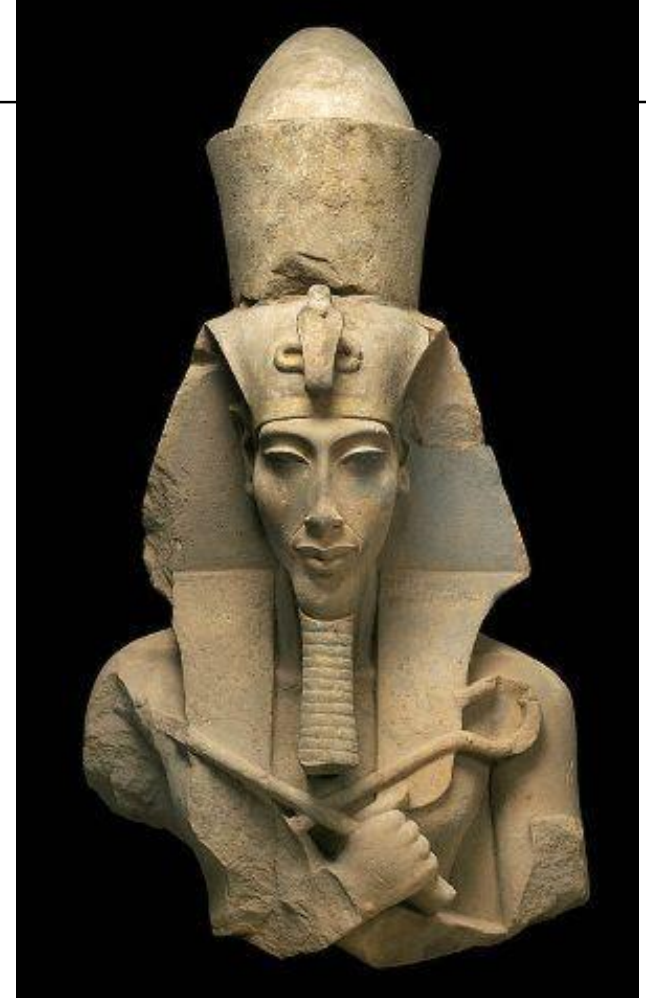
HPAH5003/6003: Amarna – Materiality of a religious revolution

AHAR7005: Akhenaten and Amarna:
Religion, culture and people

Dr Katharina Zinn

The Popularity of The Amarna Period

- ❑ The Amarna Period (circa 1352–1323 BCE)
- ❑ Most widely discussed topic in Egyptology
- ❑ Over 3,000 titles and more than 50 books in the last 15 years
- ❑ Ironical given that Akhenaten's name was intended to be erased from history



The Popularity of The Amarna Period



The Tel el-Amarna Period has had more nonsense written about it than any other period in Egyptian history, and Akhenaten is a strong rival to Cleopatra for the historical novelist. The appeal of Cleopatra is the romantic combination of love and death; Akhenaten appeals to religion and sentiment. In the case of Akhenaten the facts do not bear the construction often put on them.

MARGARET MURRAY, THE SPLENDOR THAT WAS EGYPT (1949)

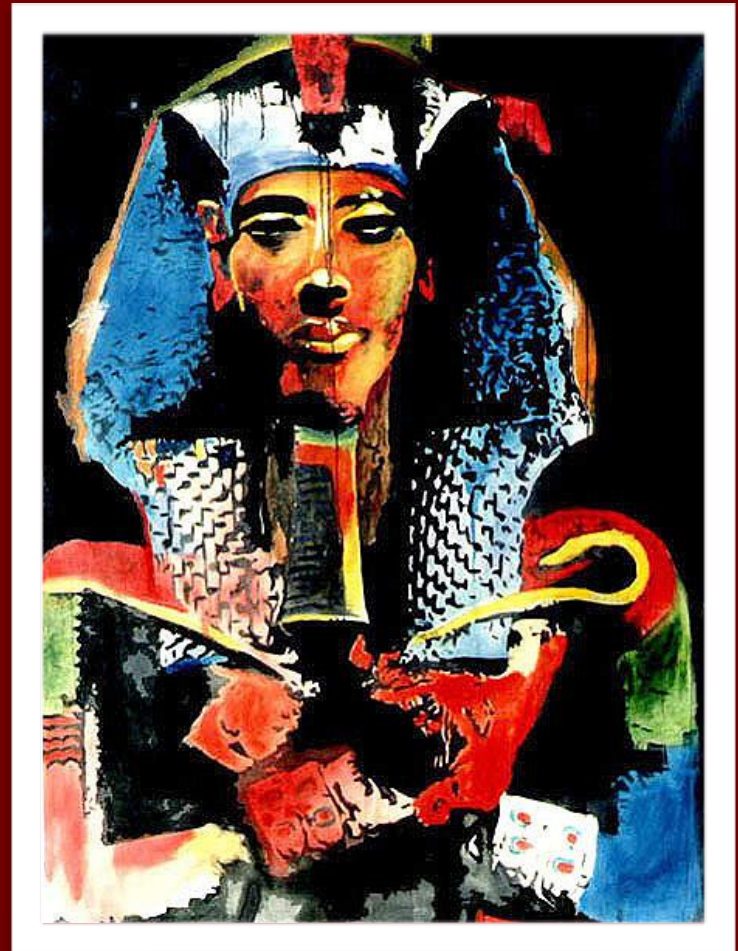
Winifred Brunton

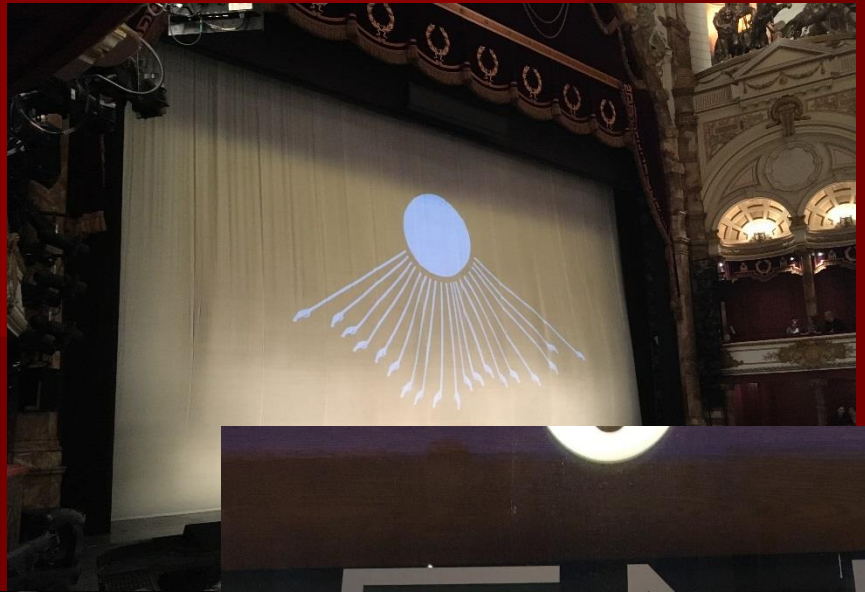
- South African wife of British Egyptologist Guy Brunton (excavated at Lahun under Petrie, Assistant Keeper of the Cairo Museum in 1931)
- Illustrated excavation reports (tomb Tutankhamun)
- Early 20th century, published as *Kings and Queens of Ancient Egypt* (1926) and *Great Ones of Ancient Egypt* (1929)
- Today highly collectable
- Work based on evidence available at the time



The Amarna Period in Popular Culture

- In addition to the scholarly community, the Amarna period has wide public interest







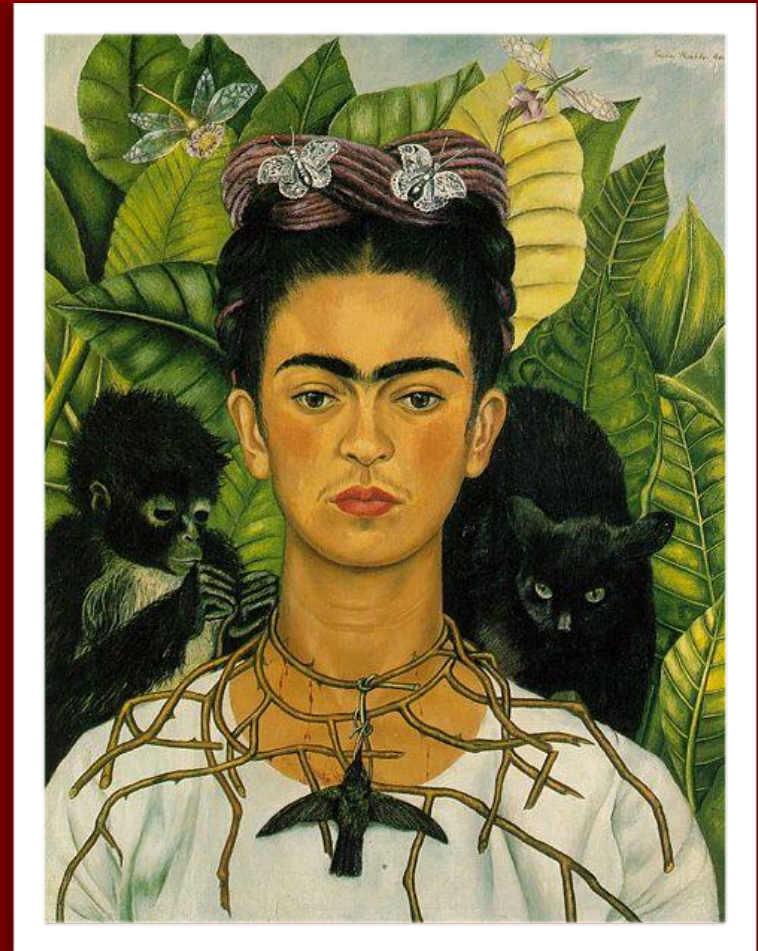
The Amarna Period in Popular Culture

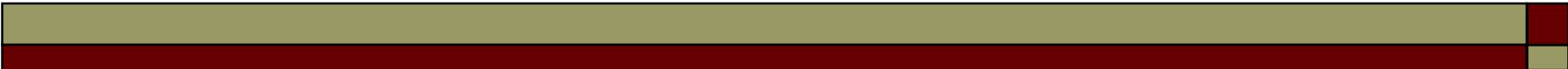
- Opera: "Akhnaten" by Philip Glass (1937), Commissioned by the Württembergisches Staatstheater, Stuttgart in 1983
- Part 3 of The "Portrait Trilogy" about men who changed the world "through the power of their ideas"
- Perpetuates the idea of Akhenaten as the 1st monotheist



The Amarna Period in Popular Culture

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- Sigmund Freud (1856–1939): Moses and Monotheism
- Frida Kahlo (1907–1954): Mexican surrealist artist





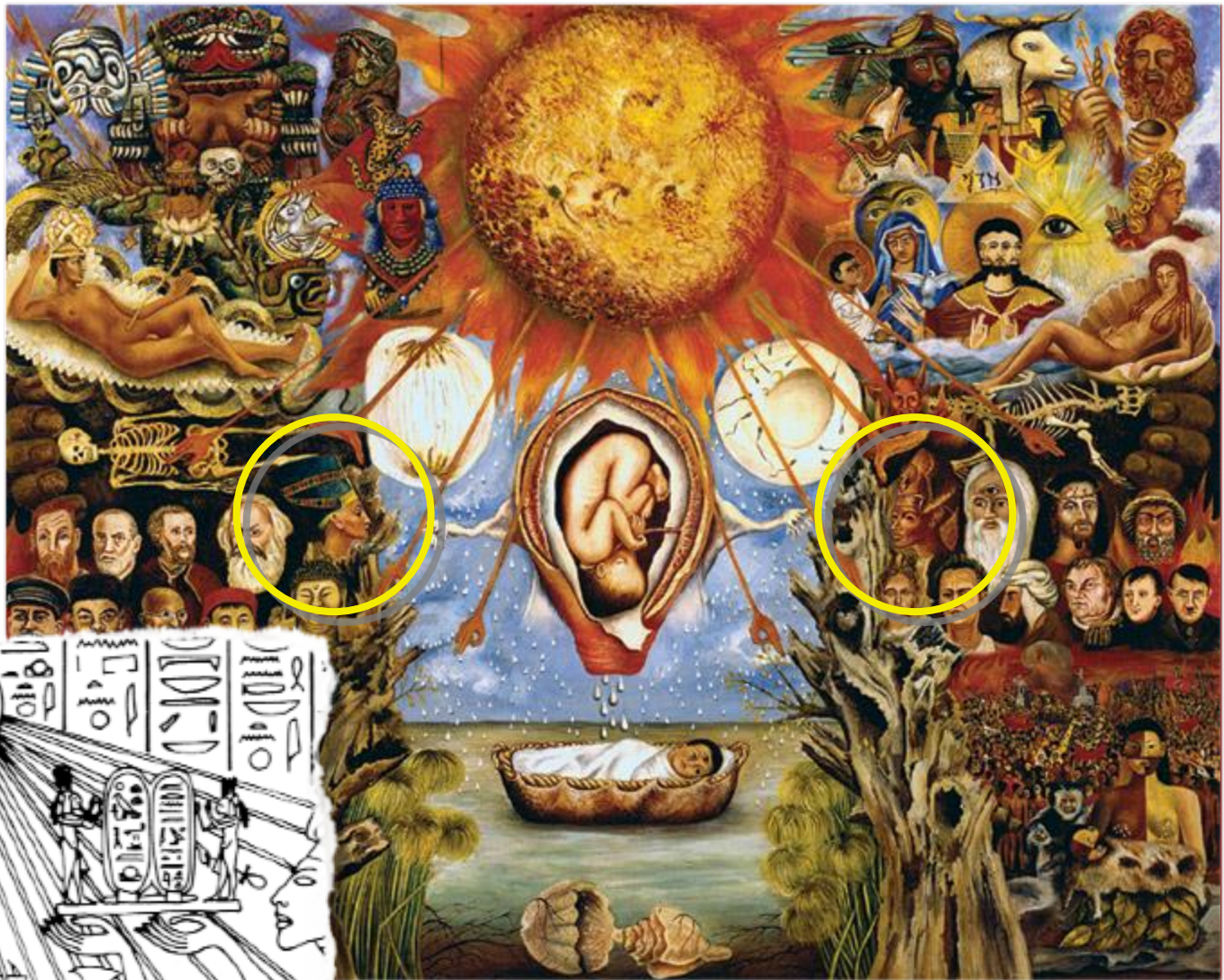
“MOSES” (1945)

- Kahlo: Freud’s book inspired her to paint a very complex painting entitled “Moses”, which features Amarna iconography



“MOSES” (1945)

- Kahlo: Freud’s book inspired her to paint a very complex painting entitled “Moses”, which features Amarna iconography
- Blood-red Aten-disk sun, under which Moses is born
- Nefertiti and Akhenaten as revolutionary leaders, rising above the masses, with great/important/enigmatic leaders such as Jesus, Muhammad, Martin Luther, Napoleon, Hitler, Gengis Khan, Marx, Stalin, and others



"MOSES" (1945)

Company: Perankh



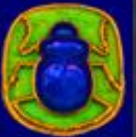
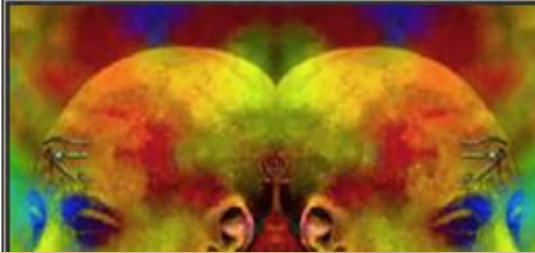
Modern Homes & Egyptian Art

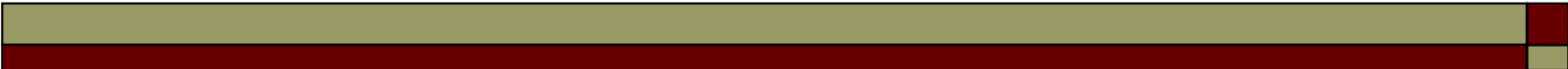
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Edutainment

- especially popular: Amarna Period