



## **Beyond Babylon: Art, Trade, and Diplomacy in the Second Millennium B.C.**



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## Beyond Babylon: Art, Trade, and Diplomacy in the Second Millennium B.C.

Beyond Babylon: Art, Trade, and Diplomacy in the Second Millennium B.C. brings into focus the cultural enrichment shared by civilizations from western Asia to Egypt and the Aegean more than three thousand years ago during the Middle Bronze and Late Bronze Ages. With the formation of powerful kingdoms and large territorial states, rising social elites created a demand for precious metals and objects fashioned in styles that reflected contacts with foreign lands. This quest for metals - copper, tin, silver, and gold - was the driving force that led to the establishment of merchant colonies and a vast trade network throughout central Anatolia, as well as to the emergence of a broad internationalism. Continuing the story begun in the landmark exhibition and its accompanying catalogue this important publication documents the innovative art that developed in the context of a sophisticated network of trade and diplomacy. The art and cultural history of the period are discussed by more than eighty-five scholars who, in their international scope, mirror the times they bring to life in wide-ranging essays and in catalogue entries on each of the objects included in the exhibition.

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