



POURDAVOUD CENTER LECTURE SERIES



KINGSHIP FOR A NEW WORLD  
ACHAEMENID ART AND ITS GLOBAL RESONANCES

FEBRUARY 27, 2019 | 4:00 P.M. | 306 ROYCE HALL

MARGARET COOL ROOT  
(UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN/GETTY SCHOLAR)

The official court art of the Achaemenid Persian empire, as realized canonically in the reign of Darius I (r. 522-486 BCE), had a profound impact on the initiatives of ideological display devised in other political/cultural environments with aspirational agendas of imperial hegemony. This lecture explores select aspects of two instructive case studies in this dynamic creative emulation: The late fifth-century BCE Parthenon of Periklean Athens to the west and the Pillar Monuments of the Mauryan King Ashoka in India (r. c. 268-232 BCE). The pairing demonstrates key historiographic burdens that block productive discourse on the global resonances of Persian programmatic visions beyond the boundaries of space and time.

SPEAKER



**Margaret Cool Root** is Professor and Curator Emerita (Department of the History of Art and the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology) at the University of

Michigan. She is currently a Getty Scholar, writing a book entitled *Persia and the Parthenon*. Beginning with her first book, *The King and Kingship in Achaemenid Art: Essays in the Creation of an Iconography of Empire* (1979), she has published widely on Achaemenid Persian architecture, sculpture, seals, imperial ideology, interconnections with Greece, and historiography. Recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship (1985-86), Professor Root has also been awarded fellowships and multi-year project grants from the NEA, the NEH, the Iran Heritage Foundation, and the Kress Foundation to support ongoing efforts on the Persepolis Seal Project.

The mission of the Pourdavoud Center for the Study of the Iranian World is to engage in transformative research on all aspects of Iranian antiquity, including its reception in the medieval and modern periods, by expanding on the traditional domains of Old Iranian studies and promoting cross-cultural and inter-disciplinary scholarship.

Advanced registration is requested. For more information and to RSVP, please click [here](#).

Self-pay parking in Structure 4 is recommended. Light refreshments will be served.