

5. Mosul will rise again

Alexandre Mitchell, 2022 (42 x 59cm, Indian ink)



Cylinder seal with Gilgamesh and Enkidu [Mitanni (Northern Syria, Northern Mesopotamia), 1500-1400 BCE. Inv. VR 1997.1]

When ISIS took Mosul in 2014, Iraq suffered immense loss. The Al-Nuri mosque and other landmarks were reduced to rubble, yet they will rise again. Iraq, a land of diverse peoples and ancient legends, will endure. If Gilgamesh returned, he might call to Enkidu, urging him to cleanse the land of cruelty, just like they did in the past and in this cylinder seal, depicting the killing of the giant Humbaba, guardian of the Cedar Forest, by King Gilgamesh and his companion Enkidu.