



7. Superstition

Alexandre Mitchell, 2023 (50 x 65 cm, Indian ink)



Canaanite scarab with pseudo-inscriptions [Enstatit, ca. 1650-1500 BCE ; 20,7 x 14,4 x 9,2 mm. Inv. SK 1992.0007]

Superstition is a shifting belief often based on ignorance. The painting shows a 1,200 kg marble disk, once a 2nd-century CE drain cover depicting a water deity, that has rested against a Roman church wall since the 17th century. Its original purpose forgotten, it became the Mouth of Truth, a medieval legend claiming it would bite off the hand of liars. It has remained a tourist trap to this day. In a similar fashion, copies of initially Egyptian scarab pendants were all the fashion throughout the Mediterranean, but their audience and fabrication were no longer Egyptian which is why their cartouche inscriptions are often meaningless.