

### Images of Woman and Child from the Bronze Age

This book is a study of the woman-and-child motif – known as the kourotrophos – as it appeared in the Bronze Age eastern Mediterranean. Stephanie Lynn Budin argues that, contrary to many current beliefs, the image was not a universal symbol of maternity or a depiction of a mother goddess. In most of the ancient world, kourotrophic iconography was relatively rare in comparison to other images of women and served a number of different symbolic functions, ranging from honoring the king of Egypt to adding strength to magical spells to depicting scenes of daily life. This work provides an in-depth examination of ancient kourotrophoi and engages with a variety of debates that they have spawned, including their role in the rise of patriarchy and what they say about ancient constructions of gender.

Stephanie Lynn Budin teaches at Rutgers University, Camden. She is the author of *The Myth of Sacred Prostitution in Antiquity* (Cambridge University Press, 2008) and numerous articles on ancient religion and iconography.



IMAGES OF WOMAN AND  
CHILD FROM THE BRONZE AGE

*Reconsidering Fertility,  
Maternity, and Gender in the  
Ancient World*

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**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom  
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
 314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi - 110025, India  
 103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521193047](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521193047)

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First published 2011

Reprinted 2012

First paperback edition 2014

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data*

Budin, Stephanie Lynn, 1969–

Images of woman and child from the Bronze age : reconsidering fertility, maternity, and gender in the ancient world / Stephanie Lynn Budin.

p. cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-521-19304-7 (hardback)

1. Bronze age – Mediterranean Region. 2. Art, Prehistoric – Mediterranean Region.

3. Sculpture, Prehistoric – Mediterranean Region. 4. Figurines, Prehistoric – Mediterranean

Region. 5. Mother goddesses – Mediterranean Region. 6. Mother and child in art.

7. Mediterranean Region – Antiquities. I. Title.

GN778.25.B83 2011

930.1'5 – dc22 2010044866

ISBN 978-0-521-19304-7 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-107-66032-8 Paperback

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## Acknowledgments

I cannot thank enough all of the people who offered time, patience, and constructive criticism while I was writing this book. I must begin offering oblations to the Brooklyn Museum for quick and kind responses by Edward Bleiberg and Ruth Janson to requests for information and photographs, to its library for allowing me to borrow R. Unger's 1957 dissertation in spite of the fact that it is the only known copy on the North American continent.

Several scholars kept me from making a total idiot of myself while trying to cover huge swaths of the ancient world in one book, and were extremely helpful with bibliography. Heartfelt thanks go out to Julia Assante, Kelly Barnard, Elizabeth Beck, Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati, Christine Morris, Gay Robins, Catherine Roehrig, Jeremy Rutter, Gabor Toth, Melissa Vettters, Jennifer Webb, Jennifer Houser Wegner, Steve Wiggins, and John Younger.

Many thanks, as ever, go to the interlibrary loan librarians at Robeson Library at Rutgers University, Camden.

As I was completing this book, Mary Beard wrote a post on her blog "A Don's Life" complaining about how difficult it can be to get images to illustrate history books. She was guilty of understatement, as though suggesting that the Pacific Ocean can get damp in the rain. Several people helped me to get the images I needed for this book (several also hindered to the best of their ability; Beard certainly got that part right . . .). I thank those helpful individuals who allowed scholarship to

## Acknowledgments

go forward: Yael Barschak, Helen Berry, Maria Hadjicosti, Dominique Hoornaert, Thomas Kiely (an amazing Cypriot scholar in his own right), Stan Kurowski, Alessandro Pezzati (Archchancellor of Archivists), Rosa Proskynitopoulou, and Tricia Smith at Art Resource. I thank the British Museum as an institution for offering such easy access to images of their collections.

I thank Beatrice Rehl at Cambridge University Press for believing in this book even when it was in the stream-of-consciousness phase. I thank William H. Stoddard for all his help editing and being far more adept with the English language than I am.

I most of all thank my husband Paul C. Butler for support, patience, and a LOT of artwork (see above, Mary Beard . . . ).