

BIO



**MAHMOUD ABU AL-SAUD MAHMOUD
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Conservator

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Mahmoud is a conservator at the Grand Egyptian Museum and is skilled in the maintenance and restoration of stone artifacts. With the recent unveiling of the new Grand Egyptian Museum, he has assisted in packing and transporting the many artifacts needed from storage to the galleries for display. He has also assessed and assisted in determining the safest way to handle and move the King Ramses II statue to the lobby of the new Museum building. Additionally he has participated in the packing and transport of King Tutankhamun's shrines, which are one of the many highlights of the collection.

ABSTRACT

Mounting Solutions for Stone Sculptures: Enhancing Preservation with Polymer-Based Mounts

This abstract provides an overview of the process and benefits of creating mounting solutions for third-century stone statues, primarily composed of limestone. The focus is on the utilization of a specialized mixture of polymers, lime stone powder, and sand to fabricate durable and aesthetically pleasing mounts.

To ensure the preservation and stability of ancient stone sculptures, appropriate mounting techniques are crucial. Traditional methods, such as metal cradles or brackets, often pose challenges in terms of aesthetics, potential damage to the artwork, and long-term conservation. In response, a novel approach involving a blend of polymers, lime stone powder, and sand has been developed.

The mounting process begins with a thorough assessment of the statue's dimensions, weight distribution, and structural integrity. A suitable mount design is then crafted, taking into account the sculpture's unique characteristics and the desired display orientation. The polymer-based mixture, carefully formulated with precise ratios of polymers, lime stone powder, and sand, provides strength, stability, and compatibility with the original stone material.

The fabrication process involves mixing the polymers, lime stone powder, and sand to form a workable compound. This compound is then shaped and sculpted to create customized mounts that securely cradle the stone statues. The mounts are designed to distribute the weight evenly, minimizing stress points and potential damage.

The advantages of using polymer-based mounts for stone sculptures are manifold. Firstly, the polymer mixture offers excellent load-bearing capabilities, ensuring the stability and protection of the artwork over time. Additionally, the mounts can be tailored to the specific dimensions and contours of each statue, allowing for a secure and aesthetically pleasing display. The use of lime stone powder and sand in the mixture enhances compatibility with the original material, minimizing the risk of chemical reactions or physical damage.

The development of polymer-based mounts represents a significant advancement in the field of sculpture conservation and display. By combining the strength and versatility of polymers with the natural qualities of lime stone, a reliable and visually appealing mounting solution is achieved. This innovative approach ensures the long-term preservation and appreciation of third-century stone statues, while also elevating their display to new heights of aesthetic excellence and stability.