

**SNUAC Brown Bag Seminar Series, Spring 2022**

## **Model Military Museums: North Korean Art & Diplomacy in Egypt**

**Karlee Bergendorff**

During the 1980s and 1990s, Egypt's national narrative was rewoven through a series of new memorial projects and the renovation of pre-existing military museums with the help of North Korean overseas art and construction group Paekho Trading Company. This presentation will discuss how North Korean artists copied elements of domestic museums and memorials and fused them with documentary images from Egypt's October War. Paekho-Egyptian sites are situated in Cairo, Alamein, Port Said, and Ismailia. Paekho military museums tested a diplomacy model that North Korea would repeat in many countries throughout the Middle East and Africa. North Korean overseas art studios have now built national memorial sites and museums in over 30 foreign nations.

Karlee Bergendorff is a visiting scholar at the Seoul National University Asia Center (SNUAC) from the Department of Art, Art History & Visual Studies at Duke University. She is currently doing research for her dissertation "Diplomatic Gifts and Cold War Strategies: The Role of North Korea's Overseas Art Studios in Egyptian Memorial Culture." Before her time at SNUAC, Bergendorff was a visiting researcher in the Department of Arab and Islamic Civilizations at the American University in Cairo. Prior to her graduate studies, she was a Thomas J. Watson Fellow from 2015 to 2016. As a Watson fellow, she conducted an independent research in Argentina, Cambodia, Germany, India, Namibia, and South Africa.

Date & Time: May 25 Wed, 12:00-13:00

Place: SNUAC Samick Hall (Room 220)