

*Gendered Ambiguities,
Gendered Sexualities,
and Gendered Experiments*

Performance and Negotiation through
Hellenistic Babylonian Figurines

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*Case Study 1:
Gendered Ambiguities*



BM 51-1-1-107 and
BM 51-1-1-108

Terracotta figurines from
Hellenistic Uruk

Photos previously published
Langin-Hooper, S.
“Problematizing Typology and
Discarding the Colonialist
Legacy: Approaches to
Hybridity in the Terracotta
Figurines of Hellenistic
Babylonia,” *Archaeological
Review from Cambridge*,
Special Issue “Archaeology
and Cultural Mixture”, Volume
28.1, 2013. pp. 95-113.

Alabaster figurines
from Hellenistic
Babylon

Image from
Invernizzi, Antonio.
“La petite
sculpture,” in
André-Salvini (ed):
Babylone: À
Babylone, d’hier et
d’aujourd’hui,
Musée du Louvre
Éditions, Paris,
2008. pp. 264-272.

Figures 215A and
215B



Bone reclining figurine from Seleucia-on-the-Tigris
Toledo Museum of Art 1931.483+1931.461

Image from Van Ingen, Wilhelmina. Figurines from Seleucia on the Tigris: Discovered by the Expeditions Conducted by the University of Michigan with the Cooperation of the Toledo Museum of Art and the Cleveland Museum of Art 1927-1932, The University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, 1939. No. 1637



BM Sp III 16 + = 91817

Figurine, possibly depicting
Apollo, from Babylon

Photo by author; courtesy
of the British Museum



KM 15185

Figurine, possibly depicting
Apollo,
from Seleucia-on-the-Tigris

Photo by author, courtesy
of the Kelsey Museum of
Archaeology



BM 91813

Figurine, possibly depicting
Apollo, but wearing female
garments

from Uruk

Photo by author, courtesy of
the British Museum



Apollo?



Gender experiments



Terracotta figurine of ape
holding a lyre/kithara, in the
guise of Apollo

Hellenistic Babylonia

BM 91796

Photo from Invernizzi,
Antonio (ed). Sulla Via Di
Alessandro da Seleucia al
Gandhara, Silvana
Editoriale, Milano, 2007.
No. 148



BM 91813

Figurine, possibly depicting
Apollo, but wearing female
garments

from Uruk

Photo by author, courtesy of
the British Museum



*Case Study 2:
Gendered Sexualities*

Female Figurines with separately attached, moveable arms that are bent

Photos by author, courtesy of the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology



Bent arms to hold offerings

Photos by author, courtesy of the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology

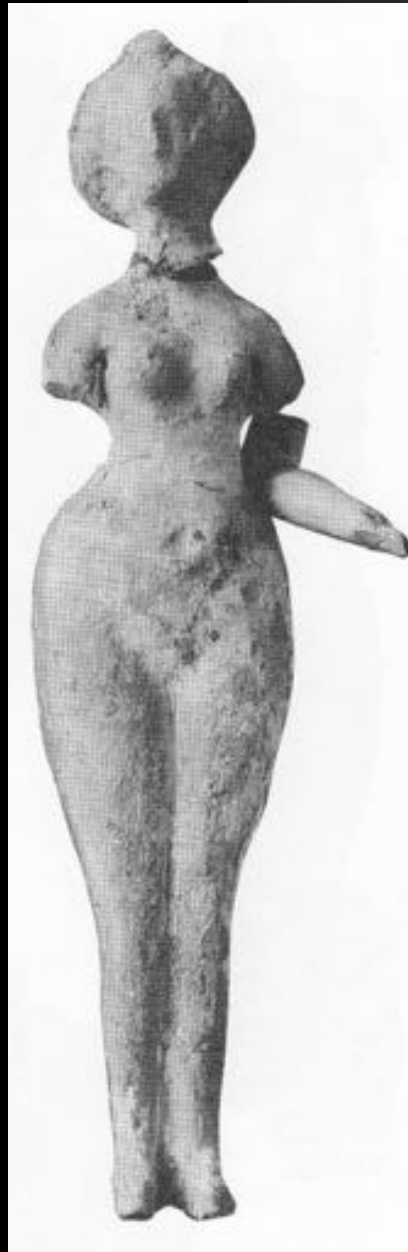


Female Figurines with
separately attached,
moveable arms that
are NOT bent

Photo courtesy of the
Kelsey Museum of
Archaeology; publicity
materials for the exhibition
*Life in Miniature: Identity
and Display at Ancient
Seleucia-on-the-Tigris*



Photo on Left:
From Karvonen-
Kannas, Kerttu.
The Seleucid and
Parthian Terracotta
Figurines from
Babylon, Casa
Editrice Le Lettere,
Firenze, 1995.
No. 52



*Case Study 3:
Gendered Experiments*

*(or, Experiments in
Gender Ideals)*

Unbearded male youth in Greek garment, in frontal Babylonian pose

Made in the Babylonian single-mold technique

Photo from Invernizzi, Antonio (ed).
Sulla Via Di Alessandro da Seleucia al Gandhara, Silvana Editoriale, Milano, 2007. No. 125



Female Figurines – Similar faces and styles, despite difference of clothing

Photos from Invernizzi,
Antonio (ed). Sulla Via Di
Alessandro da Seleucia al
Gandhara, Silvana Editoriale,
Milano, 2007.



Hellenistic Babylonian figurines of male-female couples, and mothers with sons



Both photos by author; Left: courtesy of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology; Right: courtesy of the British Museum

Hellenistic Babylonian Figurines, as traditionally categorized

“Babylonian”



“Greek”



Left Photo from Langin-Hooper, Stephanie.
“Social Networks and Cross-Cultural Interaction:
A New Interpretation of the Female Terracotta
Figurines of Hellenistic Babylon,” *Oxford Journal
of Archaeology*, Vol. 26,
Issue 2, May 2007. pp.
145-165.

Hellenistic Babylonian Female Figurines – Spectrum of poses with arm(s) held to the breast



Middle Left Photo by author; courtesy of the British Museum
Middle Right Photo from Langin-Hooper, Stephanie. "Social Networks and Cross-Cultural Interaction: A New Interpretation of the Female Terracotta Figurines of Hellenistic Babylon," *Oxford Journal of Archaeology*, Vol. 26, Issue 2, May 2007. pp. 145-165.

Hellenistic Babylonian figurines of male-female couples, and mothers with sons



Both photos by author; Left: courtesy of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology; Right: courtesy of the British Museum