

TASHERIANKH COLLECTION by MELANIE T. PETERSEN

The 'Tasheriankh Collection' is a study of the symbols and hieroglyphics, featured on the Ancient Egyptian funeral artefacts associated with a named mummy, Tasheriankh.

Tasheriankh

The name 'Ta-sheri-ankh', literally translates to "the living (female) child."¹

This exquisite example of a colourful Graeco-Roman decorated mummy ensemble includes the following elements:

- Tasheriankh's mummified wrapped body.
- A cartonnage mask with a golden-painted face.
- A two-piece cartonnage cover placed on the mummy.
- A cartonnage foot covering.
- A wooden coffin.

Tasheriankh originates from the Akhmim burial site in Upper Egypt, located on the east bank of the Nile River. The mummy dates to around 300-30 BCE, during the early Ptolemaic period. Part of the Egypt and Sudan collection at the Manchester Museum, England. Tasheriankh was recently featured in the international touring exhibition "Golden Mummies of Egypt," curated by Dr. Campbell Price, which ran from February 2020 to April 2024. Further details can be found in the accompanying exhibition book.

The artist was inspired by Tasheriankh's coffin during a visit to an exhibition in Cardiff in 2016. The vibrant colours and intricate geometric patterns on the mummy's coffin captivated her, leading her to repaint the image, a project she completed in 2020 during the lockdown. This initial interest spurred the artist's desire to delve deeper into funerary artefacts, particularly painted wesekh collars, the hieroglyphs featured on them and the cartonnage creation process.

Through continued study, the artist discovered that examining these ancient cultural symbols and rituals provided a richer understanding of her own beliefs, bridging the gap between ancient and modern practices. Through her art, she seeks to foster collective discussion and interpretation of these enduring symbols, by presenting them with a fresh modern perspective.



¹ Golden Mummies of Egypt, Author Campbell Price, 2020 page 134