

## HAWARA COLLECTION by MELANIE T. PETTERSEN

The 'Hawara Collection' focuses on the central chest panel featured on this mask, with its repeating symbols, its own colour palette and drawing style. This is part of the artist's desire to delve deeper into funerary artefacts, particularly wesekh collars, the hieroglyphs featured on them, and the cartonnage material process.

This moulded mask is an exquisite example of the Graeco-Roman period, made of cartonnage and colourfully decorated with a gold painted face and blue hair. This mask originates from the Hawara archaeological site, south of Cairo, Egypt. Excavations took place here by the famous Flinders Petrie during 1888 to 90 and 1911.



This mask is part of the Egypt and Sudan collection at the Manchester Museum, England, and 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.

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.