

## Database of Gladiator Imagery from Pompeii Alexis Davidson (Alexis Christensen Ph.D.) Department of World Languages and Culture

In 79 CE, the eruption of Mount Vesuvius buried the ancient city of Pompeii, creating one of the most well-preserved archaeological sites. Due to this, there has been a wealth of information gathered from the ancient city of Pompeii. Based upon archaeological evidence, Pompeii was once an active site for gladiatorial combat games and a host to a gladiator training school. When analyzing gladiators' depictions in artifacts specifically from Pompeii, one must understand the complex social functions of gladiators in ancient roman society and how their images operated in these artifacts to their contemporary viewers.

Extensive research has been done from an archaeological and historical perspective as well as on the art-historical side; what is lacking is a combination of these different lenses. What is needed is an open discourse between the disciplines. This project focused on using multiple methods from each discipline to better understand how these images of gladiators functioned in relation to their context and once contemporary viewers. The contents of the database included such information as the distance from the amphitheater where gladiator games were held, each artwork or artifacts' social setting(private/public), their medium, dimensions, the current location of the objects today a brief description, and image if available. This research and data were put together to provide a bridge between multiple disciplines as we try to contextualize gladiator images. Still, this approach can be utilized in relation to any object of visual studies.