



Colossus of Ramesses II at Luxor Temple

Date

late 19th to early 20th century (printed 1992)

Primary Maker

Artist Unknown

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

Hemmed in by massive papyrus-bundle columns, this granite colossus was originally carved for Amenhotep III and two centuries later was recut for Ramesses II. Standing by the left leg of the king is Queen Nefertari. Of the eleven surviving standing colossi in the first court at Luxor Temple, five are statues of Amenhotep III that

Ramesses II "renewed" for his courtyard. The reuse of the monuments of an earlier ruler was not always a hostile usurpation or the outcome of damnatio memoriae, but could also be a recutting of an ancient monument in order to renew the creative powers of the temple.

Dimensions

Sight: 11 7/8 x 9 1/2 in. (30.2 x 24.1 cm) Mat: 20 x 16 in. (50.8 x 40.6 cm)