

# FROM OBJECT TO ICON

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## Visual Reflections on and Designations of Material Culture in the Reliefs and Paintings of Middle Kingdom Tombs

### Research

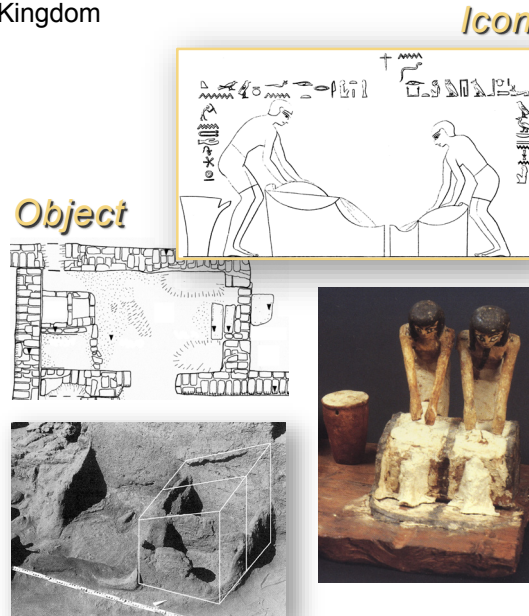
Object of investigation: decorative programme of private tombs and the material culture of the Middle Kingdom

### Visual reflections

Study of two-dimensional representations (*icons*) in relation to the three-dimensional artefacts (*objects*) which they were intended to illustrate

### Designations

Philological investigation of the accompanying captions and the nomenclature of *icons/objects*



### Crowd sourcing

*MEKETREpository* – online database for public use, still in progress

Systematic collection of Middle Kingdom private tombs and their decorative programme (plans and images, descriptions, references)

*Thesaurus*: controlled vocabulary used for the descriptions of *icons*

### Difficulties

- Out-dated and insufficient publications
- Images of poor quality or restricted by copyright

### Citizen science approach

Extension of the *MEKETREpository* by utilising crowd sourcing technologies in order to improve its usability

➡ **Upload** – new interactive platform

Involvement of interested public and scholars who can provide unrestricted high-quality photographs, annotate the scenes and suggest terms for the *Thesaurus*

Data of suitable quality will be transferred to the *MEKETREpository*

- Which artefacts were represented in art and how?
- Was the development of the material culture reflected in art?
- Were some artefacts or images of them specific to a particular region or period of time, etc.?
- What were the object designations?
- Do the designations provide additional information on the objects' nature and their specific features?
- How do depiction and caption complement one another?
- Did icons and designations have a deeper symbolic meaning?

## New interactive platform [upload.meketre.org](http://upload.meketre.org)

MEKETREpository  
[www.meketre.org](http://www.meketre.org)