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Media website: <http://newsdesk.si.edu>

Media Advisory

WHAT: Media open house for “Cyprus: Crossroads of Civilizations,” a new exhibition featuring more than 200 artifacts that will be on view for the first time in the United States.

WHEN: Tuesday, Sept. 28
10 a.m. – noon

WHERE: Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History
10th and Constitution Avenue N.W.

WHO: Sophocles Hadjisavvas, guest curator of the exhibition and former director of the Cyprus Department of Antiquities
Ellen Dorn, director of special exhibitions at the Smithsonian Institution

Cyprus, the eastern-most island in the Mediterranean Sea, situated at the crossroads of Europe, Asia and Africa, has been a meeting point for many of the world’s great civilizations. From its 11,000-year history, Cyprus has woven its own distinctive history and culture. “Cyprus: Crossroads of Civilizations” is on view at the National Museum of Natural History from Sept. 29 through May 1, 2011. The exhibition is presented on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Cyprus.

The exhibition features more than 200 artifacts—covering nearly 11,000 years of history—which range from items from the earliest villages to masterpieces of medieval religious art, and give an overview of the island’s unique culture.

Sophocles Hadjisavvas and Ellen Dorn will be available that day for one-on-one interviews.

Note: Media must RSVP by calling or e-mailing Samia Brennan at (202) 633-5191 or brennans@si.edu.

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