

***The Department of Archaeology of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Damascus University and
The Netherlands Institute for Academic Studies in Damascus (NIASD)
invite you to two lectures by Dr. Olivier Nieuwenhuys***

The earliest pottery in Syria: new discoveries.

In the countries of the Middle East, people have been making pottery for almost 9000 years. But why did Neolithic communities first begin making pottery? I shall discuss this question using new results from Tell Sabi Abyad and Shir.

Date : 5/3/2008

Time : 15:00

Place: Department of Archaeology,
Damascus University, auditorium number 7



The "painted pottery revolution" and the origins of the Halaf culture.



Around 5900 BC the Halaf culture appears in Syria. Where did this culture come from? Recent archaeological fieldwork now shows that the origins of the Halaf must be sought in the Hassuna/Samarra cultures of the Pre-Halaf period. Starting around 6200 BC the first "Halafian" elements start to appear in the architecture, material culture, and foremost in the decorated ceramics. I shall give an overview of some of the recent work on this topic.

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Biography: "Dr. Olivier Nieuwenhuys is associated with the Faculty of Archaeology of Leiden University and staff member at the prehistoric excavations at Tell Sabi Abyad. As a pottery specialist he is also part of the team working at the Late Neolithic site of Shir in the Hama province