Faience and Technological Innovation in the Indus Civilization and beyond

Montag, 20.11.2017, Beginn: 18.15 Uhr
Abteilung für Asiatische und Islamische Kunstgeschichte,
Adenauerallee 10, ÜR (EG)

Faience (frit, siliceous paste) was widely used across much of Eurasia during the Bronze Age, yet is hardly known today. This material class was made with many different recipes and production methods, illustrating archaeological concepts of both adoption and invention through trading and other ties between distinct socio-cultural systems across Western Asia and beyond at this time.

A unique variation in faience composition for some objects in the Indus Civilization, the addition of invisible steatite fragments, may represent values of Indus identity/unity, as in other uses of steatite during the Indus period. These inclusions could also be of technological value, aiding workability of the siliceous paste. Looking at both production and consumption is important for addressing such material choices.