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## *Head from a Female Sphinx*

**James Romano:** I remember in 1968, I came to the Brooklyn Museum and saw this statue. I stared at it, and for the first time in my life I was moved by a work of art. In my own imagination, I was looking at a human being. I saw this face, and I wanted to know what kind of people could have created an image that could so move me, that could so perfectly capture the essence of adolescence. It is, to me, still after all these years, the most beautiful and moving work of Egyptian art I have ever seen.

The head was originally part of a statue in the form of a sphinx, that is, a human-headed lion. We can tell by the cobra on her forehead, that little miniature thing that almost looks like a hair clip, that she was a member of the court. So she's a princess.

**Mona Mikhail:** I was delighted to note that this nameless princess comes from my own hometown, Heliopolis, where I was born and grew up. To me, as an Egyptian looking at these statues, I am always surprised at how familiar these features are. This could easily be my next-door neighbor in Heliopolis, or actually she looks like a relative of mine.

Those rather huge ears peeking out from her wonderful wig. By the way, I remember wearing my hair this way in the late sixties and being myself a little hesitant to show those big ears peering out of the headdress. That smile—which perhaps is a little bit hesitant—gives me a very warm feeling.

*For more information about these objects, be sure to visit [www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org)*