

King Amenhotep III as a Lion (left)

RED GRANITE | 18TH DYNASTY | 1390–1352 BC

This statue and its companion declare the king's might by representing him as a lion. Pharaohs were often shown as a sphinx with the body of a lion, but the full lion image is rare. An inscription on the chest, added by Amenhotep IV, calls the king a 'lion of rulers, wild when he sees his enemies tread his path'. The sculptures are famed for their realistic anatomical detail and depart from the frontality of most Egyptian statues. The eyes were originally inlaid.

Amenhotep III commissioned the lion sculptures for the temple of Amun-Ra at Soleb in Upper Nubia, in the conquered former kingdom of Kush. The next king, Amenhotep IV (later called Akhenaten),



King Amenhotep III as a Lion (left)

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TO ROTATE

British Museum first to showcase interactive display with wifi link



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGIH0EsgVN8>