

6. OKTOBER 2017
BEGINN: 19:00 UHR
ÖSTERREICHISCHE AKADEMIE
DER WISSENSCHAFTEN
THEATERSAAL
SONNENFELSGASSE 19, 1010 WIEN



Red-figured oinochoe, ca. 470–460 B.C. (Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York)

EINLADUNG ZUM VORTRAG

ATHENA, GODDESS OF COMMUNICATION

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The libation is one of the most popular motifs on Attic vases, practised by gods, heroes, and mortals alike. But the realms are strictly separate: the gods perform libations among themselves (so-called *opfernde Götter*) and do not mix with mortals. Athena is the one exception. This paper posits that Athena is the only divinity who is shown in direct communication with her worshippers, and in particular with her female worshippers, as they share in a libation. At the core of the paper is a group of five modest red-figure vases of the Classical period, ca. 460–440, but when these are set within their historical and religious context, the iconography has broader implications for our understanding of Athena's role in the city that bore her name.

