

## **Enheduana - the world's first author**

*the complete poems of world's first author, Sophus Helle, Yale University Press, New Haven & London - Copyright 2023 by Yale University*

For the exhibition ARTdate, from Marah ART, in Freilassing,

we will present you some important parts of „**The Exaltation of Inana**“

***Elisabeth Seidel** (introduction)*

***Mihraban Salih Mirw** (reader in the role of Enheduana, the high priestess)*

***Kamiran Issa and Dilzar Abidi** (sound and mixing)*

**In my artist work I was seeking more informations about the goddess Inana from Sumer. What power this goddess had in the ancient world, in Mesopotamia.**

The kurdish people lived in Mesopotamia, between Euphrat and Tigris - in the landscape and around the cities of Ur, Mari, Hugarit ....

And in the kurdish film „**Daren bi tene, lonely trees**“ (Shero Hinde and Mehmud Berazi) I had heard about those very ancient connections to **the goddess Inana**, their might and their power.

At that time in Mesopotamia there was no „Kurdistan“, but different groups of people who are the ancestors of the kurds. They know the beauty of the land, the mountains, the rivers, trees and plants. – They are connected to nature, moon and stars...- they sang, danced, played music and instruments long ago, ..4000 years ago...

Nowadays we know some of the songs they sang and are singing. There are the „**dengbej**“, the storytellers. **They held the oral history alive.**

Since today their is a high culture of kurdish music and singing, telling and dancing. The instruments they use till now had been constructed in this ancient times - and the songs they used were written in cuneiform (Keilschrift).

**So long ago, 3200 years, Enheduana lived in Ur as the high priestess of Inana.**

We are so lucky, that archaeologists have translated the hymns and notations (see the book „*Enheduana – the world’s first author*“ , 2023, Sophus Helle, Yale University Press).

And so we can understand this oldest existing words from **the first author Enheduana**. We understand, how important goddess Inana was:

***She was the goddess of the sky and the earth.***

***She destroys, creates, and plants, she raise up and reduce...***

***she „turn men into women, and turn women into men“ (Intro, ix)***

***„the crown, throne, and staff of kings are yours, Inanna“ (Intro, x)***

In the book of **Sophus Helle** he describes the story of **Enheduana**, in her role as high priestess. **Enheduana** served there in the temple of nanna and inanna. (zit. Introduction, vii – xxii). **Enheduana** tells us in her **exaltation**, that an usurper named Lugal-Ane came in the city of Ur. And **she prays for help to Inana**. She believes in the power of the goddess and so the poem let us understand what she hopes and prays.

**Now you can hear yourself, what Enheduana tells us.**

(Sophus Helle: „only .. a small circle of academics and enthusiasts know this.“) (Intro, vii)

***Mihraban Salih Mirw speaks for you the words Inheduana wrote.***

*Mirw’s family lives in the kurdish Part of Iraq.*

*Therefore she and her family are ancestors from the people of Ur.*

And so I am very sure - she is the most competent person to represent **Enheduana** in her role as **high priestess** and **as first author and poet, whose name we know.**

**Exaltation to Inana**

*Take the headset and hear yourself....*

Munich, January 2026