



Fascinating Islamic Style

Thur 26 March - Tue 26 May, 2015
Asia Gallery

When we think of Islamic art, many will picture the exquisite arabesque decorations that embellish mosques. But not all Islamic art involves abstract, detailed patterns—the Islamic art world is diverse in Asia.

The religion of Islam was born in Mecca, in the Arabian Peninsula at the beginning of the 7th century. Spreading from the Middle East, across Asia and other parts of the world, it is said that Islam has about 1.6 billion followers. In Asia, many adherents of Islam, Muslims, live in Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei and in broad areas.

The term "Islam" means "voluntary submission to God" in Arabic. Obedience to the law laid down by Allah, the One and Only Eternal God is essential for the faith and the Qu' ran, the Islamic holy book embodies this law. Since the Qu' ran forbids idolatry, the creation or the worship of the images of God is prohibited in Islam. However, it does not mean the complete proscription of sculpture and painting in Islam. In fact, many artworks that depict human and animal figures have been made in the field of secular Islamic art, without restriction.

Distinct from Islamic religious art, this exhibition shows 18 works created by contemporary artists living in the Islamic world in Asia. In this exhibition, there are paintings from Pakistan and Malaysia, which incorporate the decorative calligraphy and geometric patterns that are unique to Islamic art. On the other hand, figurative pieces portraying human figures, which clearly address social issues can be found in paintings from South Asia. Incorporating elements of miniature and poplar art, these works address the clash between Hinduism and Islam or various issues that Islamic societies face.

We hope this exhibition will give you a chance to experience the diverse art of the Asian Islamic world.



▲ Farheen Maqsood (Pakistan)
"Woven"
gouache on handmade wasli paper, 2003

List of works (18 pieces)

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| ▲ Iftikhar Dadi (Pakistan)
"Muslims are meat eaters, they prefer food containing salt. Hindus on the other hand prefer a sweet taste."
"Purdah Hai Purdah - What a Veil!"
inkjet print on transparency, light box, 1997 | ▲ Raj Kumar Das (Bangladesh)
"Taj Mahal"
enamel paint on tin, 1994 | ▲ Haji Marsidi bin Haji Akip (Brunei)
"Symphony No.22 (Kite Season No.14)"
oil on canvas, 1986 |
| ▲ Risham Syed (Pakistan)
"The Pillow Story"
acrylic, collage, buttons, tea
on handmade wasli paper, 1999 | ▲ Mian Ijaz-ul-Hassan (Pakistan)
"Thah"
oil on canvas, 1973 | ▲ Sulaiman Haji Esa (Malaysia)
"Mahsuri 2"
handmade paper, metallic yarn,
bamboo and acrylic, 1983 |
| ▲ Ivan Sagita (Indonesia)
"Reality and Reflection"
oil on canvas, 1988 | ▲ Gulam Mohammed Sheikh (India)
"Choice of Birth"
oil on canvas, 1992-94 | ▲ Ahmad Khalid Yusof (Malaysia)
"Jawi Calligraphy"
acrylic on canvas, 1985 |
| ▲ Syed Ahmed Hossain (Bangladesh)
"Crest with Burakh (Half Human, Half Horse)"
"Crest with Kaaba Sharif"
enamel paint on tin, 1994 | ▲ Rasheed Araeen (Pakistan)
"Tigris"
porcelain, acrylic, wood, glass, shoes, 1992 | ▲ Gulgee (Pakistan)
"Primordial Memories"
oil on canvas, 1980 |
| | ▲ Ismail Abdul Latiff (Malaysia)
"Valley in Morning Dew,
Purification of Princess"
mixed media on paper, 1988 | ▲ Abdal Djalil Pirous (Indonesia)
"Wholehearted /
To be a Good Will Mission"
etching on paper, 1989 |
| | ▲ Kazi Ghiyasuddin (Bangladesh)
"Sound of Nature -5"
oil on canvas, 1996 | |