



Masterpieces from the Department of Islamic Art in The Metropolitan Museum of Art

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Masterpieces from the Department of Islamic Art in The Metropolitan Museum of Art From Metropolitan Museum of Art

This expansive book reveals the great diversity and range of art of the Arab lands, Turkey, Iran, Central Asia, and later South Asia. Published to coincide with the historic reopening of the galleries of the Metropolitan Museum's Islamic Art Department, it presents nearly three hundred masterpieces from one of the finest collections in the world. The works range chronologically from the origins of Islam in the seventh century through the nineteenth century, and geographically from as far west as Spain and Morocco to as far east as India. Outstanding miniature paintings and illuminated manuscripts, ceramics, textiles, carpets, glass, and metalwork reflect the mutual influence of artistic practice in the sacred and secular realms. Many of these beautiful objects display the rich traditions of calligraphy, vegetal ornament (the arabesque), and geometric patterning that distinguish the arts of the Islamic world.

With seven informative essays and almost three hundred catalogue entries—supplemented by introductory essays on the collection and its display—this handsome and comprehensive overview will enlighten the specialist and the general reader alike.

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Review

"Not only is this an important scholarly work, it is also a wonderfully illustrated, accessible introduction to Islamic art and to its study over the last tumultuous century. . . . This volume is a joy to hold, to see, and to read."—L. Nees, *Choice*

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Winner of the 20th World Prize for the Book of the Year of the Islamic Republic of Iran, given by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

(20th World Prize for the Book of the Year of the Islamic Republic of Iran *Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance* 2013-02-27)

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