



THE ARTIST'S SIGNATURE

in Western and Islamic Arts

Sunday, November 2, 2014

What does the artist's signature mean? This one-day international symposium raises questions about the meaning of signatures on works of art. Issues such as the individuality of the artist versus the artist's workshop, training and apprenticeship, and the role of connoisseurship have shaped recent art historical scholarship and the response from the art market. *In Search of the Artist: Signed Drawings and Paintings from the Aga Khan Museum Collection*, one of the inaugural exhibitions at the Aga Khan Museum, showcases drawings and paintings from 16th- and 17th-century Iran and India that are signed by or attributed to a known artist. In addition to presenting some of the Museum's exceptional drawings, the exhibition challenges the notion that there were no known artists in the Islamic world before the current flourishing of the contemporary Islamic art market, and contributes to the larger discussion of the meaning of the artist's signature.





PROGRAM

9:30–10:00 am

Mu'in Musavvir: From Signature to Brand

Sheila Canby, The Metropolitan Museum of Art,
New York City

10:00–10:30 am

**Man, Mode, and Myth: The 17th-Century Persian
Painter Muhammad Zaman Ibn Haji Yusuf**

Amy Landau, The Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore

10:30–11:00 am

Coffee Break

11:00–11:30 am

**Connoisseurial Attributive Inscriptions in Saray
Albums: Reflections on the Frankish Manner
(ca. 1350–1517)**

Gülru Necipoğlu, Harvard University

11:30 am–12:00 pm

**From Professional Pride to the Assertion of
Individuality: Artists' Signatures Before
and During the Renaissance**

Martin Kemp, University of Oxford

12:00–1:00 pm

Lunch Break

1:00–2:00 pm

Gallery Talk

*In Search of the Artist: Signed Drawings and
Paintings from the Aga Khan Museum Collection*

Filiz Çakır Phillip, Associate Curator, Aga Khan Museum

2:00–2:30 pm

Coffee Break

2:30–4:00 pm

Panel Discussion

Speakers discuss the different ways in which
Western and Islamic art historians approached the
artist's signature.

*Images: Details of Young Falconer, single-page drawing, Ottoman
Turkey, ca. 1580, ink, opaque watercolour, and gold on paper.*

Image: 10.4 x 3.3 cm; folio: 11.9 x 5.9 cm. AKM97.

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