

Phoenix Art Museum

News Release

MEDIA CONTACT:

Margaree Bigler, Assistant Director of Marketing and PR
602.257.2105 | margaree.bigler@phxart.org

Phoenix Art Museum presents global exhibition on art and Islam spanning a millennium
Wondrous Worlds: Art & Islam Through Time & Place features more than 100 artworks from Asia, Africa, Europe, and North and South America, created from the ninth century through 2016



Left: Unknown, Wall Tile with Turquoise Saz Leaf, Blue Hyacinth and Sections of Red and Blue Palmettes, Iznik, Turkey, late 16th or early 17th century, Ottoman Period (1299–1922). Fritware polychrome painted over white slip under transparent glaze. Newark Museum Purchase.
Right: Unknown, Inscribed in Thuluth Script, Hand of Fatima Charm with Six-Pointed Star, Algeria/Morocco, before 1928. Brass. Newark Museum Purchase.

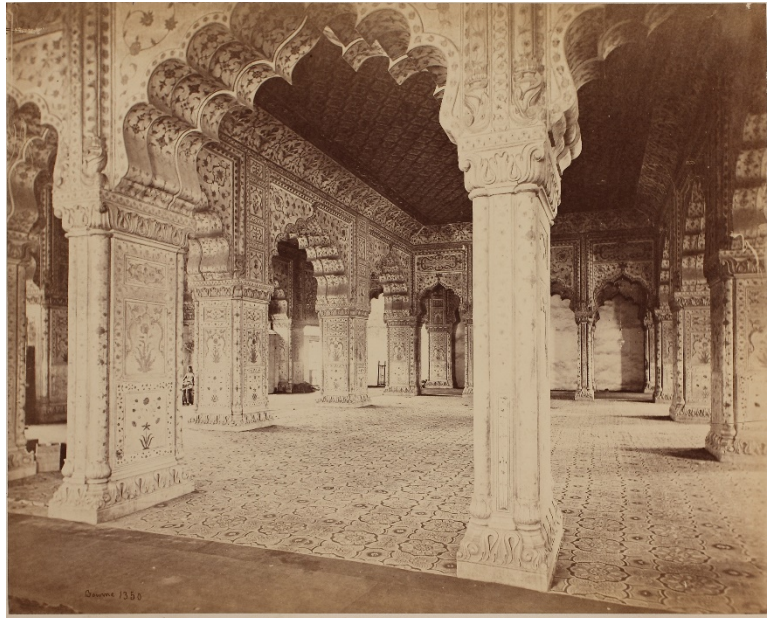
PHOENIX (January 17, 2019) Phoenix Art Museum will present *Wondrous Worlds: Art & Islam Through Time & Place*, the first exhibition on art and Islam at the Museum in more than two decades, from January 26 through May 26, 2019 in the Art of Asia galleries. The comprehensive exhibition, organized by the Newark Museum, will feature more than 100 artworks, including handwritten texts, ceramics, textiles, jewelry, photographs, and paintings, from across centuries and from nearly every continent, with the exception of Antarctica. Unlike previous national and international exhibitions on the subject, *Wondrous Worlds* is organized around the Five Pillars of Islam instead of geography, time period, or material, offering a fresh perspective on the intersection of art and Islam.

“We are delighted to host *Wondrous Worlds: Art & Islam Through Time & Place*,” said Amada Cruz, the Sybil Harrington Director and CEO of Phoenix Art Museum. “This exhibition offers a unique and global view of art and Islam, and we are excited to share these extraordinary works with our community.”

Curated by a team led by Katherine Anne Paul, PhD, curator of the arts of Asia at Newark Museum, the exhibition is structured around the Five Pillars of Islam, considered the core beliefs and practices of the world’s second largest religion. The Five Pillars are *shahada* (declaration of faith), *salat* (five daily prayers), *zakat* (almsgiving, or charity), *sawm* (fasting for Ramadan), and *hajj* (pilgrimage to Mecca). Each section of the exhibition showcases a range of objects from various countries and centuries, including works created in the service of Islam by Muslim artists for Muslim patrons, items created for purposes that are not explicitly religious, and objects by non-Muslim

artists created for both Muslim and non-Muslim patrons. Featured works include books of poetry, woven prayer rugs depicting paradise, inscribed coffee pots, game boards, and musical instruments. These traditional objects are displayed alongside contemporary works, such as calligraphic Sufi poems and sculpture, to demonstrate how artists today continue to explore through various mediums the ways in which art and Islam intersect.

“Islam connected cultures across the Middle East, the Mediterranean world, and as far as China through travel, trade, and faith,” said Janet Baker, curator of Asian art at Phoenix Art Museum. “Its impact on the intellectual and scientific worlds was vast and long-lasting.”



The Palace - Interior of the Diwan-i-Khas, Delhi, India
Samuel Bourne, Interior of Diwan-I Khas Palace [Audience Hall] of Red Fort, Delhi (1868), India, 1863–1870. Collodion process print on paper. Newark Museum Anonymous gift.

By presenting artworks that span centuries and continents within the context of the Five Pillars, *Wondrous Worlds: Art & Islam*

Through Time & Place provides Museum guests with the opportunity to experience the living legacy of Islam through an in-depth examination of the religion’s global reach and influence across generations. Over the course of the exhibition, the Museum will present various public programs inspired by the artworks on view, including public lectures featuring local Muslim leaders and family-friendly activities in the galleries, to help build awareness and engage the community in conversation about the world’s fastest growing religion.

About the Exhibition

Wondrous Worlds: Art & Islam Through Time & Place will be on view from January 26 through May 26 in the Art of Asia galleries. The exhibition is organized by the Newark Museum. Its premiere at Phoenix Art Museum is made possible through the generosity of the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust Exhibition Endowment Fund, and supported by E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, APS, and OUTFRONT Media. For more details about the exhibition, please visit <http://www.phxart.org/exhibition/WondrousWorlds>.

This special-engagement exhibition is free for Museum Members; veterans and active-duty military and their families; and youth aged 5 and younger.

General admission:

\$23 — Adults

\$20 — Senior citizens (Ages 65+)

\$18 — Students (with ID)

\$14 — Children (Ages 6–17)

All special-engagement exhibitions are included with general admission. During voluntary-donation times when general admission is pay what you wish, admission to Wondrous Worlds is \$5. Voluntary-donation times include Wednesdays from 3–9 pm, the first Friday of each month from 6–10 pm, and the second Sunday of each month from noon–5 pm. For a full breakdown of general admission prices and hours, please see bit.ly/VisitPhxArt.

To request interviews and high-resolution photography, contact the Marketing and Communications Office of Phoenix Art Museum at 602.257.2105 or margaree.bigler@phxart.org.

Exhibition Programs

Circles of Support Exhibition Preview

Thursday, January 24, 6 pm

Members of the Circles of Support of Phoenix Art Museum enjoy hors d'oeuvres, live music, and remarks from Janet Baker, PhD, the Museum's curator of Asian art, followed by an exclusive preview of the exhibition. More information [here](#).

Members' Exhibition Preview Day – Wondrous Worlds: Art & Islam Through Time & Place

Friday, January 25, 10 am

Phoenix Art Museum Members are invited to an exclusive, Members-only viewing of the exhibition *Wondrous Worlds: Art & Islam Through Time & Place* before it opens to the public. More information [here](#).

Members' Morning

Saturday, January 26, 9:30 am to noon

Members are invited to an exclusive viewing of the exhibition before it opens to the public. More information [here](#).

First Friday | Friday, February 1, 6 – 10 pm

Join us on First Friday to experience *Wondrous Worlds: Art & Islam Through Time & Place* and in-gallery programs inspired by the exhibition. This event is open to the public with voluntary-donation admission. See phxart.org/events/calendar for event information.

Discount Tire Free Family Sunday

Sunday, February 10, noon – 5 pm

Don't miss *Wondrous Worlds: Art & Islam Through Time & Place* during voluntary-donation times on the second Sunday of each month! Guests will also enjoy exciting activities, scavenger hunts, live performances, story time, free tours, and more. See phxart.org/events/calendar for updates as information becomes available.

Getting to Know American Muslims and Their Faith

| Saturday March 2, 2 pm

More information [here](#). See phxart.org/events/calendar for event information as it becomes available.

Family Workshop

Saturday, March 30, 10:30 am and 2 pm

Youth ages 4 to 7 are welcome to participate from 10:30 am to noon, and youth ages 8 to 12 are welcome to participate from 2 to 4 pm in the Education Studio. See phxart.org/events/calendar for event and ticketing information.

Muslim Contributions to Civilization—Art, Architecture, and Mathematics

Saturday, April 6, 2 pm

More information [here](#).



Unknown, Man's Sawari Coat with Boteh and Woven Floral Motifs, India, Kashmir, late 18th or early 19th century, Mughal Period (1526–1857). Tapestry-woven silk, metal-wrapped threads. Newark Museum Gift of Mrs. August Gilbert Buse.

About Phoenix Art Museum

Phoenix Art Museum has provided access to visual arts and educational programs in Arizona for nearly 60 years and is the largest art museum in the southwestern United States. Critically acclaimed national and international exhibitions are shown alongside

the Museum's permanent collection of more than 19,000 works of American, Asian, European, Latin American, modern and contemporary art, and fashion design. The Museum also presents festivals, a comprehensive film program, live performances, and educational programs designed to enlighten, entertain, and stimulate visitors of all ages. Visitors also enjoy vibrant photography exhibitions through the Museum's landmark partnership with the Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona. To learn more about Phoenix Art Museum, visit phxart.org, or call 602.257.1880.

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