



EMORY

MICHAEL C. CARLOS MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | Contact: Allison Hutton
Office: 404-727-4291 | allison.hutton@emory.edu

New exhibition at the Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University presents Islamic art through time and place

ATLANTA, GA (January 15, 2021)—The Michael C. Carlos Museum will present *Wondrous Worlds: Art & Islam Through Time & Place* from January 26 through May 9. *Wondrous Worlds* explores the long history, vast geographic expanse, and remarkable diversity of works of art in the Islamic world.

Organized by and drawn from the collections of The Newark Museum of Art, *Wondrous Worlds* features more than 100 works in nearly all media, including carpets, costumes, jewelry, ceramics, glassware, metalworks, prints, paintings, and photographs. Contemporary works from artists Rachid Koraichi and Victor Ekpuk, and calligrapher Hassan Massoudy are shown alongside works from as early as the ninth century. Highlights of the exhibition include dazzling lusterware from Iran and Spain, delicate prayer rugs from Turkey and India, a majestic pair of early-20th-century Egyptian applique tent hangings, and *Harem #1* by the Moroccan-American photographer Lalla Essaydi.

Wondrous Worlds opens with an introduction to the Five Pillars of Islam—Declaration of Faith, Daily Prayers, Charity, Fasting for Ramadan, and the Hajj—to provide context and a distinctive view into the function, artistry, and cultural histories of the objects. The exhibition then expands upon five themes:

Internationalisms: Now and Then highlights the long history of inter-continental trade and the role the Hajj pilgrimage plays in promoting international interconnections. The trade of Turkish textiles to Morocco, English and Dutch textiles inspired by Indonesian prints that were exported to Africa, and ceramics traded between China, Iran, and Turkey are all featured in this section.

Elegant Epigraphy: Writing as Art delves into the power of the written word, not only through the holy text of Islam, but also through histories and poetry written in a variety of scripts representing a diversity of languages including Arabic, Farsi, Nsibidi, Turkish, and Urdu.

Hospitality: Fasting, Feasting, and Fun celebrates the domestic arts. An installation of a setting for a Moroccan feast features a Rabat carpet, leather cushions, a wooden screen, and ornate metal table settings. Glorious ceramics, paintings, and musical instruments from other regions are also highlighted.

Modest Beauty: Dress, Fashion, and Faith positions silk, velvet, and sequined costumes alongside ornate jewelry fashioned from diamonds, pearls, emeralds, jade, gold, and silver.

Architecture and its Offspring highlights architectural legacies displayed in carpets, printed textiles, furniture, tile-works, and contemporary sculpture.

Programs offered via Zoom will touch on Islamic cuisine, design, and landscape architecture and the use of water. Anissa Helou, author of *Feast: Food of the Islamic World*, the James Beard Foundation's Best International Cookbook Award, will join the Carlos for a conservation and cooking demonstration. Eric Broug, founder of the School of Islamic Design in London, will deliver a lecture and workshop on Islamic design principles. In one series of lectures, three scholars—Maria Carrión of Emory University, James Wetcoat of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (emeritus), and D. Fairchild Ruggles of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign—will address the interplay of water, Islam, architecture, and gardens.

Wondrous Worlds: Art & Islam Through Time & Place was organized by The Newark Museum of Art. In Atlanta, the exhibition has been made possible through generous support from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, Mar-Jac Poultry, Inc., and the Ismaili Council for the Southeastern United States, and with special assistance from Dr. Abbas Barzegar.

About the Michael C. Carlos Museum

Since its formal establishment on Emory's Atlanta campus in 1919, the Michael C. Carlos Museum has become one of the premier museums in the Southeast. The museum holds one of the most comprehensive collections in the region with artwork from ancient Egypt, Nubia, and the Near East; Greece and Rome; the Americas; Africa; and Asia as well as a collection of works on paper from the Renaissance to the present.

Through world-class permanent collections and special exhibitions, innovative programming, and one-of-a-kind opportunities to engage with art firsthand, the Carlos Museum serves Emory University and the Atlanta community as a dynamic interdisciplinary center that cultivates literacy in the arts and fosters understanding of diverse religions and civilizations.

carlos.emory.edu

###

Image credits

Jobbana Covered Jar with Interlocking Ring Motifs

Morocco, late 18th – early 20th century

Earthenware with white, blue, yellow, and turquoise glazes

Newark Museum Purchase, The Member's Fund 1978 78.5A,B

H: 11 in, Dia: 7 3/4 in

Inscribed in *Thuluth* Script, Hand of Fatima Charm with Six-Pointed Star

Algeria/Morocco, before 1928

Brass

Newark Museum Purchase, 1928 28.451

H: 7 1/2 in, W: 4 in

Khayamiya Panel with Calligraphic, Geometric and Architectural Motifs

Cairo, Egypt, before 1929

Cotton appliqué

Newark Museum Purchase, 1929 29.1470

Provenance: Commissioned by John Cotton Dana for the Newark Museum

H: 111 1/4 in, W: 69 in, D: 1/8 in

Inscribed: *Patience is the key to relief.*

Harem #1

Lalla Essaydi (born 1956, Marrakech, Morocco; lives and works New York, NY and Morocco)

New York, 2009

Chromogenic print mounted to aluminum

Newark Museum Purchase 2011 Alberto Burri Memorial Fund established by Stanley J. Seeger

2011.7.1A-C

H: 40 in, W: 30 in (each)

Reading the Miracle of Splitting of the Moon (*Shaq-ul-Qamar*)

Deccan, India, ca. 1780, Mughal Period (1526–1857)

Opaque watercolor heightened with gold on paper

Purchase 2015 Estate of Ellen Keely Hunniken 2015.7

H: 12.5 in, W: 7.75 in

Double Portrait of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan (1592–1666) and Empress Mumtaz (1593–1631)

India, late 19th century, late Mughal Period (1526–1857) or British Raj Period (1858–1947)

Colors and gold on ivory (painting) gold, wood, brass (frame)

Newark Museum Bequest of J. Ackerman Coles, 1926 26.1133

H: 4 in, W: 5 in, (frame)