The Near East’s long history unites a multitude of diverse peoples and civilizations, all of which have coalesced over the centuries into a rich mosaic of ethnicities and languages, religions and sects, economic systems, and living customs—as well as complex contrasts in geography, climate, arable land, and natural resources.

One might expect, therefore, that in a region so complex and multi-layered—so difficult to define—the arts would naturally reflect this diversity and make no visual or aesthetic sense as a group. To the contrary, it is precisely through the diversity of its food, music, dress, social customs, family organization, and (especially) the visual arts of the Near East that we can trace with deepest clarity the forces of social and cultural cohesion that—despite all of the conflicts and contradictions—continue to bind the region’s peoples and places together into one remarkable entity.

Comprising works of fine glassware, ceramics, metalwork, painting, weaponry, weaving, and much more, Allure of the Near East shares 45 timeless treasures from a region whose everyday life, history, and culture offer many parallels to our own. If it is true that peace begins through understanding, then this ambitious collection offers us a rare opportunity for artistic exchange—a living bridge between cultures.

The works, some of which are centuries old, include objects meant for palaces as well as ordinary homes, evoking a rich and comprehensive vision of daily life in the Near East, both recent and long ago.”

EXHIBITION SPECIFICATIONS

Number of Works
45 ceramics, rugs, manuscripts, paintings, and metalworks

Organized by
The Huntington Museum of Art
Huntington, WV

Curator
Christopher Hatten, Senior Curator

Requirements
High security; 2,000 square feet

Shipping
IA&A makes all arrangements; exhibitors pay outgoing shipping costs within the contiguous US

Booking Period
12 weeks

Tour
September 2021 – October 2024

Publication
Touma Near Eastern Collection by Dr. Walter B. Denny and Sue D’Auria

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