



# Reverent Ornament

Art from the  
Islamic World

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TRAVELING EXHIBITION SERVICE

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ARTS AND ARTISTS



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*“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.”*

FRONT Western Iran, Rug, 19th century, wool and cotton. Gift of Drs. Joseph and Omayma Touma and family. 1 Egypt or Syria, Bottle, 7th - 8th century, glass. Gift of Drs. Joseph B. and Omayma Touma. 2 India, Mughal period, Dagger, 18th century, Dagger (A): Steel, jade, stones, and gold. Scabbard (B): wood, textile, steel, and gold. Gift of Drs. Joseph and Omayma Touma and family. 3 Syria, Tile, 17th century, underglaze-painted fritware. Gift of Drs. Joseph B. and Omayma Touma. 4 Sharaz, Southern Iran, Begging (kashkul) Bowl, 18th century, tinned copper. Gift of Drs. Joseph and Omayma Touma and family. 5 Iran, Celestial Globe, 19th century, brass. Gift of Drs. Joseph B. and Omayma Touma. 6 Iran, Seljuk, Lamp, 12th-13th century, bronze. Gift of Drs. Joseph B. and Omayma Touma. 7 Iran, Qajar, Helmet, 1850-1900, steel damascened with gold and silver. Gift of Drs. Joseph and Omayma Touma and family.

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Reverent Ornament’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, *Reverent Ornament* 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.

### 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