Reverent Ornament

Art from the Islamic World

TRAVELING EXHIBITION SERVICE

IA&A INTERNATIONAL ARTS AND ARTISTS
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.