

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Fall 2014
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Modernism and “Islamic art” - Focus on South Asia
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POLITICAL CHRONOLOGY

Mughal Empire (1526-1857)

- Jahangir (r. 1605–27)
- Shah Jahan (r. 1628–58)
- Death of Aurangzeb (1707), beginning of Mughal Empire’s decline

British East India Company assumes political control of Bengal (1757)

Indian Mutiny against the British (1857)

British Crown assumes direct rule over India after Mutiny (1858)

Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College founded at Aligarh (1877)

Indian National Congress founded (1885)

Partition of Bengal, *swadeshi* (self sufficiency) movement launched (1905)

Bengal Famine (1943)

Partition of British India into independent India and Pakistan (1947). Pakistan geographically and culturally divided into two wings, East and West.

India-Pakistan war (1965)

East Pakistan secedes from Pakistan to become independent Bangladesh (1971)

ART CHRONOLOGY

Ghalib (1797–1869) – last classical poet of the *ghazal*

Muhammad Iqbal (1877–1938) – poet and philosopher of Muslim modernism

Mayo School of Arts (later National College of Arts founded in Lahore (1875)

Bengal School (Calcutta) (c. 1900–1930s) – new “oriental” painting

Abanindranath Tagore (1871–1951) – founder of Bengal School

Amrita Sher-Gil (1913–1941) – (Lahore) modernism, figuration

Abdur Rahman Chughtai (1897–1975) – (Lahore) new “oriental” painting

Zainul Abedin (1914–1976) – (Calcutta, Dhaka) modernism, realism

Zubeida Agha (1922–1997) – (Rawalpindi, Islamabad) modernism, abstraction

Shakir Ali (1916–1975) – (Lahore) modernism

Anwar Jalal Shemza (1928–1985) – (Lahore, UK) modernism, abstraction

Sadequain (1930–1987) – (Karachi, Lahore) modernism, calligraphy

GLOSSARY

ashraf (literally “honorable”) refers to the cultivated Muslim elite of North India

batin Sufi term denoting hidden or inner significance (antonym of *zahir*)

divan collection of poems by a single poet, used in Arabic, Persian, and Urdu

ghazal lyric poetic form consisting of rhyming couplets and a refrain; each line must share the same meter (in Arabic, Persian, and Urdu)

hilya textual description of the physical and moral character of Prophet Muhammad

jadidiyat literary modernism (painterly modernism is usually denoted as *tajridi*)

kitabkhana a royal bookmaking atelier during the Mughal era
kufi/kufic oldest Arabic calligraphic script, used in early manuscripts and on architectural monuments
muraqqa' albums composed of diverse examples of calligraphy and painting
musavvir painter
naqqash illuminator of ritual documents, borders of manuscripts, and ornament in architecture
naqsh design, drawing, trace, impression, ornament
nasta'liq a later calligraphic script acclaimed for its elegance and used in Persian and Urdu calligraphy
qalandar Sufi mystic; a key term in Muhammad Iqbal's philosophy and poetry denoting the abandonment of social mores in order to strive for higher goals
ruba'i poetic form composed of quatrains (in Arabic, Persian, and Urdu)
shikasta ("broken Nasta'liq") a later script extensively used for record keeping and correspondence
tajridi modernist/abstract (painting)
umma/ummah global Muslim community
zahir Sufi term denoting open, visible, manifest, literal (antonym of *batin*)

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