Arts of Asia Lecture Series Fall 2016
Women, Real and Imagined, In Asian Art
Sponsored by The Society for Asian Art

“Princess Patronesses in the Ilkhanid, Timurid, and Safavid Worlds”
Keelan Overton, Independent Scholar & Lecturer in Art History (UCLA), 2/17/17

Key Works
1. Luster mihrab dated 663/1265 from the Imamzada Yahya, Varamin, acquired by Doris Duke in 1940,
   http://www.shangrilahawaii.org/Islamic-Art-Collection/Search-The-Collection?id=4334&clearsearch=1
2. Porcelain dish endowed as waqf to the shrine of Imam Riza, Mashhad, by Princess Sultanum (so-called
   “Mahin Banu Grape Dish”), Ming dynasty, c. 1420,
3. Mosque of Gawhar Shad, added to the Shrine of Imam Riza, Mashhad, 1416-18,
   http://archnet.org/sites/1642/media_contents/76994
8. “Prince Miranshah greets princess Saray Malik Khanum,” illustrated folio from the 1436 Zafarnama,
   Seattle Art Museum (49.133),
   http://www1.seattleartmuseum.org/eMuseum/code/emuseum.asp?style=browse&currentrecord=1&page=search&profile=objects&searchdesc=49.133&quicksearch=49.133&newvalues=1&newstyle=single&newcurrentrecord=2

Key Terms & Themes
• Dynasties: Seljuk, Ilkhanid/Mongol, Timurid, Safavid
• Khurasan: northeastern Iran and parts of Afghanistan (key cities: Mashhad, Herat)
• 4-iwan (aiyvan) mosque plan
• Imam Riza (d. 818)
• Timur (r. 1370-1405) & Saray Malik Khanum
• Shah Rukh (r. 1405-47) & Gawhar Shad (d. 1457)
• additive, living, mutable architecture
• waqf: pious endowment
• charitable foundation: mosque, madrasa, tomb
• luster & mina’i ceramics and tilework
• Shah Tahmasp (r. 1524-76) & Mahin Banu (d. 1562)
• Doris Duke (d. 1993), James Cromwell & Shangri La (Honolulu, HI)
• Mary Crane, Stephen Nyman & Arthur Upham Pope (d. 1969)

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• Roya Marefat, “Timurid Women: Patronage and Power,” Asian Art 6, no. 2, 1993
• Thomas Lentz & Glenn Lowry, Timur and the Princely Vision exhibition catalog, 1989
• Priscilla Soucek, “Timurid Women: A Cultural perspective,” in Women in the Medieval Islamic World:
  Power, Patronage, and Piety, 1998
• Abolala Soudavar, “A Chinese Dish from the Lost Endowment of Princess Sultanum,” in Iran and
  Iranian Studies: Essays in Honor of Iraj Afshar, 1998