**Fall 2021 Arts of Asia Lecture Series**  
**Crossing Boundaries: Understanding Contemporary Asian Art**  
**Sponsored by the Society for Asian Art**

**Voyage/Safar: Contemporary Works by Arab, Iranian, and Turkish Artists**  
Fereshteh Daftari  
October 1, 2021

**TIMELINE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1914-1918</td>
<td>First World War and the defeat of the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East. British and French Occupation of former Ottoman provinces</td>
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<td>1923-38</td>
<td>Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, first President of Turkey</td>
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<td>1925</td>
<td>In Iran overthrow of Qajar dynasty and establishment of Pahlavi Dynasty under Reza Shah (r. 1925-1941)</td>
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| 1932 | Proclamation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Iraq independence from Great Britain |
| 1939-45 | Second World War |
| 1941-79 | Mohammad Reza Shah, the last Pahlavi monarch, succeeds his father |
| 1946 | Full independence of Lebanon and Syria from France |
| 1948 | Establishment of the state of Israel and flight of Palestinian refugees |
| 1951 | Iranian Prime Minister Mossadegh nationalizes Iranian oil |
| 1952 | Military coup abolishes monarchy in Egypt |
| 1953 | A US and British backed coup removes the Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh |
| 1967 | War between Israel and the Arab states ends in victory for Israel and occupation of historical Palestine, including Jerusalem |
| 1975-90 | Lebanese Civil War |
| 1977 | Inauguration of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMOCA) |
| 1979 | Iranian Revolution resulting in overthrow of the Pahlavi regime and the establishment of the Islamic Republic, led by Ayatollah Khomeini |
| 1980-88 | Iran-Iraq War |
| 1987 | First Istanbul Biennial |
| 1989 | Ayatollah Khomeini dies and is succeeded as Supreme Leader by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei |
| 1993 | First Sharjah Biennial |
2003  Invasion of Iraq and overthrow of the Baathist regime, led by Saddam Hussein

2009  In Iran Mahmoud Ahmadinejad re-elected president for a second term. The disputed election results in Green Movement demonstrations.

2011  The start of the Arab Spring
Downfall of Egyptian President Mubarak
Civil war in Syria

2013-21  Hassan Rouhani replaces Ahmadinejad as President

2014-  Recep Tayyip Erdogan serves as President of Turkey

2015  Nuclear agreement between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, Germany and the EU

2018  President Trump withdraws from the nuclear deal

TERMINOLOGY

Calligraphy: Beautiful handwriting
Khosh nevissi: Beautiful handwriting in Persian
Naghashi khatt: Calligraphic modernism or textual abstraction in Persian
Chador: The head- to-toe veil worn by a certain segment of Iranian women
Hannoun: Poppies in the Palestinian dialect. They are associated with the memory of freedom fighters.
Kaaba: Cube in Arabic. Building located near the center of the Great Mosque in Mecca. Muslims orient themselves toward this shrine during the five daily prayers and circle it during the hajj or the holy pilgrimage.
Mecca: Holy city in Saudi Arabia and birthplace of the Prophet Muhammad
Mesopotamia: Historical region between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. It occupies mostly present-day Iraq.
Ottoman Empire: Created by Turkish tribes in Anatolia that grew to be one of the most powerful states in the world. It controlled much of Southeastern Europe, Western Asia and Northern Africa and spanned more than 600 years, coming to an end in 1922
Persia: How Iran was referred to since ancient times until 1935, when Reza Shah Pahlavi (r. 1925-1941) instructed all foreign governments to use “Iran” – meaning the land of Aryans (at the time a loaded and strategic identity).
Sufism: Mystic branch of Islam

ARTISTS

Adel Abidin (b. 1973)
Morteza Ahmadvand (b. 1982)
Afuz Amighi (b. 1974)
Jananne Al-Ani (b. 1966)
Shirin Aliabadi (1973-2018)
Ghada Amer (b. 1963)
Nazgol Ansarinia (b. 1979)
Kutlug Ataman (b. 1961)
Ayman Baalbaki (b. 1975)
Ali Banisadr (b. 1976)
Taysir Batniji (b. 1966)
Kazem Chalipa (b. 1957)
Mohammed Ehsai (b. 1939)
Ayse Erkmen (b. 1949)
Chohreh Feyzdjou (1955-1996)
Bita Fayyazi (b. 1962)
Parastou Forouhar (b. 1962)
Barbad Golshiri (b. 1982)
Khosrow Hassanzadeh (b. 1963)
Mona Hatoum (b. 1962)
Shirazeh Houshiary (b. 1955)
Raafat Ishak (b. 1967)
Y.Z. Kami (b. 1956)
Ahmed Mater (b. 1979)
Farhad Moshiri (b. 1963)
Shirin Neshat (b. 1957)
Füsun Onur (b. 1938)
Walid Raad (b. 1967)

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY


Eigner, Saeb. Art of the Middle East: Modern and Contemporary Art of the Arab World and Iran. London: Merrell, 2015


Included in this compilation of papers offered at a SOAS conference in London is Daftari’s “Introducing Art from the Middle East and Its Diaspora into Western Institutions: Benefits and Dilemmas.” Pp. 187-202


