

Fall 2023 Arts of Asia Lecture Series
Views from the Other Side
Sponsored by the *Society for Asian Art*

‘Like a Virgin’: Mughal Repurposing of Christian and Renaissance Art

Mika Natif, The George Washington University

September 8, 2023

Mughal dynasty (1526-1857)

Babur (1483-1531)

Parents: Qutluq Nigar Khanum & Umar Shaykh Mirza

Humayun (1508-1557)

Parents: Maham Begum & Babur

Akbar (1542-1605)

Parents: Hamida Banu (Maryam Makani) & Humayun

Jahangir (1569-1627)

Parents: Maryam Zamani (Wali Nimat Begam of Amber) & Akbar

Sulh-i kull (peace with all)

Akbarnama (History of Akbar), composed by Akbar’s vizier Abu’l Fazl

Selected envoys:

First Mughal embassy to Goa led by Haji Habibullah, 1575 (Akbar)

Second Mughal embassy to Goa led by Tahir Muhammad, 1580 (Akbar)

Spanish-Portuguese embassies and Jesuit missions under King Philip II of Spain, 1576, 1578, 1580, 1591, 1595 (Akbar)

Sir Thomas Roe, English ambassador under King James I, 1616-19 (Jahangir)

Mughal artists working for Akbar and Jahangir:

Abu’l Hasan (father and teacher: Aqa Riza)

Nadira Banu (father: Mir Taqi; teacher: Aqa Riza)

Ruqaya Banu

Timurid dynasty (1370-1507)

Amir Timur / Tamerlane (1336-1405); mother: Takina Khatun

Shah Rukh (1377-1447)

Mongol & Ilkhan rulers

Alanqua (Alan Gua) – mythical female ancestor of the Mongols and the Turks

Chinghiz (Genghis) Khan (1162-1227)

Ghazan Khan (1271-1304); mother: Qultaq Egachi

Jami al-Tawarikh (World History), composed by the Ilkhanid vizier Rashid al-Din

Suggested Reading:

Alam, Muzaffar. “Akhlaqi Norms and Mughal Governance.” In *The Making of Indo-Persian Culture: Indian and French Studies*, edited by Muzaffar Alam, Françoise “Nalini” Delvoye, and Marc Gaborieau, 67–95. New Delhi: Manohar, 2000.

Alam, Muzaffar and Sanjay Subrahmanyam. “Frank Disputations: Catholics and Muslims in the Court of Jahangir (1608–11).” *Indian Economic Social History Review* 46, no. 4 (2009): 457–511.

Anooshahr, Ali. “Dialogism and Territoriality in a Mughal History of the Islamic Millennium,” *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 55 (2012): 220-254.

Brand, Michael and Glen B. Lowry. *Akbar’s India: Art from the Mughal City of Victory*. New York: Asia Society Galleries, 1985.

Carvalho, Pedro de Moura. *Mir’āt al-quds (Mirror of Holiness): A Life of Christ for Emperor Akbar*. Translated by Wheeler M. Thackston. Leiden: Brill, 2012.

Flores, Jorge and Nuno Vassallo e Silva, eds. *Goa and the Great Mughal*. Lisbon: Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation; London: Scala, 2004.

Kinra, Rajeev. “Handling Diversity with Absolute Civility: The Global Historical Legacy of Mughal Sulh-i Kull.” *Medieval History Journal* 16, no. 2 (2013): 251–95.

Natif, Mika. *Mughal Occidentalism: Artistic Encounters Between Europe and Asia at the Courts of India, 1580-1630*. Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, 2018.

———. “Preliminary thoughts on portraits of Mughal women in illustrated histories from Akbar’s time.” In *Reflections on Mughal Art and Culture*, edited by Roda Ahluwalia, 39-52. Mumbai: K R Cama Oriental Institute; New Delhi: Niyogi Books, 2021.

Rice, Yael. “Between the Brush and the Pen: On the Intertwined Histories of Mughal Painting and Calligraphy.” In *Envisioning Islamic Art and Architecture: Essays in Honor of Renata Holod*, edited by David Roxburgh, 148–74. Leiden: Brill, 2014.

Singh, Kavita. *Real Birds in Imagined Gardens: Mughal Painting between Persia and Europe*. Los Angeles: Getty Research Institute, Getty Publications, 2017.

Weis, Friederike. “The Influence of the Flemish World. Landscape on Akbari Miniatures of the Lahore Period.” In *Ratnamala: Garland of Gems: Indian Art between Mughal, Rajput, Europe and Far East*, edited by J. Bautze and R. Cimino, 19–29. Ravenna: Edizioni del Girasole, 2010.