Arts of Asia Lecture Series Fall 2014
The Arts of the Islamic World
Sponsored by The Society for Asian Art

“An Introduction to the Art and Architecture of pre-Islamic Iran and Central Asia”

by

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August 29, 2014

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Chronology

8000-3000 BC  Neolithic and post-Neolithic periods
3000-1250 BC  Bronze Age (also Old and Middle Elamite kingdoms in Elam
1250-550 BC  Iron Age (also the “Marlik Culture” 1100-800 BC)
Medes and Persians (present in Iran by 9th century BC at the latest)
550-330 BC  Achaemenid Empire (included much of Central Asia and
Afghanistan)
330-250 BC  Alexander and subsequent Hellenistic rule
250 BC-AD 224  Parthian Empire (partly contemporary with late Hellenistic and
early Kushan rule in Afghanistan)
AD 224-651  Sasanian Empire (partly contemporary with Sogdian rule in Central
Asia)

Sites and People

Sialk A 4000 BC (painted pottery); Sialk II 4000 BC (painted pottery); Sialk III and
Hissar IIIC (painted pottery); Susa C (fine stone sculpture, the beginning of writing in
Elam); walled city of Anshan (Tall-e Malyan), c. 3200 BC; Choga Zanbil  c. 1300 BC
(ziggurat of Middle Elamite ruler, Untashgal); Hasanlu IV 1100-800 BC (introduction of
the Iranian columned hall); Marlike Tepe 1100-800 BC (metal and ceramic objects from
the elite cemetery); Luristan Bronzes 9th/8th centuries BC; Tepe Nush-e Jan c. 700-600
BC (architectural remains associated with the Medes); Ziwiyeh treasure c. 625 BC; Cyrus
the Great (559-530 BC) and Pasargadae; Darius the Great (522-486 BC) and his creations
at Bisitun, Susa and Persepolis; Alexander the Great (d. 323 BC); Ai Khanum
(Hellenistic city in Afghanistan, destroyed c. 140 BC); Tilya Tepe, Afghanistan (nomad
jewelry from a pre-Kushan cemetery); Mithradates I (C. 171-138 BC); Nisa,
Turkmenistan (early Parthian capital); Shahr-e Qumis (Hecatompylos), eastern Iran,
middle Parthian architecture and pottery; Ardashir I (AD 224-241) and Firuzabad (early
Seasanian royal planning and architecture); Naqsh-e Rustam (Sasanian sculpture); Shapur the Great (AD 241-272), Khosrow II (AD 591-628) and Yazdigerd III (d. AD 651), key Sasanian monarchs; Bishapur, Taq-e Bustan, Ctesiphon, and Takht-e Sulaiman, major Sasanian sites.

Concise Bibliography