

**Arts of Asia Lecture Series Fall 2014**  
**The Arts of the Islamic World**  
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“An Introduction to the Art and Architecture of pre-Islamic Iran and Central Asia”

by

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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 9 <sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> centuries BC; Tepe Nush-e Jan c. 700-600 BC (architectural remains associated with the Medes); Ziwiye 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 Rostam (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**

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