Drawing in the Pre-Modern Islamic World

Course Description

Focuses on drawings from Iran and Turkey, ca. 1300–1700. Topics include drawing as a design medium, its growth into an independent art, correspondences between drawing and writing, and the artists Muhammadi, Riza Abbasi, and MuÆin Musavvir.

Readings

Books are on open and closed reserve in the Fine Arts Library, Fogg Museum of Art (all articles are arranged alphabetically, by the author’s last name, in a binder). A bibliography of additional sources is appended to the syllabus and is intended to facilitate research for the paper.

Requirements / Assignments

Readings and participation in the seminar’s weekly meetings; presentation to seminar of chosen research project; research paper (ca. 25 pp. max; with notes, illustrations and bibliography; due May 15).

Synopsis of Seminar Meetings

Th February 2    Introduction
Th February 9    The Practices and Functions of Drawing
Th February 16   The Timurid “Workshop Album”
Th February 23   No meeting: CAA Annual Meeting, Boston 2006
Th March 2       Artistic Contacts with China
Th March 9       The Ottoman “Saz” Genre
Th March 16      Safavid Single-Page Drawings I
Th March 23      Safavid Single-Page Drawings II
March 25–April 2 Spring recess
Th April 6       Student presentations
Th April 13      Student presentations
Th April 20      Student presentations
Th April 27      Student presentations
Th May 4         Student presentations
May 6–17    Reading period. *Research paper due on May 15.*
Weekly Readings

**Th February 2**
Introduction

**Th February 9**
The Practices and Functions of Drawing

**Readings:**
Bloom, “The Introduction of Paper to the Islamic Lands”
Komaroff, “Paintings in Silver and Gold”

**Optional:**
Bloom, *Paper Before Print*, chap. 4

**Th February 16**
The Timurid “Workshop Album”

**Readings:**
Anonymous, “Arzadasht”
Ipsirolgu, *Saray-Alben*, browse catalogue
Lentz and Lowry, *Timur and the Princely Vision*, chap. 3
Roxburgh, *The Persian Album 1400–1600*, chap. 3
Roxburgh, “Persian Drawing, ca. 1400–1450: Materials and Creative Procedures”

**Optional:**
Lentz, “Dynastic Imagery in Early Timurid Wall Painting”

**Th February 23**
No meeting: CAA Annual Meeting, Boston 2006

**Th March 2**
Artistic Contacts with China

**Readings:**
Blair, *Compendium of Chronicles*, chap. 3
Ipsirolgu, *Painting and Culture of the Mongols*
Roxburgh, “Aesthetics of Aggregation”
Sugimura, *Encounter of Persia with China*, chaps. 1–3

**Th March 9**
The Ottoman “Saz” Genre

**Readings:**
Atil, *Age of Sultan Süleyman*, pp. 29–36 and 97–111
Denny, “Dating Ottoman Turkish Works in the Saz Style”
Mahir, “Osmanlı Sanatında Saz Uslubundan Anlasılan”
Rogers and Ward, *Süleyman the Magnificent*, cat. nos. 50–53

Th March 16  Safavid Single-Page Drawings I

**Readings:**
Babaie, “The Sound of the Image”
Soudavar, “The Age of Muhammadi”
Welch, *Artists for the Shah*

Th March 23  Safavid Single-Page Drawings II

**Readings:**
Canby, *Rebellious Reformer*, chaps. 1–10 and appendices 1–3
Farhad, “An Artist’s Impression: Mu’in Musavvir’s *Tiger Attacking a Youth*”

March 25–April 2  Spring recess

Th April 6  Student presentations

Th April 13  Student presentations

Th April 20  Student presentations

Th April 27  Student presentations

Th May 4  Student presentations
BIBLIOGRAPHY

CATALOGUES AND REFERENCE WORKS


Encyclopaedia of Islam. 1st and 2nd eds. Leiden: E. J. Brill.


Lowry, Glenn D., and Milo Cleveland Beach. An Annotated and Illustrated Checklist of the Vever
WRITTEN SOURCES ON PAINTING, DRAWING, AND CALLIGRAPHY


GENERAL STUDIES ON DRAWING, THE ARTS OF THE BOOK, AND PAINTING


________. Paper Before Print: The History and Impact of Paper in the Islamic World. New Haven:
Yale University Press, 2001. [ON RESERVE FAL]


Grube, Ernst. “A School of Turkish Miniature Painting.” In First International Congress of Turkish Art. Ankara 19th–24th October, 1959. Communications Presented to the Congress, 176–


________. *Artists for the Shah: Late Sixteenth Century Painting at the Imperial Court of Iran.* New Haven: Yale University Press, 1976. [ON RESERVE FAL]


**MONOGRAPHS AND ARTICLES IN SPECIFIC MANUSCRIPTS OR ARTISTS**


Martin, F. R. *Miniatures from the Period of Timur in a Manuscript of the Poems of Sultan Ahmad Jalair.* Vienna, 1926.


INTERPRETIVE ESSAYS


VISUAL IDIOMS


**CHINA AND IRAN**


