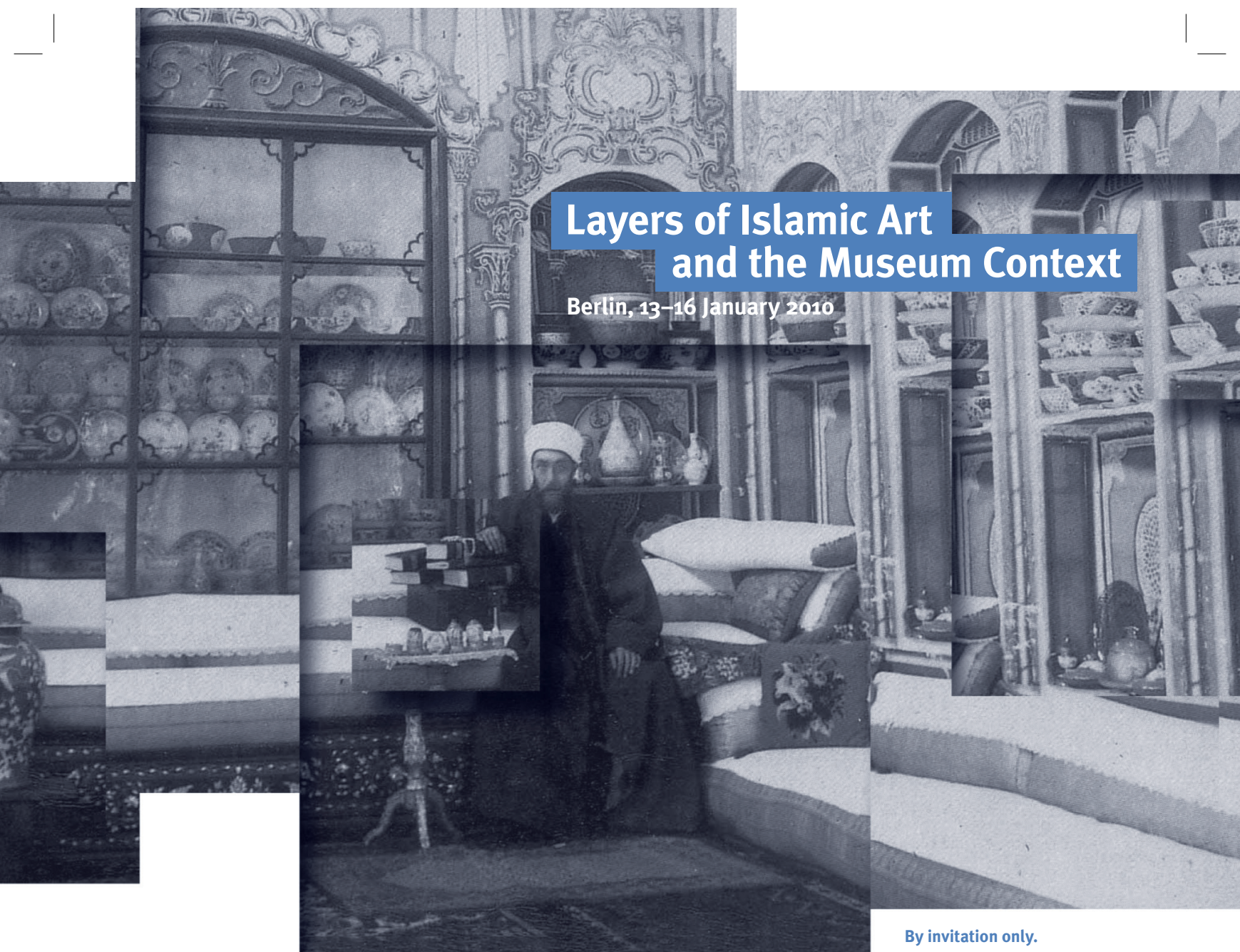


# Layers of Islamic Art and the Museum Context

Berlin, 13–16 January 2010



By invitation only.

For further information please  
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Europa im Nahen Osten  
Der Nahe Osten in Europa

**S M**  
**B** Museum für Islamische Kunst  
Staatliche Museen  
zu Berlin



AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CULTURE

## Layers of Islamic Art and the Museum Context

Workshop, Berlin, 13–16 January 2010

Chaired by **BENOÎT JUNOD** (Aga Khan Trust for Culture)  
and **STEFAN WEBER** (Museum für Islamische Kunst)

In recent years several Museums have reorganized their galleries of Islamic art and developed new approaches towards their aesthetic and contextual presentation. While museums and galleries increasingly become important forums for public interest in Muslim cultures, there has been little discussion on content, categories of order and their new role in the light of modern museology and museum pedagogy. This is true to a certain degree for the contextual research on objects of Islamic art. What are the stories embedded in objects and how can they be told?

These themes are explored in a workshop entitled *Layers of Islamic Art and the Museum Context*. The workshop will coincide with the projects of re-conventionalizing the Museum for Islamic Art at the Pergamon Museum in Berlin and designing the new museum for the Aga Khan Collection in Toronto. These two projects of international partners shall provide the opportunity to rethink our concepts of Islamic art and its role for the public today.

**Europe in the Middle East—The Middle East in Europe is a five-year research program of the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung and the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin.** This research program seeks to rethink key concepts and premises that link and divide Europe and the Middle East. It draws on the expertise of scholars in and outside of Germany and is embedded in university and extra-university research institutions in Berlin. The program builds upon the previous work of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin's Working Group Modernity and Islam and is funded by the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung.

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Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin  
INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

# Layers of Islamic Art and the Museum Context

Berlin, 13–16 January 2010

Wed 13 Jan 2010

Mashatta-Hall, Pergamonmuseum

19:00

Opening  
MICHAEL EISSENHAUER

Welcome note  
WOLF LEPENIES

**Keynote lecture** \*

**OLEG GRABAR**  
**Collecting and Exhibiting: The Role of the Museum in the Study  
and Knowledge of Islamic Art; the Past and the Future**

Reception

Supported by



AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CULTURE

\*) In cooperation with:  
ha'atelier. TASWIR: Eine Werkstattreihe zum portablen Bildatlas

Thu 14 Jan 2010

Th.-Wiegand-Hall, Pergamonmuseum

Fri 15 Jan 2010

Th.-Wiegand-Hall, Pergamonmuseum

Sat 16 Jan 2010

Th.-Wiegand-Hall, Pergamonmuseum

10:00–11:30

**Introduction**

BENOÎT JUNOD  
The Aga Khan Museum in Toronto

STEFAN WEBER  
Plans for the New Museum of Islamic  
Art Berlin

CHRISTINE GERBICH  
“A painted room with many doors” –  
Asking Visitors at the Museum of  
Islamic Art Berlin

**Islamic Art or Material Culture?**

GÜLRU NECİPOĞLU  
Islamic Art: Concepts and Approaches

Responding: JULIA GONNELLA and  
LORENZ KORN

**Meaning and Audience**

NASSER RABBAT  
Islamic Art at a Crossroad

Responding: MARTINA MÜLLER-WIENER  
and KIRSTEN SCHEID

11:30 Coffee-Break

11:45–13:15

**Object and Concept**

AVINOAM SHALEM  
Multivalent Paradigm of Interpretation  
and the Anima of the Object

Responding: ALNOOR MERCHANT and  
CHRISTIAN SASSMANSHAUSEN

BESHARA DOUMANI  
The Social Life of Things as the  
Backbone of New Narratives

GUDRUN KRÄMER  
The Cultural Turn, the Spatial Turn,  
and the Writing of Middle Eastern  
History

Responding: MUNIR FAKHER ELDIN

RIEM SPIELHAUS  
Islamic Art as a Space of Public Culture

SUSAN KAMEL, CHRISTINE GERBICH,  
SUSANNE LANWERD  
Do you speak Islamic Art?  
A Project on Curating, Museum Studies,  
and Audience Development

Responding: VERA BEYER

13:15 Lunch

14:30–16:00

EVA TROELENBERG  
Islamic Art and the Invention of the  
“Masterpiece”

ANNE-CHRISTINE TAYLOR  
The Aestheticizing versus Contextualising  
Debate and the Musée du Quai Branly

Responding: JENS KRÖGER

OLIVER WATSON  
Doha – and the Acceptance of Other  
Audiences

JULIETTE FRITSCH  
Islamic Middle East: The Jameel  
Gallery. Working from Vision to Reality

Responding: NADYA SBAITI

16:00 Coffee-Break

16:15–17:45

KJELD VON FOLSACH  
Concepts of the New Installation of Islamic  
Art in the David Collection, Copenhagen

LADAN AKBARNIA  
The Option of ‘Interim’ Reinstallation:  
Brooklyn Museum’s Arts of the Islamic  
World Galleries

MARY MCWILLIAMS  
Sub-themes and Over-painting: Exhibiting  
Islamic Art in American Art Museums.

Responding: MIRIAM KÜHN

ANTON D. PRITULA  
The Hermitage Concept of Islamic Art:  
Projects and Plans

IMAN R. ABDULFATTAH  
Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo  
Revisited

Responding: SEIF AL-RASHIDI