

MoMA EXHIBITION PRESENTS WORK BY 17 ARTISTS WHO EXPLORE CONTEMPORARY RESPONSES TO ISLAMIC ART

Without Boundary: Seventeen Ways of Looking

Special exhibitions gallery (third floor), The Yoshiko and Akio Morita Media Gallery (second floor)
February 26–May 22, 2006

NEW YORK, February 21, 2006—*Without Boundary: Seventeen Ways of Looking* is an exhibition that focuses on recent work by 17 artists of diverse nationalities who explore contemporary responses to Islamic art while also posing questions about issues of identity and spirituality. The exhibition demonstrates the nuanced vision of individual artists who draw inspiration from different traditions. The artists represent a range of heritage, including Algerian, Egyptian, Indian, Iraqi, Iranian, Lebanese, Pakistani, Palestinian, Turkish, and American. The artists are Jananne Al-Ani, Ghada Amer, Kutlug Ataman, the Atlas Group/Walid Raad, Mona Hatoum, Shirazeh Houshiary and Pip Horne, Emily Jacir, Y.Z. Kami, Mike Kelley, Rachid Koraïchi, Shirin Neshat, Marjane Satrapi, Shirana Shahbazi, Raqib Shaw, Shahzia Sikander, and Bill Viola. Works by American artists Viola and Kelley are included in the exhibition to question origin as a defining factor in the consideration of art.

The exhibition comprises 34 works dating from 1993 to 2005, in a variety of mediums, such as painting, sculpture, drawing, video, animation, and textile, from public and private collections. Several works in the exhibition have never been shown in the United States, including a video installation by Kutlug Ataman, paintings by Raqib Shaw and by Y.Z. Kami, a comic-strip drawing by Marjane Satrapi, as well as a new sculpture created for this exhibition by Shirazeh Houshiary and Pip Horne. The exhibition is organized by Fereshteh Daftari, Assistant Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture at The Museum of Modern Art, and is on view in the special exhibitions gallery and The Yoshiko and Akio Morita Media Gallery from February 26 through May 22, 2006.

Without Boundary approaches its subject from a variety of perspectives, one of which involves the contemporary reinterpretation of classical traditions of Islamic art—such as calligraphy, miniature painting, and the design of carpets and textiles. The artists in *Without Boundary* work outside the expectations suggested by the term “Islamic art.”

Ms. Daftari explains, “The exhibition reveals what the artists share: a tie based not in ethnicity or religion, but in their way of revising, subverting, and challenging all aesthetic traditions they deal with, and revealing the idiosyncrasies of their personal approaches.”

Homi Bhabha, the Anne F. Rothenberg Professor of English and American Literature at Harvard University, who contributed an essay to the exhibition publication, adds, "These artists reinvent tradition while revising the cultural history of the present moment."

Bhabha also contributed to the exhibition as part of an advisory board, which included Oleg Grabar, Professor Emeritus at the Institute for Advanced Study in the School of Historical Studies; Mohsen Mostafavi, Dean of the College of Architecture, Art and Planning, Cornell University; Reinhard Schultze, Professor of Islamic Studies at the University of Bern, Switzerland; and Ms. Daftari.

The exhibition is loosely organized around five themes, three of which relate specifically to Islamic art and two of which examine questions concerning identity and spirituality. They are:

Text and Calligraphy (Ghada Amer, Rachid Koraïchi, Shirin Neshat); **Beyond Miniature Painting** (Raqib Shaw, Shahzia Sikander); **Variations on Textiles and Carpets** (Mona Hatoum, Mike Kelley, Shirana Shahbazi); **Questioning Identity** (Jananne Al-Ani, Emily Jacir, Walid Raad, Marjane Satrapi); and **Spirituality** (Kutlug Ataman, Shirazeh Houshiary and Pip Horne, Y.Z. Kami, Bill Viola).

SPONSORSHIP:

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PUBLICATION:

The exhibition is accompanied by a publication that includes essays by Ms. Daftari and Homi Bhabha. In addition, the publication includes a prose piece by Turkish author Orhan Pamuk (*My Name Is Red* and *Snow*). Hardcover: 9 x 10.5 inches; 112 pages, 96 color illustrations; \$29.95. Available in February 2006 in the MoMA Stores, including momastore.org. The book will also be available to the trade in March, through Distributed Art Publishers (D.A.P.) in the United States and through Thames & Hudson internationally.

PROGRAMS:

Adult and academic programs accompanying the exhibition include two panel discussions: **Home and Away**, Wednesday, March 8, 2006; and **Meditations on Truths**, Thursday, May 4. In addition, regularly scheduled **Gallery Talks**, free with Museum admission, take place daily. Two **Brown Bag Lunch Lectures** about *Without Boundary* are offered Monday April 3, and Thursday, April 6.

MoMA Audio:

A MoMA Audio tour features contemporary artists speaking about aesthetics, identity, and spirituality as related to their works in the exhibition. The artists include Jananne Al-Ani, Shirazeh Houshiary, Shirin Neshat, Walid Raad, Raqib Shaw, and Shahzia Sikander. MoMA Audio is offered free of charge, courtesy of Bloomberg and is also available for download at www.moma.org/audio, and on the MoMA Audio podcast on iTunes.

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