

## The 1910 Exhibit 'Meisterwerke muhammed. Kunst' (Muenchen, 23-25 Oct 08)

Andrea

Reconsidered

AFTER ONE HUNDRED YEARS:

THE 1910 EXHIBITION "MEISTERWERKE MUHAMMEDANISCHER KUNST" RECONSIDERED

Panel Discussion and International Conference

Munich, 23-25 October 2008

The exhibition "Meisterwerke muhammedanischer Kunst" held in Munich in 1910 was one of the most comprehensive and most important exhibitions on Islamic Art in Europe. The impetus that propelled it was given by the Prince Regent of Bavaria, Luitpold. His interest in displaying the superb Persian carpets of the treasury of the House of Wittelsbach in Munich ended up in the mammoth show of 1910 with 3.600 artefacts. The director of the exhibition committee, Hugo von Tschudi, and the academic experts involved in forming the concept and its realisation - among them Friedrich Sarre, Ernst Kühnel, Max von Berchem, F.R. Martin, and Ernst Dietz - aimed at endowing Islamic art "a place equal to that of other cultural periods". It is generally accepted that this exhibition gave a new impulse to the reception of Islamic art in the West and was therefore a turning point in the so-far orientalist view of and romantic passion for Muslim art and culture.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Changing Views.

Islamic Art - A Matter of Definition?

with

Catherine David (Paris)

Salah M. Hassan (Cornell University, USA)

Avinoam Shalem (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München and Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz)

Gerhard Wolf (Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz)

Date:

October 23, 2008, at 20.00 h

Venue:

Haus der Kunst  
Prinzregentenstr. 1  
80538 München

Today, almost 100 years after the path-breaking exhibition "Meisterwerke muhammedanischer Kunst", we are more than ever faced with the question whether the Islamic world and its arts can be regarded as homogeneous and monolithic. Is there a "common spirit", as the curators of the 1910 exhibition assumed? And if there is, of what does it consist? Are we freed of the stereotypes concerning Islamic art? Do we regard oriental art and culture on an equal level with that given to the arts of the west? To what extent do we have to modify the concept of "we" and "the other" in today's globalized world, in which Islam has become a component of western societies? - This and further questions will be in the focus of this panel discussion.

Co-organized by

Haus der Kunst München  
Kulturreferat der Landeshauptstadt München  
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

After One Hundred Years: The 1910 Exhibition "Meisterwerke muhammedanischer Kunst" Reconsidered

Concept and Organization:

Prof. Avinoam Shalem Ph.D. and Dr. Andrea Lerner Institute of Art History  
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Date:

October 24-25, 2008

Venue:

Internationales Begegnungszentrum der Wissenschaft München e.V. (IBZ)  
Amalienstraße 38  
D-80799 Munich

With the celebration of 100 years of "Meisterwerke muhammedanischer Kunst" in 2010, several museums in Munich as well as the Bavarian State Library in this city are going to organise a series of exhibitions on Islamic art, architecture and culture, all to be held in 2010. Forming part of the preparation for these events, the conference in October 2008 aims at shedding new light on aspects concerning the historical context of the exhibition in 1910, its organisation, realisation and particular display,

its reception in the West and its influence on the study of Islamic art in general.

## Program

Friday, October 24, 2008

9.00 h

Registration

9.15 h

Introduction

### I. The exhibition

9.30 h

David J. Roxburgh, Cambridge, Mass.

"Against fairytale splendor": The Exhibition "Meisterwerke muhammedanischer Kunst", Munich 1910, in Historical Perspective

10.00 h

Eva-Maria Troelenberg, Munich

History within: The Object as an Agent, the Exhibition as a Narrative?

10.30 h

Discussion

11.00 h

Break

11.30 h

Jens Kröger, Berlin

Ernst Kühnel, the 1910 Exhibition "Meisterwerke muhammedanischer Kunst" and the Field of Islamic Art

12.00 h

Claus-Peter Haase, Berlin

Arabic Calligraphy for Non-Arabic Readers: Examples of Aesthetic Choices in the Art of Writing

12.30 h

Discussion

13.00 h

Lunch break

### II. The Context

14.30 h

Robert Hillenbrand, Edinburgh

## Islamic Art History before 1914: Franco-German Rivalry

15.00 h

Stephen Vernoit, Tangier

Hispano-Moresque Art in European Collections, c. 1910

15.30 h

Discussion

16.00 h

Break

16.30 h

Ebba Koch and Amely Haslauer, Vienna

Islamic Art in Vienna around 1900 and the Munich Exhibition "Meisterwerke muhammedanischer Kunst" of 1910

17.00 h

Discussion

Saturday, October 25, 2008

9.30 h

Klaus Kreiser, Berlin

Bayern zwischen Fez und Pickelhaube

10.00 h

Joachim Kaak, Munich

Hugo von Tschudi, die Ausstellung von "Meisterwerken muhammedanischer Kunst" und die Moderne

10.30 h

Discussion

11.00 h

break

### III. The Impact

11.30 h

Annette Hagedorn, Berlin

Der Einfluß der Ausstellung "Meisterwerke muhammedanischer Kunst" auf die zeitgenössische Kunst

12.00 h

Discussion

12.30 h

Lunch break

14.00 h

Lorenz Korn, Bamberg

"Meisterwerke muhammedanischer Kunst" - Highlights of Persian Art in the Munich Exhibition and Its Aftermath

14.30 h

Steffen Krämer, Munich

Le Corbusier and the "Voyage d'Orient" 1911: Influences of Islamic Architecture on his Work in the Era of Classical Modernism

15.00 h

Discussion

15.30 h

Break

16.00 h

Doris Behrens Abouseif, London

Import of the Ideology of Style

16.30 h

Final Discussion

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Kulturreferat der Landeshauptstadt München

Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz - Max-Planck-Institut

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Reference:

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