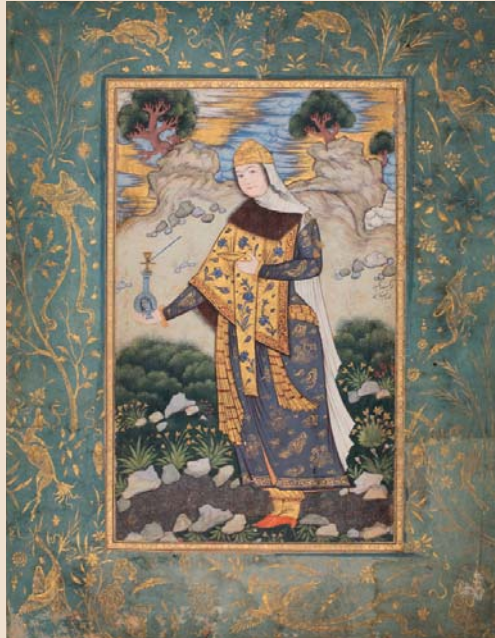# The Yarshater Lectures in Persian Art

Artists, Paintings and their Publics
Safavid Albums in the Seventeenth Century

Four Lectures by Dr Massumeh Farhad, Chief Curator and
The Ebrahimi Family Curator of Persian, Arab and Turkish Art
Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

7.00 pm, Thursday 17th, Friday 18th, Monday 21st
and Tuesday 22nd January 2019

The Yarshater Lectures in Persian Art

The Yarshater Lectures in Persian Art at SOAS are sponsored by the Persian Heritage Foundation. They are a series of academic lectures dedicated to Iranian art and culture and are intended for publication. The lectures and publications carry the name of the late Professor Ehsan Yarshater in recognition of his scholarly achievements.

Massumeh Farhad joined the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery in 1995 as Associate Curator of Islamic Art. In 2004, she was appointed Chief Curator and Curator of Islamic Art. She is a specialist in the arts of the book from sixteenth-century and seventeenth-century Iran. Farhad has curated numerous exhibitions on the arts of the Islamic world at the Freer and Sackler, including *Art of the Persian Courts* (1996), *Fountains of Light: The Nuhad Es-Said Collection of Metalwork* (2000), *Style and Status: Imperial Costumes from Ottoman Turkey* (2005-6), *The Tsars and the East: Gifts from Turkey and Iran in the Moscow Kremlin* (2009), *Falnama: The Book of Omens* (2009-10), *Roads of Arabia: History and Archaeology of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia* (2012) and *The Art of the Qur'an: Treasures from the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts* (2016).

She received her Ph.D. in Islamic Art History from Harvard University in 1987. Her publications include *Slaves of the Shah: New Elites in Safavid Iran* (2004), *Falnama: The Book of Omens* (2009), *The Art of the Qur'an: Treasures from the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts* (2016) and *A Collector's Passion: Ezzat-Malek Soudavar and Persian Lacquer* (2017).

Cover image: *Woman Smoking a Waterpipe,* Signed by Muhammad Qasim-i Tabrizi, Iran, Safavid period, 1640s, opaque watercolor and gold on paper. Nasser D. Khalili Collection of Islamic Art. Copyright Khalili Family Trust. MSS 999.

The Persian Heritage Foundation (New York) and SOAS, University of London, are pleased to invite you to:

Four Lectures by Dr Massumeh Farhad, Chief Curator and The Ebrahimi Family Curator of Persian, Arab and Turkish Art, Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Artists, Paintings and their Publics
Safavid Albums in the Seventeenth Century

Thursday 17th January
Isfahan: the City as a Setting for Safavid Painting

Friday 18th January
"United in War and Peace": A Closer Look at Safavid Albums

Monday 21st January
Painting and Production: A New Model for Safavid Isfahan

Tuesday 22nd January
Safavid Albums: Shifting the Visual Language

The first lecture will discuss the Safavid capital Isfahan as the social, cultural and architectural setting for the arts of the book in seventeenth-century Iran. The structure, format and content of later Safavid albums (*muraqqa'*), the circulation of images, as well as Ottoman and Mughal responses will be the subject of the second lecture. In the third talk, the careers of three artists (Malik Husayn, Muhammad Qasim and Mu'in Musavvir) will serve as a lens on the production of manuscripts and album paintings and their different publics in later Safavid Iran. The final lecture will approach album pages from a stylistic perspective to highlight their meaning and function within the larger historical and artistic context of the period.

Yarshater Lecture Series in Persian Art
London Middle East Institute, SOAS

Dates

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and Tuesday 22nd January 2019

Venue

Khalili Lecture Theatre
SOAS University of London
Russell Square
London WC1H 0XG

Admission

Admission Free - All Welcome

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Convened by

Professor Scott Redford, Nasser D Khalili Professor of Islamic
Art and Archaeology, SOAS

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