



HISTORIANS OF
ISLAMIC ART
ASSOCIATION

New Year 2020

Letter from The Past President of The Historians of Islamic Art Association

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

With warm albeit belated New Year greetings on behalf of the HIAA Board members, I write my last newsletter as I hand the baton over to Kishwar Rizvi (Professor of Islamic Art and Architecture, Yale University), our new President of HIAA. Please join me in welcoming Kishwar who shall lead our community from 2020 through 2022.

She can be reached at a new HIAA President email address or her university address:
presidentislamicarthistory@gmail.com
kishwar.rizvi@yale.edu

I also write with a number of other important news and want to encourage you to renew your memberships in anticipation of HIAA annual events at the CAA in Chicago and our next Symposium in October 2020 (please see below for details).

HIAA Majlis and annual Business Meeting will take place alongside the College Art Association's Annual Conference in Chicago, on February 12 to 15, 2020.

A notice has been posted via H-Islamart and our social media platforms as well as the HIAA website.

HIAA's sponsored panel at CAA, "Interwar Islamic Arts," is on Friday, February 14 at 10:30 AM and will be followed by the HIAA Business Meeting at 12:30 PM (location: Hilton Chicago - 8th Floor - Lake Ontario)

Please mark your calendars!

Other panels and single papers related to Islamic arts and material cultures are also noted in the latest message posted on H-Islamart.

HIAA Elections and New Board Members

We have successfully conducted our elections for the following posts, and I would like to congratulate and welcome our new officers:

Christine Gruber, President-elect (three-year term); University of Michigan,
cjgruber@umich.edu)

Fatima Quraishi, Secretary (three-year term); University of California, Riverside,
fatimaq@ucr.edu

Hala Auji, International representative (three-year term); American University of Beirut,
ha156@aub.edu.lb

I am most grateful to each of our elected colleagues, as well as those who were not successful in their candidacy, for their willingness to serve our community. I also want to thank our nominating committee, Heather Ecker (chair), Margaret Graves, and Olga Bush for so kindly having agreed to conduct the complex task of canvassing for and nominating candidates willing to undertake the job in each of these important roles for HIAA.

The HIAA Board joins me as well in extending our sincere thanks to the selfless service of colleagues whose terms concluded at the end of 2019. These are Kishwar Rizvi (President-elect), Amanda Philips (secretary), and Mercedes Volait (International representative). I thank you all!

Membership and Census

HIAA is pleased to announce that membership has been growing over the past several years, and in late 2019 totalled just under 300 members. This is an all-time high, and includes individuals and institutions from over thirty different countries.

Please renew your membership and encourage your students and colleagues to join our vibrant community. Access to HIAA Directory is among the membership benefits.

<https://www.historiansofislamicart.org/membership>

The out-going secretary Amanda Phillips has also completed the first census of academic and curatorial positions in Islamic art in some years. The results, to be posted on the website in later 2020, indicate an uptick in permanent academic positions in Europe and North America, as well as new positions in institutions around the world.

HIAA's Grabar Travel Grants and Postdocs 2019

The 2019 grants have been awarded to the following:

Travel Grant: Zohreh Soltani, PhD Candidate, Art History, University of Binghamton, Binghamton, N.Y., for attendance of the annual conference of the College Art Association, 2020, to present a paper entitled "The Prison of Time: Tehran's Qasr Prison Museum as a Transfunctional Monument."

Post-Doctoral Fellowship: Dr. Corinne Mühlemann, Institute for Art History, Department of the History of Textile Arts, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland, for her preparation of a book on the subject of "Complex Weaves: Technique, Text, and Cultural History of Striped Silks."

I want to congratulate the successful applicants and extend a warm thank you as well to the members of the Grabar committee, Scott Redford (chair), Persis Berlekamp, and Emine Fetvacı. The range of submissions and assessment of quality and potential makes their task challenging but also rewarding.

The Margaret B. Ševčenko Prize was awarded to Margaret Shortle, Curator, Museum für Islamische Kunst, Berlin for her essay, "My Love for Pretty Faces and Heart Bewitching Hair,' Persian Calligraphy and its Poetic Frame". The committee, Mercedes Volait (Chair, outgoing HIAA International Representative), Hala Auji (new HIAA International Representative), and Eloise Brac de la Perrière felt that Shortle's truly

interdisciplinary methodology that considers the intersectionality of visuality, orality, and performativity in early modern Persian poetic traditions, challenges the boundaries of the field's traditional approaches to calligraphic practice.
Congratulations to Meggie!

HIAA Biennial Symposium 2020

The next HIAA Symposium, entitled *Regime Change*, will be hosted by Christiane Gruber (new HIAA President-elect). It will be held at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, 29-31 October 2020. The symposium committee consists of Christiane Gruber, Anneka Lenssen, Michael Chagnon, and Alain George. The committee received a record number of panel and paper proposals, so it promises to be a lively event—made all the more exciting since the field will be “coming home” to Ann Arbor, where the first professorship in Islamic art was established in the United States almost a century ago. Stay tuned for more information as the program is finalized in the month of February. Also, please note that a call for applications for an intensive codicology workshop, to be held during the two days leading up to the symposium (October 28-29), will be offered by Eryn Kropf in the Islamic manuscript collections of the Hatcher Library at the University of Michigan.

As the Past-President of HIAA, I bid you farewell but look forward to seeing you at future HIAA events.

Sussan

Sussan Babaie
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