

ISLAMIC ARTS



MUSEUM MALAYSIA

NEWSLETTER

Issue 22 : January - March 2018



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year 2018!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of us a happy and fruitful year ahead.

The last quarter of the year 2017 was indeed productive. IAMM has committed itself to present new and inspiring exhibitions, share new ideas and engage the public in exciting educational activities.

The quarter welcomed the Islamic bookbinding workshop and lecture by Dr. Karin Scheper in association with the Islamic Bookbinding exhibition. IAMM welcomed the inspiring "Faith Fashion Fusion: Muslim Women's Style in Australia" travelling exhibition which brings us closer to the Muslim women's fashion and its historical legacy.

In this quarter, IAMM also partnered with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in a photo exhibition on "Syria, Yemen, Iraq: The Risk of Forever Being Lost" which portrays the devastating effects of war on cultural heritage sites and cities.

Looking back at some of our most memorable moments, IAMM received the landmark visit by HRH Prince Charles during his tour of Southeast Asian nations and commemorating 60 years of bilateral relations between Malaysia and the UK. During the visit, the Prince visited the permanent galleries and viewed the Prince's School of Traditional Arts alumni art and design works. The visit was hosted by the Sultan of Perak, Sultan Nazrin Shah who admired the museum and its collection.

2018 will witness more than just exhibitions and partnerships. It will mark IAMM's 20th anniversary. We look forward to a more prosperous and productive 20 years of performance.

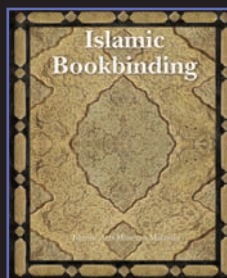
Syed Mohamad Albukhary



Front cover: Indian hardwood architectural facade from Gujarat, dated late 18th to early 19th century, collection of Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia.

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

8 MAY 2017 - 5 FEBRUARY 2018



Exhibition:
"Fann al-Tajlid: The Art of Bookbinding".
Special Gallery 1

24 - 28 JULY 2017

Workshop:
"Islamic Bookbinding: Understanding
Book Structures and Bindings of Islamic
Manuscripts"
by Dr. Karin Scheper

29 JULY 2017

Talk:
"Islamic Bookbinding"
by Dr. Karin Scheper

3 NOVEMBER 2017 - 28 JANUARY 2018

Exhibition:
"Faith Fashion Fusion: Women's Style in
Australia".
Special Gallery 1

13 JAN 2018

Workshop:
"Portrait Photography - Modest Style of
Muslim Women"
By Shuhada Hasim



20 JAN 2018

Talk:
"The Evolution of the Traditional Malay
Kain Kelubung (Veil) to Hijab: Through
the Designer's Eyes"

Workshop:
Traditional Batik Workshop on Kain
Kelubung Inspired by Australian
Aboriginal Motif

8 DECEMBER 2017 - 30 MARCH 2018



Photography Exhibition:
"Syria, Yemen, Iraq: The Risk of Forever
Being Lost"
Open Space Gallery

FEB 2018

Weekend Workshop:
"Shadows of the Lost: Sketching with
Rekha Verma"

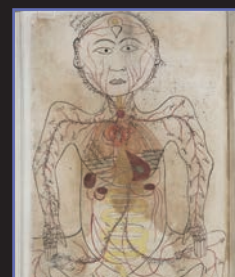
MARCH 2018

Workshop:
"Ajami Art of Syria"

UPCOMING EXHIBITION

1 MARCH 2018 - 31 OCTOBER 2018

Medical Manuscripts from the
Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia's
Collection



PRINCE CHARLES'S VISIT TO THE ISLAMIC ARTS MUSEUM MALAYSIA

In November 2017, Malaysia had the honour of a visit by the British heir to the throne, Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall. This official visit was an historic occasion in Malaysia's calendar as this was the first time the Prince of Wales had visited the country. His Royal Highness was here to commemorate 60 years of bilateral relations between Malaysia and the United Kingdom. The Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia was the Prince's first destination in the country before he embarked on a tour of other Southeast Asian nations in the region.

The Prince of Wales's visit to the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia was hosted by the Sultan of Perak, Sultan Nazrin Shah, who accompanied the Prince throughout the event. Prince Charles took almost an hour inside the museum, visiting the permanent galleries of Islamic Architecture, the Qur'an and Manuscripts, and attending a reception ceremony. His Royal Highness also had a chance to see artworks on display from students of his own school,



The Prince of Wales keenly discussing about IAMM's collection of the blue velvet in the Qur'an and Manuscripts Gallery with the Sultan of Perak, Sultan Nazrin Shah. .

the Prince's School of Traditional Arts, which are currently among the precious collection of the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia. At the reception, the Prince delivered an insightful speech and exchanged mementos.



The Director of the British Museum visiting IAMM's collection accompanied by IAMM's Director, Syed Mohamad Albukhary.

VISIT BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM, DR HARTWIG FISCHER

Dr Hartwig Fischer, the Director of the British Museum, made a one-day working visit to the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia on 13 November 2017. Dr Fischer was welcomed by the Director of the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia, Syed Mohamad Albukhary. Among the attractions for the visitor were the permanent galleries, the Scholar's Library, and the Conservation & Research Centre, a unit in the museum which is responsible for preserving the growing number of artefacts in the museum's collection.



The Governor General of New Zealand, and her entourage enthusiastically listening to the explanation given by IAMM's Senior Curator during her recent visit.

VISIT BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF NEW ZEALAND, HER EXCELLENCY DAME PATSY REDDY

On 6 December 2017, the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia received a visit by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Dame Patsy Reddy, GNZM, QSO Governor General of New Zealand. Her Excellency and her entourage were accompanied by a museum curator throughout the tour of the Islamic Architecture gallery, Qur'an and Manuscripts, India, China and the Malay World galleries. The tour ended with a book-signing ceremony and handover of a special memento to the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia.

OPENING OF SYRIA, YEMEN, IRAQ: The Risk of Forever Being Lost Photo Exhibition (8 December 2017 - 30 March 2018)

The civil war and armed conflict in the Middle East and the Levant have resulted in devastating reports of deaths and an increase in the number of asylum seekers, as well as the devastation of cultural heritage and identity. Rapid action taken over this catastrophe have resulted in growing efforts by humanitarian organisations and cultural heritage societies to help archive and curb the spread of the illicit trade in antiquities and to tackle the destruction of world heritage. This has also motivated IAMM to document lost heritage and raise awareness of the dire effects of war.

The 'Syria, Yemen, Iraq: The Risk of Forever Being Lost' photo exhibition was opened to considerable public interest on 8 December 2017. The exhibition is supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and is the first of its kind in the Southeast Asian region.



ICRC's Head of Regional Delegation, Ms. Isabelle Barras giving her opening remarks commencing the opening event of the exhibition.



ICRC's Regional Legal Adviser, Ms. Margherita D'Ascanio delivering an intellectual discourse to the public audience.



VIP guests from ICRC and embassies posed for a photo at the exhibition gallery.

The opening event commenced with remarks delivered by the ICRC's Head of Regional Delegation, Isabelle Barras, who highlighted the organisation's appreciation of IAMM's effort in spreading awareness of the aftermath of war and of cultural-property protection. The official opening event was followed by a discourse entitled 'Protection of Cultural Property in Armed Conflicts: What Can We Do?' by the Regional Legal Adviser of the ICRC, Margherita D'Ascanio.

The IAMM exhibition team brought together around 50 colour photos from a variety of sources; established photojournalists, freelance photographers, online databases and public domains. While these photos show the damage caused to the cultural heritage of their respective countries, the exhibition elucidates the value and historical importance of the sites.

IAMM also received continuous support from ICRC during the planning stage of this exhibition through the on-site photographs from its public domain portal. Besides that, the ICRC also shared with visitors to this exhibition an important piece of information about the legal protection of cultural property through the panel entitled 'Attacks On Cultural Property Are Attacks On Humanity'.



IAMM HIGHLIGHTS

LAUNCHING OF FAITH, FASHION, FUSION: Muslim Women's Style in Australia Travelling Exhibition



The Minister of Tourism and Culture Malaysia, Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz along with the Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, Mr. Rod Smith PSM and the VIP guests pose at the Faith, Fashion, Fusion exhibition gallery.



Ahida Zanetti, the famous burqini designer sharing her thoughts on the elegant exhibition with Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz.



The ribbon cutting ceremony marks the opening of the exhibition to public.

The 'Faith Fashion Fusion: Muslim Women's Style in Australia' travelling exhibition was officially launched in a ceremony on 2 November 2017. It was officiated by the Minister of Tourism and Culture Malaysia, Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz, and witnessed by Tan Sri Joseph Kurup, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; the Director of Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia, Syed Mohamad Albukhary; and Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, Rod Smith PSM.

The event was also attended by Glynis Jones, the curator of 'Faith Fashion Fusion' from the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS), Sydney and Ahida Zanetti, designer of the renowned burqini swimwear.

The exhibition elegantly displays multiracial Australia's growing modest fashion market and the work of a new generation of Muslim designers and entrepreneurs putting their mark on the Australian fashion industry. It also features the opinions, challenges and achievements of high-profile Australian Muslim women. IAMM's collection of women's traditional costumes from the Ottoman Dynasty, Palestine, Central Asia and Southeast Asia, particularly the Malay world are also displayed.

'Faith Fashion Fusion: Muslim Women's Style in Australia' is the latest IAMM-Australia collaboration. IAMM's strong ties and partnerships with Australia date all the way back to 2006, through collaborations with institutions such as the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the South Australian Museum and the Charles Sturt University.

Besides expanding the perspective of modest fashion, this beautiful exhibition showcased the talents and creativity of Australian Muslim women, which have significant commercial value while displaying the openness of Australians in the creative industry.



IAMM
EDUCATION

A DAY WITH MS. GLYNIS JONES



Glynis Jones, Curator of 'Faith Fashion Fusion: Muslim Women's Style in Australia' Travelling Exhibition



Jones showing the participants how to store, care for and catalogue textiles and historical dresses using a study piece brought from MAAS collection.

A special one-day event with the curator of the Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences (MAAS), Glynis Jones, was held on 4 November, consisting of a talk in the morning and a workshop in the evening. Jones, one of the brains behind the MAAS travelling exhibition 'Faith Fashion Fusion: Muslim Women's Style in Australia', shared her team's experiences and efforts in developing the exhibition to fruition. In the evening workshop, Jones elaborated further on the important issue of how to store, care for and catalogue textiles and historical dress. The event was attended by members of the fashion and museum fields as well as the public.

ISLAMIC ILLUMINATION WORKSHOP BY AZMA SALMAN

Tezhib or illumination is considered a subject of Muslim creative pride. Azma Salman, a tezhib artist from Lahore, shared her knowledge with 25 participants in the three-day Islamic Illumination Workshop, which started on 20 October. Participants were introduced to the history, theory and practical aspects of tezhib throughout the course. They were also taught to prepare the muraqqa and muahhar paper, which are largely used by past and present tezhib artist-calligraphers. In addition to local practitioners, we also received participants from Singapore, Brunei and Hong Kong.



Azma Salman shared her knowledge on Islamic illumination with the participants.



MANIFESTASI PERDANA SENI KHAT' 2017

The much-awaited calligraphy competition 'Manifestasi Perdana Seni Khat' or MPSK took place on 25 November 2017 after a four-year hiatus. The competition, held at IAMM, received a total of 105 participants in three categories: Adult (18 years old and above), Teenager (13-17 years old) and Junior (7-12 years old). The competition challenged the participants to produce calligraphy masterpieces in spontaneous format under three hours. Unlike most competitions, MPSK only reveals the questions half an hour prior to the starting time in order to test the calligraphers' abilities to structure and pen their best arrangement under duress.

As for the selection of the best artwork, expert judges from Persatuan Seni Khat Kebangsaan (PSKK or the National Calligraphy Association) were called upon to contribute their keen eyes and experience. The winners were announced at the prize-giving ceremony on 16 December 2017.

Participants were required to produce calligraphy masterpieces spontaneously within three hours.



PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP "PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY - MODEST STYLE OF MUSLIM WOMEN" by Shuhada Hasim

13th January 2018 (Saturday) | 10.30 am | Education Wet Workshop, IAMM | Fee: Free of charge

In this photography workshop, Shuhada Hasim will help participants to understand various types of portraiture, the selection of modest garments, styles and poses that represent the personality of a modest woman in its true sense. The workshop aims to address the issue of proper representation of Muslim fashion in the media and elsewhere.

TALK "THE EVOLUTION OF THE TRADITIONAL MALAY KAIN KELUBUNG (VEIL) TO HIJAB: Through the designer's eyes"

20th January 2018 (Saturday) | 10.30 am | Education Briefing Hall, IAMM

Hanifi Triff of Ratis Studios will discuss the development of traditional Malay women's kain kelubung, or veil, into the common hijab style of today. Join the fashion designer in this talk by contacting the Education Department to register your interest.

TRADITIONAL BATIK WORKSHOP ON KAIN KELUBUNG INSPIRED BY AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL MOTIF

20th January 2018 (Saturday) | 2.30 pm | Education Wet Workshop, IAMM | Fee: RM 170

Join Ratis Studios experimenting with Batik and Australian aboriginal motifs in this exciting workshop. The workshop will be conducted by a Batik master artist and a group of young artisans under the curated empowerment programme called 'Nurturing the Next Generation of Master Artisan'. Register with the Education Department.



MUSEUM
SHOP

TRADITION AND CONTINUITY: *Woven and Decorated Textiles of the Malay Peninsula*



Nett Price : RM 98.00

Sumptuous textiles have always held special significance in Malay culture, as they uphold long-standing traditions and play central roles in ceremony and ritual. Much has also been said of their beauty and intricacy, which attest to the meticulous skill and virtuosity of Malay artisans. Hand-woven fabrics, like limar, songket and tenun, as well as decorated ones like kelingkan, tekak and telepuk reflect how Malay culture has developed through interactions between local weavers and the outside world. The fact that their form, function and soul have always contained elements of modernity has helped make them competitive and relevant until today. This catalogue is available to purchase at IAMM Museum Shop.

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