

**NEWSLETTER**  
*Special Edition*



## ADAPTING ADVERSITY: STAYING CONNECTED DURING THE PANDEMIC



The pandemic has made clear the sometimes obscured social responsibilities of the cultural sector. The most apparent of these is that the world needs a constant reminder of how civilisations were built, how they rose to prominence and the imprint they left behind. These provide essential lessons for us in the modern age.

Museums play a vital role in this constant learning process, especially when they provide profound and useful discoveries about people in the past. With or without the pandemic, it has become more necessary than ever to redefine our means of educating society and fulfilling the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia's mission to foster a deeper understanding of the art of the Islamic world. The pandemic has inspired in us new ways to adapt.

To achieve this, we needed new direction to enrich the educational process. This is where microlearning came in. Microlearning works side by side with E-learning, providing a seamless fit with handheld devices and smartphones. It is less time consuming and more engaging; perfect for bringing together a multitude of online resources. Microlearning can be in the form of collective slides that require only 15 seconds each, short enough to keep the viewer's attention, and yet still memorable. No less important is the video form with a short time frame. This approach is attractive to a younger generation with a fast-paced lifestyle as well as being easy to explain to older audiences. It is engaging for everyone. Free and accessible, it has the potential to connect people from all parts of the planet.

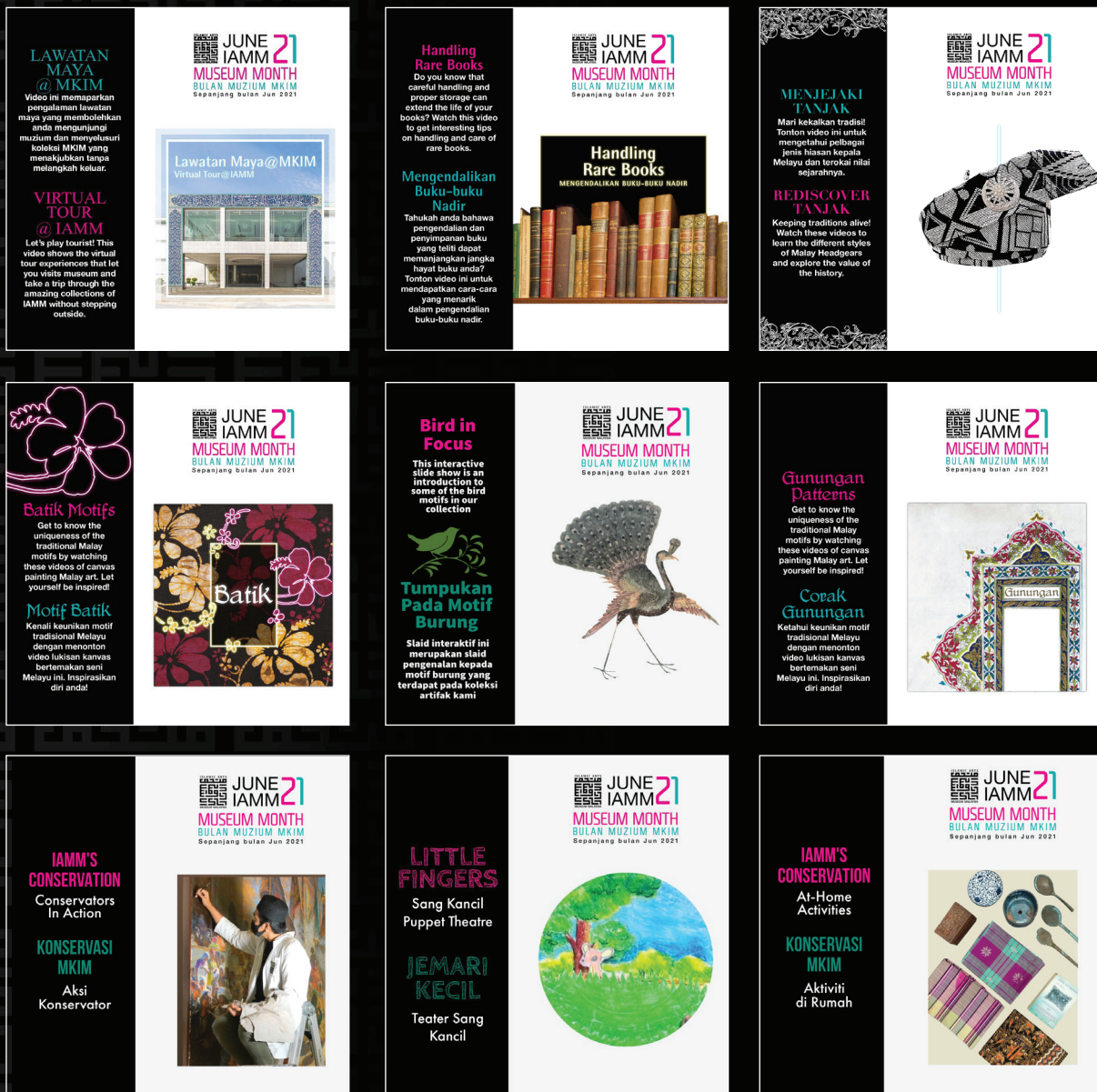
We need to let the world know that IAMM provides many opportunities to be explored. Being virtual does not limit these opportunities to one-way informal learning. It exists in many forms. With the help of social media and online platforms, we are delivering continuous learning from the safety of our readers' homes. The learning process continues, even when society has been paused.

### New Offering: *Interactive Slides: Bird in Focus*

A virtual tour highlighting six bird motifs in the IAMM collection replicates our object trail. Discover the bird motifs of Islamic art. The interactive slides is just a click away and accessible from home. These interactive slides brings informative detail and historical accuracy in an exploration trail, with quizzes that test your understanding of these popular motifs. This trail can also be requested at our front desk for visitors to explore further. These winged creatures can be seen hiding in plain sight inside the artworks across the museum. You can see them flying, hunting and nesting in an enchanting manner. We welcome you to meet them.



## MUSEUM MONTH 2021



In conjunction with International Museum Day 2021, the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia presented a month's celebration of artefacts, arts, traditions and lifestyles throughout the month of June. This year, with the theme **"The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine"** we were able to promote diversity of the past and the present. We are proud to embrace our role as an institution that engages and interacts within cultural experiences that shape our society, to promote and adapt microlearning approach in bridging the community with work behind the scenes at the museum, along with promoting the spirit of inquiry and creativity. The emphasis was, again, on learning from the comfort of your home.

This one-month celebration started off with a virtual tour of the Architecture Gallery. Viewers were given a brief introduction to the museum, and the most prominent objects in the gallery were showcased. There were five galleries included. Viewers were then presented with a collection of traditional Malay headgear, from different states in Malaysia, and four series of wayang kulit adaptations in Kelantanese, and Kedahan dialects, in English and in standard Bahasa Malaysia.

For a quick art and heritage reading, we compiled a selection of our 3S: Sejarah Seni Selasa postings into a downloadable worksheet that teachers and parents can incorporate into their lesson plans, be it for schools or for home activity. Conservation work was also premiered in this celebration as we walked our viewer behind the scenes of their restoration projects. We also informed our viewers on how to care for their treasures using easy methods and simple materials they might already have at home. Among the aspects of the past and the present that were included in this celebration were our how-to videos on replicating the art of the past, showcasing our Gunungan Pattern and Batik Motifs transformed into canvas painting. Viewers were then brought to the Scholar's Library with a series of exploration videos and tips on how to take care of rare books. These require special handling to reduce the risk of damage as they age. We also provided a series of art and crafts short videos inspired by our Shadow Puppet Play series and the art of weaving for families and kids at home. The celebration ended with the launch of our Interactive Slides: Bird in Focus — a virtual trail filled with quizzes and fascinating facts.

## SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES



Reaching out to society has been facilitated in our current situation by the existence of social media platforms. We believe that in any situation or setting, our role is in fostering global understanding and appreciation of art. This is especially relevant to creating a greater appreciation for the history and culture of the Islamic world, which should be furthered with innovation. We believe in providing seasoned and aspiring enthusiasts of art a better insight into the history of mankind through the arts of Islam. For this, we created two new segments in our @iamm.kl Instagram postings. Both have the same aim, but with two different approaches – 3S: Sejarah Seni Selasa and Hari Jawi.

### 3S: Sejarah Seni Selasa

Our 3S: Sejarah Seni Selasa, or Art History on Tuesdays, describes the weekly postings on Instagram @iamm.kl every Tuesday at 12pm. This focuses on artefacts in the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia collection within the 12 galleries. From the Architecture Gallery to the India Gallery on Level 1 to the Jewellery Gallery and Ceramics on Level 2, our Sejarah Seni Selasa covers the artefacts' history, their usage in daily lifestyles and the roles they once played in our lives.

### Hari Jawi

Jawi script has been fundamental to Malay culture; it is a means of communication that has shaped this country. In a move to uphold the government's concern with retaining the script so that our children will continue to be able to read and use it in a practical manner, we created a segment called Hari Jawi. Our weekly posting on Fridays, 12pm @iamm.kl Instagram covers artefacts and their beauty with the use of Jawi. Viewers will be able to practise their Jawi reading skills via our postings and learn something new every time.





## Wayang Kulit / Shadow Puppet Play

*Wayang kulit* or shadow puppet play is known to be among the earliest forms of storytelling with dramatic and theatrical elements. At the IAMM Children's Library we have a stage set up for our very own enactments of this ancient art. These are performed live with a translucent screen, a single light source and background music, along with actors impersonating voices and giving credibility to the characters in the stories. Our main concept is showcasing the art of puppetry, the micro movements and manipulation of light and shadow. With this, we combine the art of storytelling with traditional shadow puppets in our collection, together with the adaptation of Malaysia's folklore and tales from all over the world.

Our aim is to uphold this heritage and at the same time attempting to expose children to traditions filled with moral values: from the sweet and cunningly intelligent mousedeer, *Sang Kancil*, to the wisest man, *Hodja*, from Turkey. Look out for our weekly postings on these recorded *wayang kulit* every Saturday at 3pm @iamm.kl Instagram page. There are captions in the videos as we hope for inclusion and accessibility for all.

## Art and Crafts

The IAMM Children's Library offers art and crafts session every weekend. These sessions are designed to accommodate children from the age 4 to 13, with different themes every session. Visitors are encouraged to learn about using recyclable items in everyday life, as is done with these crafts. These activities also aim to create something new and useful out of ordinary everyday objects. The themes include celebrations such as Independence Day and Hari Malaysia, creating crafts related to and inspired by artefacts in the museum or ongoing special exhibitions. With this, we are able to enhance children's understanding of Islamic art and its appreciation. These sessions are also intended to help parents bond with their children. With our guidance, parents are able to help expand their children's vocabularies and fine motor skills. We are continuing to do so, despite the lockdown, from the safety of our visitors' homes. Tune in to our iamm.kl Instagram page every Sunday at 3pm, when our art and crafts sessions are posted. Unleash your creativity and artistic expression, using only simple materials that you might already have at home.



## Online Resources

Our museum offers an extensive range of learning activities and resources specially catered for families and school visitors. These resources, designed to support young learners, are inspired by the wealth of our expansive collections. We welcome you to download and explore these online resources. We hope they can support you in understanding Islamic art in greater depth. Scan the QR code to explore our range of educational resources.



Scan Here

## IAMM CALENDAR 2022: ARABESQUE



The Arabesque, a form of decorative ornament based on stylised leaves and tendrils, is one of the most popular and emblematic elements in Islamic art. Supremely adaptable and versatile, it functions equally effectively in the foreground or as a space-filler, whether in manuscripts and bindings, ceramics, stonework, woodwork, textiles and other media. In 'The Arabesque: An Introduction', the specialist curators of the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia and an international group of experts explore the 1,200-year history of the Arabesque and its worldwide manifestations, from the central lands of Islam to the Malay world and Latin America. The Arabesque: An Introduction' also contains a fully illustrated descriptive catalogue of the exhibition 'The Arabesque', drawing on the rich collections of the IAMM, staged from October 2018 to September 2019 and extended to June 2021 on the occasion of the inauguration of the Albukhary Foundation Gallery of the Islamic World at the British Museum

Price: RM19.90

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