

The Mercantile Effect

On art and exchange in the Islamic world
during 17th-18th centuries



The Cloth Merchant, drawing by Riza Abbasi (circa 1565-1635), ink on paper, Isfahan, Iran.
Washington, Freer Gallery of Art, Charles Lang Freer Endowment, F1953.43.

Conference held at the Barenboim-Said Akademie 33d Französische Strasse, Berlin, 18–19 November 2016

Convened by
Dr Sussan Babaie (The Courtauld Institute of Art)
Dr Melanie Gibson (Gingko Library Art Series)
Dr Barbara Haus Schwepcke (Gingko)

From Agra to Aleppo, Bandar Abbas to Marseilles, Cairo to Canton, Goa to Zanzibar; peoples as diverse as Armenians, Indians, Chinese, Arabs, Persians and Europeans, traversed long distances along land and maritime trade routes moving art things and their attendant ideas, ideals, and technologies. The development of mercantile networks and global trade routes in the early-modern period relied on the emergence of new institutional and cultural methods of exchange. The formulation of diverse collective ventures was organized through the Dutch, English and French East India companies and additionally by the establishment of a colonial presence in the New World by the Dutch and Portuguese, ensuring a territorial sphere of power and increased influence through trade. Material culture – including building ideas – connected aspirations towards prestigious foreign and exotic objects, new luxuries in manufactured textiles, inlaid metalwork, paper products, glazed ceramic and painted porcelain vessels.

The conference will include a literary event, a milestone on the road to the New Divan, the lyrical dialogue between East and West, which will culminate in the Gingko Conference in 2019, on the 200th anniversary of the publication of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's *West-östlicher Divan*.

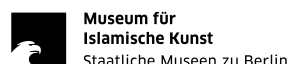
The presentations and discussions will be live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook Live to reach the widest possible audience. Visitors are invited to participate in the discussion via the Twitter handle #askGingko.

The **Barenboim-Said Akademie** is a music academy in Berlin, which finds its roots in the spirit of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, an orchestra founded by the conductor and pianist Daniel Barenboim and Edward W. Said, the American-Palestinian literary theorist and public intellectual, in order to unite young Arab and Israeli musicians.

The **Courtauld Institute of Art** is the world's leading centre for the study of art history, conservation and curating.

The **Gingko** foundations (Gingko Library, a registered charity in England and Wales, and the Stiftung-Gingko Library, Munich and Berlin) promote dialogue with the Middle East, West Asia and North Africa.

The **Multaka** project at the Museum für Islamische Kunst in Berlin trains Syrian and Iraqi refugees as guides so that they can conduct museum tours for Arabic-speaking visitors. Multaka (Arabic for meeting point) also aims to facilitate the interchange of diverse cultural and historical experiences.



Thursday 17 November 2016

15.00-16.00 **Museum für Islamische Kunst**

Welcome by Razan Nassreddine (Project Manager of Museum für Islamische Kunst, Berlin) introducing **Multaka – refugees as guides at the Museum für Islamische Kunst**

Syrian and Iraqi guides will take small groups around the special rooms of the museum.

Walk to the **Barenboim-Said Akademie, 33d Französische Strasse**, the conference location for the following two days

16.30-17.15 **The Alhambra Cupola**

Dr Anna McSweeney (Scientific Associate, Bilderfahrzeuge Project, Warburg Institute, London) will talk about the so-called Alhambra Cupola (Inv.I.5/78), one of the jewels in the collection of the Museum für Islamische Kunst. The particular focus of her talk will be the poetic inscriptions which decorate this fourteenth-century wooden ceiling that once formed part of the Alhambra Palace in Granada, Spain.

17.15-18.00 **Announcement of the poets selected for the New Divan**

Prof Joachim Sartorius
Dr Barbara Schwepcke

18.00-20.00 **Speakers and Sponsors Reception**

Sponsored by the Stiftung-Ginkgo Library and hosted by Prof Michael Naumann of the Barenboim-Said Akademie.

The New Divan is a project of lyrical dialogues between East and West. One year on from its launch in London, project advisor Joachim Sartorius will announce the poets who are to take part. The announcement at the Barenboim-Said Akademie, Ginkgo Library's partner in the New Divan project, will be the first milestone event, to be followed in 2018 by poetry-translation and composition workshops. Building on the rich tradition of poets who have sought inspiration from, and responded to, other cultures, and specifically to their poetry, the New Divan will demonstrate how 'the other' can be a source of inspiration rather than fear.

With publication in 2019 – the 200th anniversary of the publication of Goethe's *West-östlicher Divan – A New Divan* will be an anthology of 24 poems, 12 by poets from the Middle East and North Africa and 12 from the West, inspired by the culture of 'the other'. Each poem will appear in *A New Divan* in English and, where the poem was not written in English, both in its original language of composition and in English translation.

Conference Day One
Friday 18 November 2016

09.15-10.15 Coffee and Registration

10.15-11.00 Welcoming speeches

Dr Barbara Haus Schwepcke (Gingko)

Dr Sussan Babaie (The Courtauld Institute of Art)

Dr Melanie Gibson (Gingko Library Art Series)

11.00-12.30 First Session: **Exchange with China**

Chair: Dr Sussan Babaie (Andrew W. Mellon Reader in the Arts of Iran and Islam, The Courtauld Institute of Art)

- Dr George Manginis (University of Edinburgh): *The Armenians and Chinese Export Ceramics*
- Suet May Lam (Independent Scholar): *Fantasies of the East – ‘Shopping’ in Early Modern Eurasia*
- Amelia Macioszek (Freie Universität Berlin): *Negotiating Appropriation – Later Safavid Adaptations of Chinese Blue-and-White Porcelain*

12.30-14.00 Lunch

14.00-15.30 Second Session: **Trading Textiles**

Chair: Anna Beselin (Senior Textile Conservator, Museum für Islamische Kunst, Berlin)

- Dr Christos Merantzas (University of Patras): *Ottoman Textiles within an Ecclesiastical Context: Cultural Osmoses in Mainland Greece during the 17th and 18th Centuries*
- Dr Zaheen Maqbool (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi): *Craft Exchange and Political Economy of Kashmir in the 17th and 18th Centuries*
- Dr Anna Ballian (Benaki Museum, Athens): *From Genoa to Constantinople: The Silk Industry of Chios*

15.30-16.00 Coffee Break

16.00-17.30 Third Session: **Luxury Goods**

Chair: Dr Melanie Gibson (Gingko Library Art Series)

- Dr Nicole Kançal-Ferrari (Istanbul Şehir University): *Golden Watches and Precious Textiles: Luxury Goods on the Northern Black Sea Shore*
- Alexandra Roy (Sotheby's, London): *The Development of the Matara into a Luxury Object through the Ottoman Trade*
- Dr Nancy Um (Binghamton University, New York): *Aromatics, Stimulants, and their Vessels: The Material Culture and Rites of Merchant Interaction in 18th-century Mocha*

19.00 **Speakers Dinner**

Conference Day Two
Saturday 19 November 2016

09.30-11.00 Fourth Session: **Artistic Dialogue**

Chair: Dr Alberto Saviello ('Transkulturelle Verhandlungsraume von Kunst', Freie Universität Berlin)

- Dr Amy Landau (Walters Art Museum, Baltimore): *The 17th-century Merchant-Artist Minas and the Mediation of Notions of 'Life-likeness'*
- Sinem Erdoğan Işkorkutan (Boğaziçi University, Istanbul): *Dialogues Between Pictorial Traditions: A Transcultural Interpretation of Pictorial Representations of the 1720 Imperial Festival*
- Dr Negar Habibi (Independent Scholar): *From the Western Art Things to the Persian Occidentalism: The Mercantile Effects in 17th-century Iran*

11.00-11.30 Coffee Break

11.30-13.00 Fifth Session: **From East to West and Back Again**

Chair: Prof Stefan Weber (Director, Museum für Islamische Kunst, Berlin)

- Federica Gigante (Warburg Institute, London): *Trading Islamic Artworks in 17th-century Italy*
- Francesco Gusella (Sapienza University, Rome): *Behind the Practice of Partnership: Social and Artistic Patterns of Interaction in the Portuguese Colonies of Gujarat and Malabar (India), 16th–17th Century*
- Lubaaba Al-Azami (University of Liverpool): *'Very rich Stuff': Performative Presentations and the Anglo Courtship of Trade at the Mughal Darbar*

13.00-14.30 Lunch

14.30-16.00 Sixth Session: **Travel and Trade**

Chair: Dr Lale Uluç (Department of History, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul)

- Dr Gül Kale (McGill University): *Visual Memory of an Architect: Cultural Exchange of Images through Traveling and Drawing in the Early-modern Ottoman World*
- Dr Dipti Khera (New York University): *Invitations to Travel: Circulating Pontiffs, Pilgrims and Pictures in the Bazaars of Agra*
- Dr William Kynan-Wilson (Aalborg University): *Curating Travel: Ottoman Costume Albums and their Mercantile Owners*

16.00-16.30 Coffee Break

16.30-17.30 Keynote Lecture
The Culture of Encounters and the Agency of Art through a South Asian Lens
Prof Deborah Swallow (Märit Rausing Director of The Courtauld Institute of Art)

17.30-18.15 Gingko Conference 2017
Religious Imaginations and Global Transitions
[open to members of the public who have registered]

The causes of global transitions are numerous and complex. Market globalization, technology, climate change and postcolonial political forces are all forging a new world. But caught up in the mix are some powerful religious narratives that are galvanizing peoples and reimagining political and social orders. Some are repressive, fundamentalist imaginings such as the so-called Islamic State. Others could be described as post-religious, such as the evolution of universal human rights out of the European Christian tradition. But the question of the compatibility of these religious worldviews, particularly those that have emerged out of the Abrahamic faith traditions, is perhaps the most pressing issue in global stability today. What scope for dialogue is there between the Jewish, Muslim and Christians ways of imagining the future? How can we engage with these multiple imaginations to create a shared peaceful future?

Revd Dr James Walters (Chaplain of the Faith Centre at the London School of Economics), convenor of 2017 conference, will be in conversation with a panel of experts on interfaith relations, which will include Dr Mena Mark Hanna, Dean of the Barenboim Said Akademie, and Roland Stolte, the Vorsitzender des Verwaltungsdirektoriums der Stiftung House of One – Bet- und Lehrhaus, Berlin. The theme of the 2017 Gingko Conference in the LSE is 'Religious Imaginations and Global Transitions'.

18.15-18.30 **Concluding Speeches**
Dr Sussan Babaie and Dr Melanie Gibson

[Items on the programme are subject to change]