

WINTER JAN—MAR 2017

EXPLORE

AGA KHAN MUSEUM PROGRAM GUIDE



AGA KHAN MUSEUM



SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

REBEL, JESTER, MYSTIC, POET

CONTEMPORARY PERSIANS

February 4 to June 4, 2017

Cultural rebellion and lyrical reflection come together in this world-premiere exhibition showcasing one of the most important collections of contemporary Iranian art. Encounter the works of 23 artists who have chosen self-expression over silence — men and women separated by generations but united in their desire to explore complex issues against a backdrop of political and social unrest.

Rebel, Jester, Mystic, Poet: Contemporary Persians illuminates the many identities of today's Iranian artists — identities previously unseen by the West. Spanning four presidencies in Iran and three in the United States, this period, rife with political tension, has given rise to inventive and insightful art which examines gender, politics, and religion with an indomitable spirit. Selected from the Mohammed Afkhami Collection, painting, video, sculpture, and photography produced since 1998 are representative of a contemporary generation.

Discover how Shirin Aliabadi (b. 1973) and Khosrow Hassanzadeh (b. 1963) — both rebels and jesters — use photography to present disarming critiques of Western pop culture and definitions of “terrorism.” Witness the poetic vision of Abbas Kiarostami (1940–2016), whose quiet rendering of snow can be traced back to the outbreak of the Iranian Revolution. See how poet and mystic reside in Morteza Ahmadvand (b. 1982) as he delivers, through video, an eloquent plea for religious tolerance.

At once challenging and meditative, humorous and eye-opening, our newest exhibition provides a multidimensional portrait of Iranian art in the 21st century.

Organized by the Aga Khan Museum with the cooperation of Mohammed Afkhami, Afkhami Foundation.

Curator
Dr. Fereshteh Daftari

CURATOR'S TALK

Rebel, Jester, Mystic, Poet
with Dr. Fereshteh Daftari

Saturday, February 4, 2–4 pm

\$20, \$18 Friends,
\$12 students and seniors

PERFORMANCE

A Night with Mohsen Namjoo
at the Toronto Centre for the Arts

Friday, February 24, 8 pm

Tickets starting at \$45, 10% off for Friends
Presented in partnership with TIRGAN

AFTERNOON LECTURE

Rumi and the Religion of Love

Thursday, March 23, 1–2 pm

Free with Museum admission

For details and more exhibition-related programming, see pages 6–9.



SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

SYRIA

A LIVING HISTORY

Closing February 26, 2017

“Poignant and cathartic... it reminds visitors what humans are capable of — at their best and worst.” — Melik Kaylan, *The Wall Street Journal*

This critically-acclaimed exhibition shows a side of Syria most have never seen. Expand your understanding of a region today defined by stories of conflict and displacement. Five thousand years of creativity await you!

In partnership with

Media Partners

Supported by



AGA KHAN MUSEUM PATRONS

MOHAMMAD AND NAJLA AL ZAIBAK

BAY TREE FOUNDATION

Community Partners



Mesopotamian and Greek, Roman and Byzantine, Persian, Ottoman, and Arab: diverse peoples have, for millennia, settled near the eastern Mediterranean in a region we now know as Syria.

Appreciate this diversity through 48 remarkable objects — from a 5,000-year-old eye idol to contemporary paintings responding to 21st-century conflict in personal ways. Engage with the evolving languages of Syria, explore a virtual “Aleppo Room,” and contribute your own thoughts and opinions to those of Museum visitors from all over the world.

This compelling exhibition is the result of an unprecedented partnership between the Aga Khan Museum, UNESCO, private collectors, and leading national and international institutions. Together, they share the urgency of celebrating and preserving the cultural heritage at risk in Syria today.

Co-Curators

Dr. Filiz Çakır Phillip, Aga Khan Museum

Professor Nasser Rabbat, Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, MIT

Historian

Dr. Ross Burns, Sydney, Australia

CURATOR'S TOUR

Syria: A Living History
with Dr. Filiz Çakır Phillip

Thursday, February 16, 6:30 pm

\$20, \$18 Friends, \$12 students and seniors

AFTERNOON LECTURE

A Pearl in the Desert:
Palmyra's Multicultural Society

Thursday, January 26, 1–2 pm

Free with Museum admission

PERFORMANCE

Mwashahat and Qudood
by The Canadian Arabic Orchestra
and The Canadian Arabic Choir

Saturday, January 28, 7:30 pm

Tickets starting at \$35, 10% off for Friends

An associate partnership presented by

The Canadian Arabic Orchestra

For details and more exhibition-related programming, see pages 6–9.



LEARNING AT THE AGA KHAN MUSEUM

Explore the arts of Muslim civilizations through workshops, talks, and tours — or bring your family for drop-in art activities!

AFTERNOON LECTURES

Free with Museum admission

A Pearl in the Desert: Palmyra's Multicultural Society

Thursday, January 26, 1–2 pm

Join archaeologist and ancient Middle East specialist Dr. Clemens Reichel for an illustrated journey through the magnificent architecture and rich multicultural history of Palmyra.

Damascus Remembered: Walking the City in Time

Thursday, February 9, 1–2 pm

Like Renaissance artists who immortalized their cities in painting, Damascene scholars visualized their city in text. Historian and author Dr. Dana Sajdi (Boston College) charts prose from the 12th to the 20th centuries.

Rumi and the Religion of Love

Thursday, March 23, 1–2 pm

Explore the intersection of love and religion in the poetry of Rumi with Dr. Reza Tabandeh (University of Toronto).

CURATOR'S TALK

Rebel, Jester, Mystic, Poet

Saturday, February 4, 2–4 pm

\$20, \$18 Friends, \$12 students and seniors

Dr. Fereshteh Daftari introduces key features of contemporary Iranian art through an illustrated talk of works in the exhibition.

CURATOR'S TOUR

Syria: A Living History

Thursday, February 16, 6:30 pm

\$20, \$18 Friends, \$12 students and seniors

Join Dr. Filiz Çakır Phillip as she explores continuities in Syrian art over 5,000 years.

THE AGA KHAN MUSEUM WELCOMES TEACHERS

Teachers, did you know we offer school programs for Grades K–12? For curriculum links and booking details, visit agakhanmuseum.org/learn or email learn@agakhanmuseum.org.

GET READY FOR SUMMER CAMP!

Dress to Impress (Ages 6–8) and Silk Route Adventures (Ages 9–12)

July 17–21, 9 am–4 pm

\$300, \$270 Friends, 10% sibling discount

Extended care \$60 per week

Art Treasures (Ages 6–8) and Science Explorers (Ages 9–12)

July 24–28, 9 am–4 pm

\$300, \$270 Friends, 10% sibling discount

Extended care \$60 per week

Be the first to register your child for a jam-packed week of art exploration. This year we offer two exciting, week-long sessions for two age groups themed to science, art, and adventure! Visit agakhanmuseum.org/learn for details.

Programming subject to change. Please visit agakhanmuseum.org for up-to-date information.

ARTISTS' SYMPOSIUM

Rebel, Jester, Mystic, Poet: Contemporary Art

Sunday, March 5, 10:30 am–5 pm

\$40, \$36 Friends, \$20 students and seniors

Includes Museum admission

Are “cultural rebellion and lyrical reflection” key features of Iranian art today, or of contemporary art in general? Come prepared for keynote talks and lively discussion when artists and scholars from both Iran and Canada gather for this one-day symposium. Tour of *Rebel, Jester, Mystic, Poet: Contemporary Persians* included.

WORKSHOP

Aleppo Soap-making Workshop

Sunday, February 5, 11 am–4 pm

\$50, \$45 Friends, \$40 students and seniors

(+ materials fee \$25)

Learn the ancient art of Aleppo soap-making in this workshop led by Synara Usama of Syn's Organic Secrets! Create your own products to pamper your skin using olive oil, laurel berries, coconut oils, oats, and other natural ingredients.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Family Day Drop-in Activities

Monday, February 20, 12–4 pm

Free with Museum admission

Join us for some Family Day fun in our Education Centre! Create art themed to our current exhibitions. Recommended for families with children aged 5–12. Adult accompaniment required.

March Break Drop-in Activities

March 11–19, 12–4 pm

Free with Museum admission

Bring the family for March Break fun all week long. Explore the Silk Routes, talk to Museum experts, engage with real artifacts, and enjoy art activities inspired by the special exhibition *Rebel, Jester, Mystic, Poet: Contemporary Persians*. Adult accompaniment required.

Family Sundays

Sundays, 12–4 pm

Free with Museum admission

Drop into our Education Centre every Sunday for art activities inspired by our exhibitions! Designed for children aged 5–12. Adult accompaniment required.



PERFORMANCES

Our winter programming kicks off with a celebration of Syrian music and film, then shifts to explore the rhythms, poetry, dance, and melodies of Iran.



Mohsen Namjoo

SHOWCASE PERFORMANCES

Mwashahat and Qudood
by The Canadian Arabic Orchestra
and The Canadian Arabic Choir

Saturday, January 28, 7:30 pm

Tickets starting at \$35, 10% off for Friends

Taking its name from a scarf adorned with ornaments (*wishah*), the musical form *Mwashahat* in turn inspired the *Qudood* of 18th-century Syria. Experience the majestic beauty of these songs in an evening honouring Arab masters.

An associate partnership presented by



A Night with Mohsen Namjoo
at the Toronto Centre for the Arts

Friday, February 24, 8 pm

Tickets starting at \$45, 10% off for Friends

Dubbed “the Bob Dylan of Iran” by *The New York Times*, singer-songwriter Mohsen Namjoo is a true musical rebel in style and spirit. His powerful songs meld Western and Persian traditions: electric guitar and sitar, rock and *avaz*. Don’t miss this visionary performer live at the Toronto Centre for the Arts! Visit tcentre.com or the Toronto Centre for the Arts box office for tickets.

Presented in partnership with



PRIVATE EVENTS

Host your next event with us and enjoy one of Toronto’s most spectacular venues for receptions, weddings, and corporate events!

For more information, call 416.646.4671 or email private.events@agakhanmuseum.org.



100 Years of Iranian Piano Music:
Layla Ramezan with Special Guest Sina Bathaie

Saturday, February 25, 8 pm

Tickets starting at \$40, 10% off for Friends

Trained in both Europe and Iran, Layla Ramezan is equally accomplished in classical and contemporary musical traditions. Such depth of talent fuels her evolving project *100 Years of Iranian Piano Music*. Get acquainted with the Persian ancestor of the piano with a *santur* performance. Then, enjoy a century in one evening through the music of multiple Iranian composers!

Mystic Persian Music and Poetry
with Soley Ensemble

Saturday, March 4, 8 pm

Tickets starting at \$40, 10% off for Friends

Tehran-born singer Soley Vaseghi joins local musicians for a memorable performance in honour of Nowruz, an annual New Year’s celebration and welcoming of spring with Iranian *Qawwali*-style Sufi music and the poetry of Rumi, Attar, Hafiz, and more. Presented in Persian and English.

An associate partnership presented by Rumi Canada as part of their Mystical Sufi Series.



RUMI CANADA

Sahba Motallebi with Special Guest Maneli Jamal
at the Toronto Centre for the Arts

Saturday, March 11, 5 pm

Free

Have you heard the *tar* and guitar performed live in the same evening? Visit the Toronto Centre for the Arts to experience the unique beauty of each instrument, brought to life by the incomparable Sahba Motallebi and Maneli Jamal. Visit tcentre.com or the Toronto Centre for the Arts box office to reserve your seats.

Presented in partnership with TIRGAN as part of the Nowruzgan Festival at the Toronto Centre for the Arts.



tirgan

Programming subject to change. Please visit agakhanmuseum.org for up-to-date information.

FILMS

A Syrian Love Story (NR)
(Sean McAllister, 2015, 76 min.)

Sunday, January 15, 2 pm

\$12, \$10 Friends

An intimate love story and portrait of a troubled country: filmed over five years, this award-winning documentary follows a couple who meet in a Syrian prison cell.

On the Bride’s Side (NR)
(Antonio Augugliaro et al., 2016, 89 min.)

Sunday, January 29, 2 pm

\$12, \$10 Friends

Discover the fates of five Palestinians and Syrians as they make an incredible real-life journey from Milan to Stockholm — aided by two erstwhile “traffickers,” a poet and a journalist.

Films presented in partnership with



On the Bride’s Side (2016)

DINE

Escape winter at Diwan, open for lunch Tuesday to Sunday, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. Sample Chef McEwan's Syrian-inspired dishes, or join us on Valentine's Day for a special lunch menu (opentable.com).

Private dining experiences for up to 85 guests are also available. For more information, call 416.646.4671.



JOIN TODAY!

Friends of the Museum are the first to experience exhibitions, and always visit for free. Take advantage of special discounts on dining and shopping, invitations to exclusive events, and more!

Experience more as a Patron and enjoy enhanced access to the Museum.

To learn more or join, call 416.646.4667 or visit agakhanmuseum.org/join-and-support.

HOURS AND TICKETS

Monday: Closed (except holiday Mondays)
Tuesday: 10 am–6 pm
Wednesday: 10 am–8 pm
Thursday–Sunday: 10 am–6 pm

Enjoy free Museum admission every Wednesday from 4–8 pm.

Holiday Hours
December 24: 10 am–4 pm
Closed December 25
December 26: 10 am–6 pm
December 31: 10 am–4 pm
January 1 & 2: 10 am–6 pm
February 20: 10 am–6 pm
March 13: 10 am–6 pm

General Admission
Friends: Free
Adults: \$20
Seniors (65+): \$15
Students: * \$12
Children & Youth (6–13): \$10
Family Package: * \$50

*For more information, please visit agakhanmuseum.org.

HOW TO GET HERE

The Aga Khan Museum is located at 77 Wynford Drive, Toronto. Please visit agakhanmuseum.org for directions, parking information, and TTC routes.

TOURS

Enrich your experience at the Museum by taking a tour with a knowledgeable Museum guide: \$10 adults, \$5 students and seniors plus admission. Simply book these tours at the Tickets Desk when you arrive at the Museum. Tour offerings vary per season. Visit agakhanmuseum.org/visit/tours for details.

Group Sales

Do you have a group of 10 or more? Are you a hotel professional, meeting planner, or tour operator? Call Group Reservations at 416.646.4678 to discuss special rates and options or visit agakhanmuseum.org/visit/group-visit for details.

School Visits

Teachers, bring your students to the Aga Khan Museum for a fun, Ontario Curriculum-driven session of exploring and creating. Customize your own visit, or choose from a roster of Aga Khan Museum school programs.

Each two-hour program includes discovery in the Museum's exhibitions and an activity in the Education Centre. Visit agakhanmuseum.org/learn or email learn@agakhanmuseum.org for details.

ACCESSIBILITY

The Aga Khan Museum is wheelchair-accessible. Drop-offs at the street-level entrance can be made prior to parking.

A limited number of wheelchairs are available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information about accessibility, please call 416.646.4677 ext. 7700.

CONTACT US

General Information:
416.646.4677

Friends of the Museum:
416.646.4667

Diwan Restaurant:
416.646.4670

Museum Shop:
416.646.4677 ext. 7805

Private Events:
416.646.4671

Group Reservations:
416.646.4678

Education Bookings:
416.646.4677 ext. 7726 or
learn@agakhanmuseum.org

SHOP

Express your love this Valentine's Day with a special gift from our Shop!

Choose from a wide variety of items exclusively designed for the Museum and inspired by our beautiful Collection.

Shop in person or online at shop.agakhanmuseum.org.



agakhanmuseum.org

77 Wynford Drive, Toronto, Ontario, M3C 1K1

416.646.4677 info@agakhanmuseum.org



Follow us on

facebook.com/agakhanmuseumtoronto

twitter.com/agakhanmuseum

instagram.com/agakhanmuseum

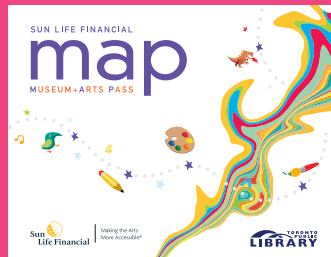
Sign up for our e-Newsletter at agakhanmuseum.org

and receive the latest news about our events and exhibitions!

The Aga Khan Museum is a proud participant in:

Sun Life Financial Museum + Arts Pass Program at 50 Toronto Public Library branches. Borrow a free family pass with your library card! To learn more, visit torontopubliclibrary.ca/mappass.

The Institute for Canadian Citizenship's Cultural Access Pass, granting new Canadians free admission to national parks and cultural attractions for one year. Visit culturalaccesspass.ca.



Copyright © The Aga Khan Museum, 2016.

Credits:

Cover: *Miss Hybrid 3*, Shirin Aliabadi, 2008, print. Copyright © Shirin Aliabadi, 2008, image courtesy of Mohammed Afkhami Collection.

Pages 2–3: *Untitled (Rapture series)*, Shirin Neshat, 1999, silver gelatin print. Copyright © Shirin Neshat, 1999, image courtesy of Mohammed Afkhami Collection.

Pages 4–5: *Deluge: The Gods Abandon Palmyra*, Elias Zayat, 2011–2012, acrylic on canvas. Copyright © Elias Zayat, 2012, image courtesy of the Atassi Foundation.

Pages 6–7, 10–11: Photos by Janet Kimber.

Page 8: "Mohsen Namjoo" photo by Babak Payami. "Private Events" photo by Janet Kimber.

Page 9: Film still from *On the Bride's Side* (2016).