



The Institute of Ismaili Studies

THE
BRITISH
MUSEUM



People of the Prophet's House

Art, Architecture and Shi'ism
in the Islamic World

An International Conference
British Museum, London
26 – 28 March 2009



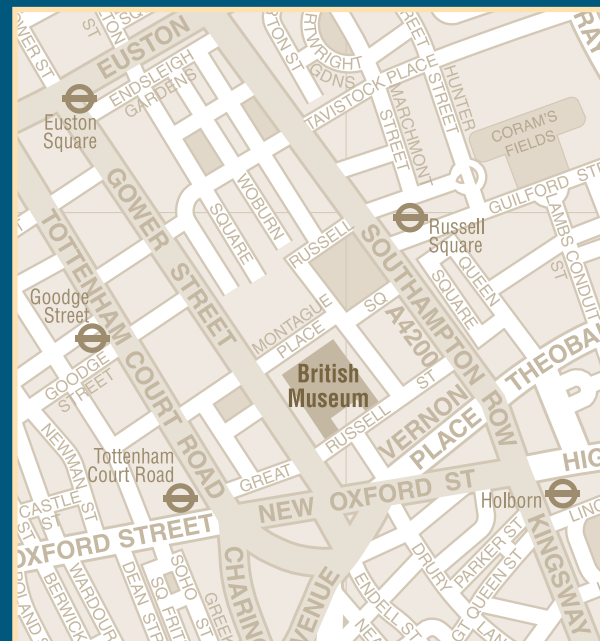
The conference will be held at

**BP Lecture Theatre
British Museum
Great Russell Street
London, WC1B 3DG
United Kingdom**

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7323 8000/8299

Website: www.britishmuseum.org

*The British Museum and the BP Lecture Theatre are
wheelchair accessible*



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All registration forms and enquiries should
be directed to:

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Website: www.iis.ac.uk/artconference

This conference is sponsored by



The Institute of Ismaili Studies

THE
BRITISH
MUSEUM

in conjunction with the
British Museum's major exhibition

Shah 'Abbas: The Remaking of Iran

(19 February – 14 June 2009)



“They said: Do you wonder at Allah’s bidding? The mercy of Allah and His blessings are on you, O People of the House (*Ahl al-Bayt*), surely He is Praised, Glorious.”

Holy Qur’an, 11:73

The Arabic phrase ‘*Ahl al-Bayt*’ or ‘People of the Household’ is mentioned twice in the Holy Qur’an and, in one instance, refers specifically to the family of the Prophet Muhammad. For Shi’a Muslims, the term refers to the Prophet’s daughter, Fatima, her husband, ‘Ali ibn Abi Talib, who was the Prophet’s cousin and first Shi’i Imam (leader), their two sons, Imam Hasan and Imam Husayn, and subsequently to their descendants. Today, Shi’a Muslims reside predominantly in the Middle East with sizable minorities in South and Central Asia, making up 10% of the world’s culturally diverse Muslim population. Although, like all Muslims, the Shi’a have always been and remain ethnically, culturally and even religiously diverse, their shared beliefs and practices which centre on reverence for the Prophet and his descendants have greatly impacted Muslim material culture.

Who are the Shi’a? Can we identify art, architecture and material culture that is inspired by Shi’i traditions from around the world and throughout history? These questions are explored in an intellectually stimulating and visually enthralling three-day international conference. Covering topics from shrine and mosque architecture, manuscript painting, religious iconography, ritual expressions and contemporary cinema, the papers also span a wide geographic area from West Africa and the Middle East to Southeast Asia and China.

The conference will be held at the British Museum, BP Lecture Theatre, from Thursday 26 - Saturday 28 March 2009.

As places are limited, please register early to avoid disappointment.

Image © Aga Khan Trust for Culture

Conference Speakers include:

James W. Allan, University of Oxford, UK

Sheila Blair, Boston College, USA

Jonathan Bloom, Boston College, USA

Sheila R. Canby, British Museum, UK

Massumeh Farhad, Freer Gallery of Art/Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, USA

May Farhat, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Oleg Grabar, Institute for Advanced Study, USA

Christiane Gruber, Indiana University, USA

Shainool Jiwa, Institute of Ismaili Studies, UK

Ruba Kana’an, York University, Canada

Oliver Leaman, University of Kentucky, USA

Mara Leichtman, Michigan State University, USA

Rizwan Mawani, Institute of Ismaili Studies, UK

Melanie Michailidis, Carleton College, USA

Stephennie Mulder, University of Texas at Austin, USA

Nacim Pak-Shiraz, SOAS, University of London, UK

Venetia Porter, British Museum, UK

Nasser Rabbat, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA

Fahmida Suleman, Institute of Ismaili Studies, UK

Yasser Tabbaa, King’s Academy, Jordan

Luke Treadwell, Ashmolean Museum, UK

Zeynep Yurekli-Gorkay, University of Oxford, UK

For the full programme, to download further application forms and for further details please visit:
www.iis.ac.uk/artconference

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APPLICATION FORM

Name:

Address (where conference information should be sent)

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Post Code:

Phone:

Email:

How did you hear about this event?

Registration Cost (*please tick appropriate box*)

Full Rate: £55 (3 days) ☐, £25 (1 day) ☐

Concessions (students with valid ID, Seniors, and unwaged):
£25 (3 days) ☐, £10 (1 day) ☐

Please make cheque or banker’s draft in UK£ payable to ‘**The Institute of Ismaili Studies**’ and post it to:

Dr Fahmida Suleman
The Institute of Ismaili Studies
210 Euston Road
London NW1 2DA, United Kingdom

I wish to pay by cash on the day ☐
(*please bring exact sum*)

