

The Silk Road: A Living History takes viewers on a West-East expedition they won't soon forget

Open-air photography exhibition in the Aga Khan Park documents UK writer-photographer's 2019 journey from Venice to Beijing

Toronto — November 9, 2021 — The Aga Khan Museum's latest open-air photography exhibition is a radiantly colourful celebration of the diverse people and places populating one of history's most important trade routes.

Open now until March 2022, *The Silk Road: A Living History* transports viewers into Christopher Wilton-Steer's 2019 expedition from Venice to Beijing. The UK-based writer and photographer traversed 40,000 kilometres over four months, documenting the architecture, the natural beauty, the history, and most importantly, the people he encountered along the way. The resulting collection of photos is a powerful testament to the common humanity we all share and the deeply rooted connections that exist between disparate cultures.

By exploring [*The Silk Road: A Living History*](#), viewers will encounter sights and stories from more than 15 countries. Accompanying Wilton-Steer's breathtaking photos are first-person testimonies revealing what he heard, thought, and felt while looking through his camera's viewfinder. Through these personal stories, viewers will meet people and communities who left a lasting impression on Wilton-Steer and bring the exhibition to life.

What's more, viewers will have the opportunity to delve even deeper into *The Silk Road: A Living History* during a special virtual talk with Wilton-Steer on November 28. In a conversation presented by the Ismaili Centre, Toronto, and moderated by the Museum's Director and CEO, Dr. Ulrike Al-Khamis, he will reveal more remarkable stories from his Silk Road expedition and speak to why he wanted to share his travel photographs with the world. The talk will stream live at <https://tv.ismaili/> at 8 pm ET/5 pm PT.

Making its North American debut at the Aga Khan Museum and Aga Khan Park, *The Silk Road: A Living History* is adapted from a series of 160 photographs first exhibited at Kings Cross in London, UK, earlier this year. The exhibition, presented in partnership with the Aga Khan Foundation UK and the Ismaili Centre, Toronto, is viewable for free in the Aga Khan Park from dusk until dawn, Monday to Sunday. Additional photos from Wilton-Steer's journey will go on display in the Ismaili Centre, Toronto later this fall.

Spellbinding on its own, *The Silk Road: A Living History* also serves as a spectacular companion piece to one of the Museum's newest and most ambitious special exhibitions — where viewers will see 1,000 years of history leap off the page on a book-fuelled journey across the Silk Roads. Open until February 27, 2021, [*Hidden Stories: Books Along the Silk Roads*](#) shines a light on how books and the craftspeople who made them connected cultures, facilitated trade, and transported art and ideas across continents and centuries.

A deeper look into the people, places, and cultures encountered by Wilton-Steer on his journey can be found on the exhibition website at www.silkroad-livinghistory.org.

Also showing this season at the Aga Khan Museum

Labyrinth Ensemble with Lamia Yared — November 13, 8 pm. Tickets: \$40 regular, \$36 Friends, \$30 students and seniors, \$20 artists (only available in person or by calling 416-646-4677) Includes same-day Museum admission.

See and hear the cultures of the Silk Roads intersect on stage during the [Labyrinth Ensemble's first-ever full-group performance](#). This collection of 14 master musicians is dedicated to experimenting with and promoting sonic traditions from Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and beyond. Spotlighted during the concert will be the impassioned vocals of Lamia Yared, the first-ever Labyrinth Ontario artist-in-residence. Born in Lebanon and raised in Montreal, Lamia Yared has mesmerized audiences worldwide with her soulful explorations of traditional Turkish and Arabic musical styles.

Support

Hidden Stories: Books Along the Silk Roads is presented by Sunray Group.

About the Aga Khan Museum

The Aga Khan Museum in Toronto, Canada, has been established and developed by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). The Museum's mission is to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of the contribution that Muslim civilizations have made to world heritage while often reflecting, through both its permanent and temporary exhibitions, how cultures connect with one another. Designed by architect Fumihiko Maki, the Museum shares a 6.8-hectare site with Toronto's Ismaili Centre, which was designed by architect Charles Correa. The surrounding landscaped park was designed by landscape architect Vladimir Djurovic.

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