

## Explore History and Architecture with the Aga Khan Museum's Fall Education Programs

**Toronto, September 21, 2016** — The Aga Khan Museum announces its fall education programming, which begins October 16. New this season is a wealth of lectures, courses and workshops, many of which are designed to complement the Museum's current exhibition *Álvaro Siza: Gateway to the Alhambra* and the world premiere exhibition *Syria: A Living History*, which opens October 15.

The season kicks off **October 16** with a rare opportunity to hear Professor Maamoun Abdulkarim, Syria's Director-General of Antiquities and Museums Directorate, discuss the impact of the current conflict in Syria on its architectural heritage in "Heritage and Conflict: Syria's Battle to Save Its Past." Additional education programming for *Syria: A Living History* includes a lecture exploring one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited Syrian cities, Aleppo, and its architecture by renowned archaeological authority, Dr. Ross Burns on **November 13**.

On **October 29** and **October 30**, the Museum will present a comprehensive two-day symposium on the art and architecture of Syria, which is co-organized by Dr. Ruba Kana'an, Head of Education and Scholarly Programs at the Museum and Professor Nasser Rabbat, who is a co-curator of the exhibition *Syria: A Living History*. The symposium brings together 10 international scholars working in the fields of history, archaeology, and art history to explore the long history of Syria as a place of multicultural interaction and artistic production. Speakers at the symposium include Manar Hammad (Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris III); Alan Walmsley (University of Copenhagen); and Christa Salamandra (City University of New York).

Visitors to the Museum will also have the chance to gain hands-on learning with four new courses and workshops. Beginning **October 19**, art lovers will learn how to create their own masterpieces with artist Kelley Aitken in "Drawing at the Aga Khan Museum," which takes place across eight weeks from September to December 2016. The following week, on **October 26**, the Museum welcomes back Sudharshan Durayappah, with his new course "Lasting Impact: The Art of the Silk Routes" which runs for eight classes through December 2016.

Other highlights from the fall schedule include:

- A lecture on the evolving collection at the Aga Khan Museum, with Dr. Ruba Kana'an (October 20, 1-2 pm)
- A workshop on geometric patterns from the Alhambra, with Aneesa Patel (November 20, 10 am-3 pm); tying in to the exhibition, *Álvaro Siza: Gateway to the Alhambra*.
- A lecture on clothing and national identity in Turkey with Sevgi Adak (November 23, 6:30 pm)

Full details about Education programs at the Aga Khan Museum are available at [agakhanmuseum.org](http://agakhanmuseum.org).



**The Aga Khan Museum** in Toronto, Canada has been established and developed by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), which is 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.

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