

Aga Khan Museum Launches International Roster of Fall Education Programs New Authors Series Begins October 7

Toronto, October 6, 2015. Following a wildly successful Anniversary Lecture with religious commentator and scholar Karen Armstrong, the Aga Khan Museum officially launches its fall educational programming on October 7. New this season, an Authors Series brings writers and readers together, exploring fiction (through Nazneen Sheikh's riveting tale of war and art theft, *The Place of Shining Light*); 10th-century Arab music and poetry (in a Glossary animated by historian-musician George Sawa); and Shi'a visual culture (through essays edited by British Museum curator Fahmida Suleman).

The rich variety of this Authors Series is demonstrated by the season as a whole. Head of Education Ruba Kana'an comments, "This fall's education programs bring the world to the Aga Khan Museum, and they do so through every imaginable lens: art, music, literature, history — even anthropology. I'm excited about the opportunities for discovery that this season offers our visitors."

October 17 brings **Dr. Michael D. Willis** (British Museum curator, researcher, and historian) to the Museum for the closing keynote lecture of the American Council for Southern Asian Art Symposium XVII. On **November 18**, **George McNeely**, Vice President for International Affairs at World Monuments Fund, shares with Toronto audiences the challenges of protecting the world's architectural treasures. Global issues take a local and national turn on **December 6**, when a star-studded cast of Canadian artists and critics use the exhibition *Home Ground: Contemporary Art from the Barjeel Art Foundation* as a point of departure in a day-long symposium organized by Ruba Kana'an and artist **Jamelie Hassan**. First Nations artist **Robert Houle** and cultural critic **Dot Tuer** are joined by **John Greyson**, **Zainub Verjee**, **Mohammed Mohsen**, **Luis Jacob**, and **Swapnaa Tamhane** in stimulating discussion and a special tour of *Home Ground*.

Other highlights this fall:

- A **new 6-week course for adults** led by artist and educator **Unaiza Karim** that combines gallery exploration and hands-on studio application to discover the art of Islamic manuscript decoration (illumination) (starts October 25, 12–3 pm).
- Free with Museum admission, **Afternoon Lectures** in the beautiful Bellerive Room tackle a wide range of subjects, including how Palestinian and Israeli artists engage with the separation wall (**Nayrouz Abu Hatoum**, November 18, 1–2 pm).
- The ever-popular **Family Sundays** drop-in program continues (12–4 pm), supplemented in October with Saturday sessions at selected Toronto Public Library branches (October 17, 24).

Full details about Education programs at the Aga Khan Museum are available at agakhanmuseum.org.

The Aga Khan Museum gratefully acknowledges the support of the Greater Houston Retailers Cooperative Association for its educational programming.

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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