



SECTION THREE: LEARNING WITH AGA KHAN MUSEUM RESOURCES

This section of *Learning at the Aga Khan Museum* is arranged according to three levels: Grades One to Three, Grades Four to Six, and Grades Seven and Eight. Each level is further divided according to the resource — painting or manuscript, three-dimensional object, or performance.

HOW TO USE THIS SECTION

The information, questions, and activities for each resource are not meant as formal lesson plans. Rather, they can be integrated into an existing unit to stimulate students' inquiry, inspire their creative work, and encourage their reflection according to the disciplinary approach of a specific subject area.



Grade Level _____

GRADES ONE TO THREE

Art Form _____

LEARNING FROM PAINTINGS

Title, Image, and Label of Work of Art _____



Figure 8:
Young Men Carried Off by a Simorgh
Possibly folio from a dispersed *khamsheh*
(Quintet) of *Asiir Khosrow* (d. 1325)
Attributed to Basawan
India (Historic Hindustan), ca. 1590
Opaque watercolour and gold on paper
38.6 x 25.1 cm
AKM140

Short Description _____

The fantastic painting in Figure 8 depicts an equally fantastic subject: a giant mythical bird known as a *simorgh* carries two men gripped tightly in her beak while another clings to her talons. The illustration is possibly from a tale in the poetry collection *Haf: Paykar* (Seven Beauties) of the Persian poet Nezami Ganjavi (d. 1209).

Did You Know? _____

Did You Know?

Although quite similar to the phoenix, the *simorgh* is different from other mythical beasts. Unlike dragons, which are usually depicted as male, ferocious, and threatening, the *simorgh* is female and often helps human beings.

CURRICULUM EXPECTATIONS AND KEY UNDERSTANDINGS

VISUAL ART

Expectations and Ideas _____

OME Expectation	Key Understanding
Identify the elements of design. Understand how these elements work and learn to use them in creative work.	Developing Creativity, Communicating: Works of art communicate thoughts, feelings, and ideas, and an understanding of the elements and principles of design supports both the creation and analysis of works of art.
Identify contrast (Grade One), repetition (Grade Two), and variety (Grade Three) as principles of design that are used with the elements of design to make art. Learn to use them in creative work.	

Prompts and Activities _____

LEARNING THROUGH INQUIRY AND LEARNING BY DOING: PROMPTS AND ACTIVITIES

Visual Arts: Discovering elements and principles of design in a work of art

- **Colour:** How has the artist used colour in the work in Figure 8? Look at where the lighter and darker colours are. Try colouring in squares of the colours you see in the painting with the darkest at the top and the lightest at the bottom. Now turn the page around so the order is reversed. Why do you think the artist arranged the colours the way you see them?

Figure 7:
Layout of a page
in Section Three
of the *Guide*.

All images can be accessed at www.agakhanmuseum.org/collection/collection-highlights

