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VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

FALL 2017

A group of international scholars, collectors, curators, and artists gather at VMFA, November 2–4, 2017, for the Seventh Biennial Hamad bin Khalifa Symposium on Islamic Art. *Islamic Art: Past, Present, and Future* is sponsored by Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts, VCUarts Qatar, and the Qatar Foundation.

Presentations address ways in which Islamic art engages with contemporary politics, global capitalism, gender, religion, and history, and how Western museums have approached collecting and curating arts of the Islamic world. Speakers include Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa Bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Mohammad al-Asad, HRH Princess Wijdan (Ali) Al-Hashemi, Sultan Sooud al-Qassemi, Stefano Carboni, Lalla Essaydi, Hassan Hajjaj, Linda Komaroff, Nacim Pak-Shiraz, Venetia Porter, Nada Shabout, Shahzia Sikander, and Newsha Tavakolian.

The keynote address will be given by the contemporary artist Lalla Essaydi, whose work often combines Islamic calligraphy with representations of the female form to address the complex realities of Arab female identity from the unique perspective of intimate, personal experience. Essaydi's photograph *La Grande Odalisque* was acquired by VMFA in 2012.

The symposium is open to the public. For information, visit www.islamicartdoha.org.

ISLAMIC ART: Past, Present, and Future



La Grande Odalisque from the series **Les Femmes du Maroc**, 2008, Lalla Essaydi (Moroccan, born 1956), color photograph. Funds provided by Mary and Donald Shockey Jr. and Jil and Hiter Harris, 2012.78

TRAVERSES: Art from the Islamic World Across Time and Place

This installation, organized by Dr. John Henry Rice, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Curator of South Asian and Islamic Art, offers works that span more than 1,000 years and three continents from regions where Islam is or has been the dominant religion, or by artists originally from such places. “These works address recurring themes, such as the centrality of writing to these artistic traditions and question how, and to what degree, is this Islamic art,” says Rice.



S4M53, 2004, Farhad Moshiri (Iranian, born 1963), oil on canvas. Kathleen Boone Samuels Memorial Fund, with additional funds provided by Dr. and Mrs. G. Dastgir Qureshi and Mary and Donald Shockey, Jr., 2004.68