

## Pearls of Wisdom: The Arts of Islam at the University of Michigan

The online exhibition “Pearls of Wisdom: The Arts of Islam at the University of Michigan” was created in conjunction with the physical show presented by the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology in Fall 2014. It highlights the richness and diversity of Islamic art through a range of artworks held in the collections of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Objects include ceramics, glasswares, metalwares, woodwork, textiles, illustrated manuscripts, and paintings. The website serves to advertise, document, and supplement the physical exhibition; it is targeted at general audiences of art and archaeology lovers, but also contains materials valuable for scholars, curators, conservators, and educators. The site is fully responsive and strives to provide an optimal user experience on various devices: desktops, laptops, tablets, and mobile phones.

The screenshot shows the website's header with the title "Pearls of Wisdom The Arts of Islam at the University of Michigan" and a navigation menu: HOME, THE SHOW, LIST OF OBJECTS, PHOTO ARCHIVES, BIBLIOGRAPHY, RESOURCES, EVENTS, ABOUT. Below the menu, it states "Exhibition on View: October 15–December 21, 2014" with a decorative line of red dots. The main content area is divided into two sections: "Introduction" and "Highlights".

**Introduction**

The exhibition "Pearls of Wisdom" highlights the richness and diversity of Islamic art through a range of artworks held in the collections of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Objects include ceramics, glasswares, metalwares, woodwork, textiles, illustrated manuscripts, and paintings. These items highlight how patrons, artists, and other individuals have used the expressive arts in order to promote social order and spiritual harmony in both secular and religious spheres. They also reveal how the visual arts help envision and implement a harmonious order of living in various Islamic cultures from the seventh century until the present day.

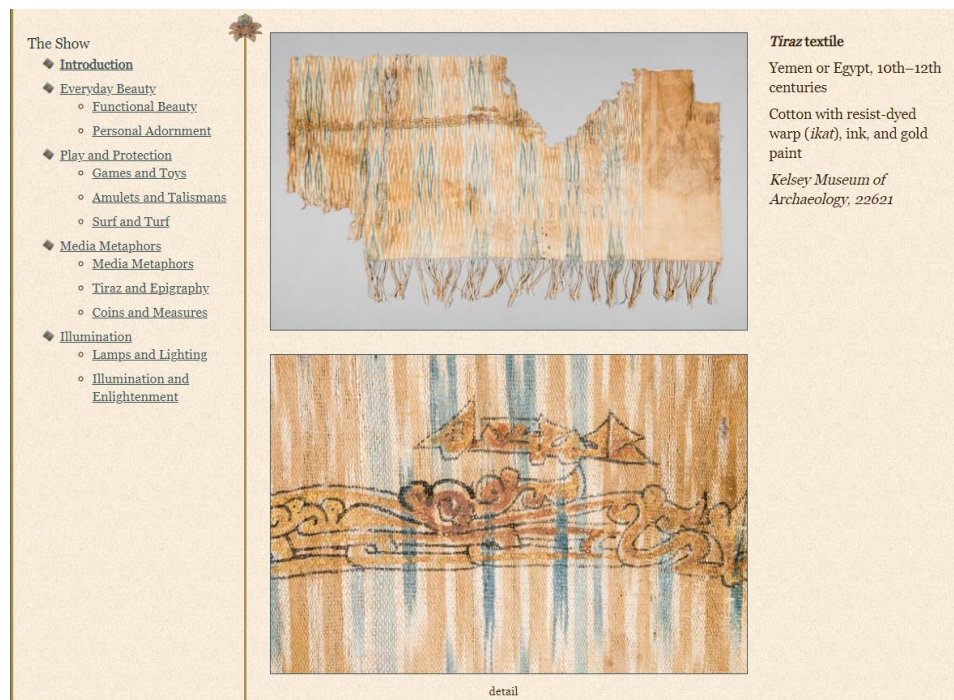
**Highlights**

The highlights section features a grid of 12 images of Islamic art objects, including a green ceramic vessel, a metal box, a red floral tile, a gold coin, a green ceramic vessel, a blue and white ceramic vessel, a gold coin, a white ceramic figure, a blue and white ceramic vessel, a blue glass vessel, a blue and white ceramic vessel, and several green ceramic vessels.

**Buy the Catalogue**

Below the introduction is a section for buying the catalogue, featuring an image of the catalogue cover. The cover text reads: "Pearls of Wisdom The Arts of Islam at the University of Michigan CHRISTOPH GÖRNER and ANNE E. HUNTER".

The website was implemented in three phases: 1) one-page preview, including a list of public events, 2) full site launched a week before the opening of the physical exhibition, 3) the post-show version with updated information and gallery views. All of the objects that were displayed on the physical exhibition are shown on the website, each represented by a high-quality photograph and a detailed catalogue-style description. The curators arranged the material into four major themes; users can navigate individual object pages in the suggested order, or randomly. “Related objects” links and the [index](#) provide alternative paths for navigation across the themes. The graphic design and color scheme of the site were inspired by the [embroidered textile fragment](#), as well as by illuminated Islamic manuscripts presented on the exhibition.



As a unique feature, the online exhibition displays a series of rare [archival black and white photographs](#) that record various elements of Islamic architecture and landscape design. These images provide an additional dimension to the website and help contextualize some of the artworks and themes highlighted in the show. Other original resources presented on the site include two [conservation videos](#) explaining the details of textile arts and ancient glass production, educational materials, and a complete scholarly bibliography.

### Credits

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