The Influence of Arab Lands on Textile Arts during the Renaissance

An Illustrated lecture by

Hanan K. Munayyer

Before the Renaissance, Arab material goods—including textiles, ceramics, and glass—were more sophisticated than their European counterparts. Beginning in the 11th century, the Crusaders became aware of this region, followed by explorers and tradesmen exchanged both objects and ideas. Over time, Europeans assimilated Arab techniques, motives and aesthetics.

Through research on Palestinian textiles and embroidery, Hanan K. Munayyer surveys the history of material arts in Arab Lands. She will show photos of textiles and embroidery and a couple of costumes from her collection will be in display for closer observation.

Hanan Karaman Munayyer worked as a molecular biologist in pharmaceutical research in New Jersey for 33 years. In 1992, she and her husband Farah established the Palestinian Heritage Foundation, a nonprofit cultural and educational organization aimed to promote the understanding of Arabs, and Palestinian art, traditions and culture in particular. The Foundation also allowed the Munayyers to preserve and exhibit their comprehensive collection of Palestinian costumes, headgear, shoes, jewelry and other artifacts; one of the largest in the world. Hanan Munayyer is the author of Traditional Palestinian Costume: Origins and Evolution, which was awarded the Book of the Year for 2011 by ForeWord Reviews.

Prof. Jennifer Ball (Early Christian and Byzantine Art, Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center, CUNY) will be the discussant.