



Fatimid Lusterware Pottery Bowl

Fatimid Lusterware Pottery Bowl
26 cm x 10.8 cm

Medieval Islamic world, Fatimid Dynasty, produced in the region of Baghdad, ca. 12th century CE. A deep ceramic bowl decorated with a luster glaze of a brilliant, sparkling white, and featuring a detailed line drawing on its interior of a woman musician playing a lute. She is seated, dressed in flowing robes and a large piece of headwear that leaves her hair uncovered for the most part. This clothing style is common in Fatimid depictions of women, which are numerous, especially compared to that of other cultures in the region and similar time periods. Stylized vines and what appears to be a bird surround the woman.



Set of Six Alam

Copper

Islamic Indo Persian, Copper Alam with Arabic calligraphy and several medallions.



Copper Book

Copper
25.4 cm x 17.78 cm

Four acid carved sheets of thick copper with one Surah from the Qur'an.



Incense Burner

Copper
60.96 cm x 38.1 cm

A heavy Middle Eastern copper incense burner decorated with open work Arabic calligraphy.



Illuminated Scroll

Paper

182.88 cm x 15.24 cm

A 19th century Qur'an Scroll, The scroll opens with a beautiful illuminated design in various colors. The scroll itself is written in ghubar (dust-like) script on beige paper. All headings are written in thuluth script, in black, gold, brown, blue, or gray colors; there are twelve such headings. This is a nicely designed scroll where the script is written in different shapes. Undated, but it was most likely written in the nineteenth century. Usually, such large scrolls are used as amulets to protect one's home, shop, or other valuables.



Illuminated Manuscript

Paper

12.5 cm x 17.2 cm

An illuminated Qur'an. About 300 leaves (600 pages). Written in elegant, and uniform naskh script. in black ink, on beige paper. The text is vocalized throughout. There are two handsomely illuminated pages in the beginning. All headings of suras are written in red ink. All verses are separated by gold discs. All pages are ruled in red. The divisions of the Koran are marked by marginal medallions in gold and colors. There are tens of such medallions. The recitation marks are indicated in red throughout. The style of calligraphy, the decorations, and the illuminations indicate that it is an Ottoman Turkish Qur'an from the eighteenth century.



Tiraz Fragments

Paper
12.5 cm x 17.2 cm

Tiraz textiles were embroidered with Kufic inscriptions on white linen, bearing religious significance. Used in the khil'a ceremony by the Fatimid Caliph al-Mu'izz, they were given as robes of honor to deserving individuals. High-ranking officials received silk robes with gold tiraz bands, while linen ones were worn by the general public. In Egyptian tombs, linen tiraz fragments served as shrouds, imparting blessings (baraka) to the deceased.



Illuminated Manuscript - Shahnameh

Paper
15.5 cm x 29 cm

Presented here is a large 9 leaf (18 page) manuscript of Shahnameh ("The Great Book": in Persian, Shah means king). The author, Firdawsi (940-1020), is a highly revered Persian poet. His great epic, the Shahnameh, to which he devoted more than 35 years, was originally composed for presentation to the Samanid princes of Khorasan. It tells the history of old Persia before the Arab conquest of the region. This tale, all written in poetic form and in Dari Persian, starts 7,000 years ago, narrating the story of Persian kings, knights, system of laws, religion, victories and tragedies.



Kashan Bowl

Ceramic
19.2 cm x 9 cm

A small bowl decorated with calligraphy & Arabesque. The interior is decorated with a central rosette of interlocking strapwork, palmettes radiating around it, and cavetto with undulating arabesques.