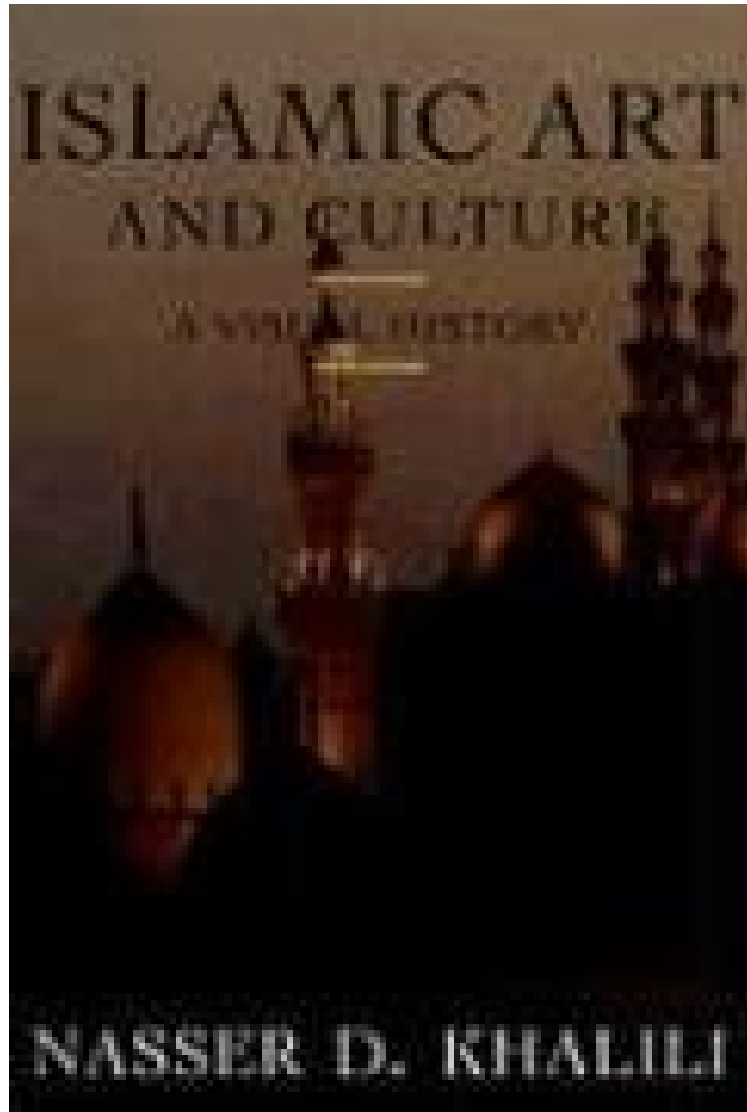


(Download) Islamic Art and Culture: A Visual History

Islamic Art and Culture: A Visual History

Nasser Khalili

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Nasser Khalili : Islamic Art and Culture: A Visual History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Islamic Art and Culture: A Visual History:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A WORK OF ART IN ITSELF By Critical Mass This is a lavish oversized book that covers ALL the arts of Islam, ranging from calligraphy, ceramics, jewellery, glass, carpets, metalwork, coins, arms armour, and architecture, among other categories. Various objects of art and architecture, magnificently illustrated in color, are coordinated with a timeline that goes from 620AD to 2005AD. Additionally, there are excellent chapters with detailed essays on all the arts, and they are also beautifully illustrated. The sub-title of

the book - *A Visual History* - says it all. Indeed, the book itself is like a work of art, and is a must for both the student of Islamic art and architecture and anyone interested in that particular subject in general. The book also contains numerous worthwhile maps as well as a listing of the major Islamic dynasties and their dates. While the price may be high for a new copy, a good used copy can be found on for a more reasonable sum.

Now more than ever, Islam and Islamic culture is a topic that is as misunderstood as it is fascinating. In this exquisite oversized volume spanning 1200 years of history, celebrated scholar Professor Nasser D. Khalili presents a benchmark visual history of the peoples, the cultures, and the artworks that have defined the Islamic world. From Spain to Indonesia, North Africa to China, more than fifty of the worlds nations are of the Muslim faith. The material culture of the Muslim people is accordingly rich and varied, ranging from taking in architectural projects on a huge scale and minutely detailed miniature paintings, exquisitely patterned silk textiles and bold yet sophisticated calligraphy. Written histories of the art of the Islamic lands have until now either been very general or highly focused on particular regions or types of artifacts. Now the spectacular format of *Islamic Art and Culture* provides the reader to view the magnificent sweep of the arts of Islam in a unique and accessible way. Diverse developments throughout the Islamic world are compared simultaneously across time and place, and specific objects and buildings seen in the light of key events in Muslim history. From calligraphy to carpets, armor to architecture, this book voluptuously reveals the immense heritage handed down through Islamic artists over the centuries, and examines their relationship to their Western peers.

From Booklist Khalili's visual history of Islamic art is breathtaking in its complexity, beauty, and vast amount of information. He explores the art of pottery and ceramics, glass and rock crystal, jewelry, carpets and textiles, miniature painting, and lacquer. Entire chapters are devoted to calligraphy, Qur'ans, coins, metalwork, and scientific instruments, producing a wealth of history lessons studded with color illustrations. Other visual aids include an impressive gatefold color map and reference wheel that allow readers to locate modern Islamic nations and landmarks of Islamic art. Also displayed are the intricate etchings traced on the compasses used to determine the qibla, the correct direction of Mecca, which is essential to the faithful when offering their prayers; the reverent artistry displayed in the stands for the word of God, the Qur'an; and the terrible beauty of the weaponry used by Muslims to defend their faith. It is impossible to understand another culture without delving into its religion, history, and art. Khalili's book is a portal into the artistic and spiritual wonders of Islam. Pamela Crossland Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved About the Author Professor Nasser D. Khalili, who was born in Iran, is a scholar, collector, and benefactor of international standing. He has made many notable contributions to the study of Islamic art, having endowed in 1989 the Nasser D. Khalili Chair of Islamic Art and Archaeology at the University of London, the first chair devoted to the decorative arts of Islam to be founded at any university. He is also a cofounder and Chairman of the Maimonides Foundation, which promotes peace between Jews and Muslims.