

ART FORUM

Friday August 10 2007

Islamic Art :

Dilemmas of Representation

Sharon Tomlinson



As world attention is besieged by negative images of Islam, understanding Islamic art can defy presumptions and challenge expectations. What type of art is usually classified as Islamic, who makes it for whom, and where? This talk explores the diversity and commonalities of Islamic art, and touches on its global impact over the past 1200 years. The talk concludes with a practical, open discussion of the realities of educating about Islamic art today.

Sharon Littlefield received her Ph.D. in Islamic and South Asian art history from the University of Minnesota in 1999. She has worked at several museums in the United States including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Freer and Sackler Museums, and most recently at Shangri La, a private museum of Islamic Art in Honolulu, where she has served as researcher, programme manager, and curator.

Image: Detail from a pair of doors, Iran early 20th Century, wood, pigments, varnish, (201 x 101.3 x 3.2cm). Image courtesy of the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art ©David Franzen.

12.30 pm Dechaineux Lecture Theatre

Tasmanian School of Art-Hobart, University of Tasmania