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.

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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.