Worksheet for Marika Sardar’s “Frontispiece”
by Sascha Crasnow
(to be used with video linked here)

Key Takeaways:

1. What is a frontispiece?

2. What are the general visual conventions of Qur’an frontispieces?

3. What are general visual conventions of secular text frontispieces?
4. What are the two terms that scholars use to refer to frontispieces? What are the meaning of each? How were they used historically? What are some of the caveats for each term?

5. Using the example of the Mughal manuscript from Lahore discussed in the presentation, how do notes from a 17th-century inventory clerk help us understand how terminology was used during that time period?

Contextualizing the Work

Choose another Islamic illuminated manuscript that includes a frontispiece. Describe its elements and identify the characteristics that reflect the general conventions of frontispieces of its type.