

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 3, FALL 2024

NEW TAB: THEMES

Khamseen's [Themes](#) bring together our Term and Topic presentations. With the new Themes tab, you can browse our content through subject-specific modules. We invite you to explore a range of themes, such as the Qur'an, religious arts, pilgrimage, diagrams and emblems, minority arts, women, health and hygiene, nature and ecology, animals, and wonders. Viewers can also explore various geo-cultural areas, such as the visual cultures of South Asia, Africa, and the African diaspora.

GRANTS UPDATE

We are thrilled to announce that Khamseen has just been awarded two grants!

First, the Arts Research: Incubation & Acceleration (ARIA) program at the University of Michigan awarded Khamseen a [\\$50,000 grant](#). Two-thirds of the ARIA grant will support Khamseen's scaling up and production of new presentations, and one-third will support two large-scale, born-digital exhibitions about the life of the shrine of Emamzadeh Yahya at Varamin from medieval times to today and early 20th-century revolutionary postcards from the Middle East.

Khamseen also received a three-year grant for a collaboration with the [Dunhuang Foundation](#). The grant enables us to create a collection of talks and pedagogical materials dedicated to Sino-Islamic arts, with some of the materials to be closed captioned and dubbed into Chinese. The videos will explore materials from the maritime Silk Road to the Southeast Asian island of Sumatra, focusing on the fascinating objects that emerged, such as Chinese blue-and-white porcelains with Arabic, Persian, and Ottoman Turkish inscriptions and Qur'an manuscripts calligraphed in Sini (Chinese-style Arabic) script. Please stay tuned as our project unfolds!



Porcelain tile, Jingdezhen, China, Ming dynasty, 1506-1521 CE, unknown artist. The Arabic inscriptions provide Qur'anic verses praising monotheism and mosques (72:18-20). © The Trustees of the British Museum, inv. no. PDF.B.687.

TRANSLATION PROJECT

The majority of the synopses for [Topic](#) talks can already be accessed in several languages, including Arabic, Persian, Turkish, French, and German. We have begun translating our talks' closed captions. For example, Arabic captions are now available for Alex Dika Seggerman's [Topic presentation on Mahmoud Mukhtar](#). Soon, Khamseen will offer full talks spoken in languages other than English, with two [Term](#) presentations soon to be fully available in Persian and Turkish. We have also produced worksheets in several languages, the first of which is an [Arabic worksheet](#) for Dr. Seggerman's presentation. Future language-learning worksheets will provide a list of key vocabulary as well as a set of questions focusing on terms, concepts, and overall comprehension. As the Translation Project continues to develop, you can read about our efforts in more detail [here](#).

As always, we are grateful to our [team of translators](#), who help us bring Khamseen's content to our international audiences. We couldn't do it without them!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER



ASEMAN TALEBI

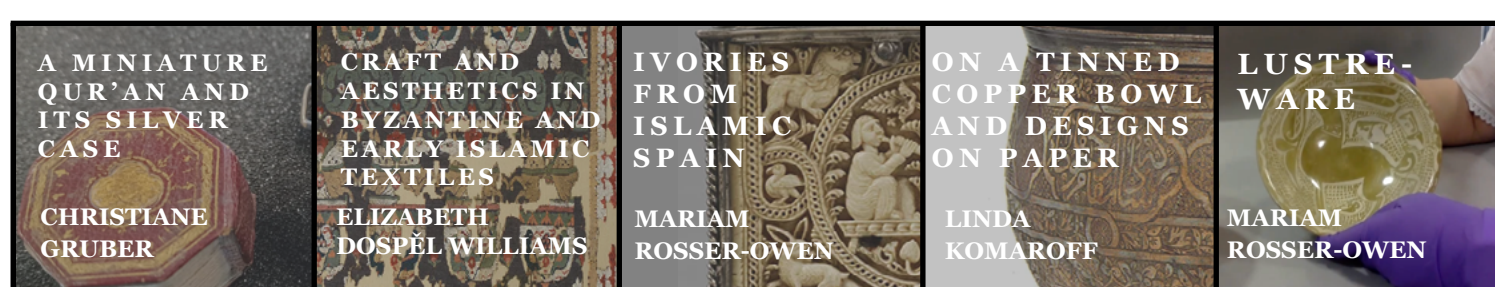
CONTRIBUTORS LIAISON

"I am thrilled to join Khamseen as the new Contributors Liaison because of the wonderful group of people committed to sharing art historical knowledge. It is an honor to get to interact with Team Khamseen, along with the scholars and professors who have contributed to our site, and I look forward to learning from each individual as our platform continues to grow."

[CLICK TO SEE PROFILE >](#)

HANDS-ON AROUND THE WORLD

Objects enable us to learn about the human experience. In our Hands-On talks, curators, academics, and other specialists present Islamic artworks up close and explain their making, context, and meaning. Join Khamseen and go behind the scenes in museums, libraries, and other repositories around the world!



THE EMAMZADEH YAHYA AT VARAMIN: AN ONLINE EXHIBITION OF A LIVING IRANIAN SHRINE



Interior of the tomb of Emamzadeh Yahya, Varamin. Photograph by Hamid Abhari, 2024.

The Emamzadeh Yahya at Varamin is simultaneously the burial place of a ninth-century saint (Yahya b. Ali), a destination for ziyarat (pious visitation), a neighborhood community center and cemetery, an architectural monument of Iran's Ilkhanid period (1256–1353), a cultural heritage site that has experienced destruction and renewal, and an 'object' on display in over forty museums worldwide. This online exhibition offers an alternative museological space for exploring the shrine's many looks, functions, resonances, users, and stories over the last seven hundred years. Directed by curator Keelan Overton since 2021, this grassroots and independent project involves an international cast of contributors and is distinguished by its interdisciplinarity and accessibility. Khamseen agreed to host the exhibition and provided the project with funding from the University of Michigan's History of Art Department to support its website design, translations (English and Persian), and online production. The exhibition will be the first feature in Khamseen's new Projects tab and is expected to launch in late 2024. Here is the [Coming Soon](#) page.

KHAMSEEN SYLLABUS DATABASE

Do you use Khamseen videos and/or worksheets in your courses? If so, we would love to see your syllabi and hear more! A masterlist of Khamseen-related syllabi is in the works, organized by year and discipline.

Please send submissions to teamkhamseen@umich.edu.

INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE

We invite contributors – both new and previous – to create a Topic, Term, Concept, or Hands-On presentation. We also are open to proposals for larger, born-digital projects. First, read our [Ultimate Khamseen Checklist](#) and then reach out to one of our [team members](#) with your idea!