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Art History

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Islamic Art

# Thesis Statement

Islamic art refers to the form of art produced in Islamic civilization. It is highly influenced by Arab culture and emphasizes the reflection of Gods nature in the art. The use of recurring motif styles and designs by using geometrical and floral shapes to mirror the infinite nature of God. Such depictions are observed in the calligraphy, techniques designs and distinctive three-dimensional elements in architectural designs, from Islamic dynasties i.e. 600- 1800 CE. Islamic art traveled from east to west influencing western styles of art through the exchange of people and through the Islamic conquests and rule.

# Annotated Bibliography

1. Khan Ahmed Sahri, Shiraz- Iran, Safavid period 1599, Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art- Istanbul. The piece is a baroque reflection of art. The Quranic calligraphy features floral and vegetal recurrent motifs on the borders. The use of colors and the frame of the design being distinct from the script is implies regality and that the word of God is important.
2. Mshatta Palace, Amman-Jordan, Ummayad period, 733-743, Pergamon Museum-Berlin, Germany. The Mshatta The façade belongs to the Ummayad dynasty. It is a small piece representing vegetal and recurrent zig-zag patterns taking influence from the Roman architectural designs. The art piece shows the influence of other cultures in its portrayal.
3. Ali, Wijdan. The Arab Contribution To Islamic Art: From The Seventh To The Fifteenth Centuries. The American University of Cairo Press, 1999. The book illuminates how Islamic civilization influenced art through social and political norms. It also highlights Arab dominance in the art which was largely due to their conquests and rule.
4. Hillenbrand, Robert. Islamic Art and Architecture (The World of Art). Thames & Hudson, 1998. This book incorporates different designs, techniques along with their evolution and the architectural designs along with photographic evidence of the works of arts along Islamic history and political dynasties.