

Artwork by artist Mehdi Moutashar
Painted Aluminium 81x23x15 cm, 2009
From the Private Collection
of Hayfa Aljishi,
Albareh Art Gallery, Bahrain.



**ISLAM AND
THE HUMANITIES**
BROWN UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

2019 CONFERENCE

THE PRIMACY OF FORM

**FRI 10.25.19 –
SAT 10.26.19**

**RM305 PEMBROKE HALL
172 MEETING STREET
PROVIDENCE RI**

CO-SPONSORS:

CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

Box 1970
Watson Institute
111 Thayer Street, Providence, RI 02912

www.middleeastbrown.org
cmes@brown.edu



**Dept. of History
Dept. of Religious Studies**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2019

9:15 – 9:30 A.M.
WELCOMING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Shahzad Bashir, Brown University

9:30 – 11:00 A.M.
PANEL 1

William Sherman, University of North Carolina, Charlotte
"The Imitable Quran"

Jahfar Shareef Pokkanali, University of Bonn
*"Thinking Through Bricolage(s):
Problematizing 'Islamic Architecture' in the Littorals of South India"*
Respondent: Jamal Elias

11:00 – 11:30 A.M.
BREAK

11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
PANEL 2

Kamaluddin Ahmed, Oxford University
"The Mukhtasar (Compendium) in Islamic Scholarship"
Seema Golestaneh, Cornell University
*"The Shape of Texts to Come:
Shifting Archival and Publishing Practices of a Shi'i Sufi Order in Iran"*
Respondent: Lara Harb

1:00 – 2:00 P.M.
LUNCH

2:00 – 3:00 P.M.
PANEL 3

Allison Kanner-Botan, University of Chicago
"Masnavi Elaborations: The Fictionalization of Laylī o Majnūn"
Emily Drumsta, Brown University
"Mahfouz's Sufi Noir: Mysticism and Literary Form in Egypt Around 1960"
Respondent: Amir Moosavi

3:00 – 4:00 P.M.
BREAK

FRIDAY (CONT'D)

4:00 – 5:30 P.M.
PANEL 4

Ahoo Najafian, Carleton College
"'It was Tomorrow:' On Postmodern Ghazal"
Meghaa Ballakrishnen, Johns Hopkins University
*"Nasreen Mohamedi's Sources:
Islamic Metaphysics and Avant-Garde Abstraction"*
Respondent: Aisha Ghani

7:15 P.M.
OFFICIAL DINNER AT RESTAURANT FOR
PARTICIPANTS AND INVITED GUESTS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2019

9:30 – 11:00 A.M.
PANEL 5

Katherine Bruhn, University of California, Berkeley
*"Expressing Minangkabau Piety:
Forms of Islam and the work of Handiwirman Saputra"*
Ali Karjoo-Ravary, Bucknell University
*"The Ghazal as Islam's Garment:
Poetic Form Between Imitation and Inimitability"*
Respondent: Margaret Graves

11:00 – 11:30 A.M.
BREAK

11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
PANEL 6

Jamel Velji, Claremont McKenna College
*"Forming (Divine) Remembrance:
Coffee Cups and the Making of Muslim Memory"*
Terenjit Sevea, University of Pennsylvania
"Shamans, Saivas and Sufis?: Tiger Forms of 'Ali in the Malay world"
Respondent: Yael Rice

1:00 – 2:00 P.M.
LUNCH