Catalogue no. 64

A poem in Ruba‘i

Calligrapher: Ahmed al Musuwi
Date: 19th century
Style: Persian in Nasta‘liq
Size: 17.1 x 8.8 cm
Accession number: 1998.2.199

Description

The calligrapher inscribed his name in a larger font than even the poem itself. This may indicate that the poem is composed by himself and that what gave it a market value was his signature.

Text

If it is drinking that kills me, I am happy
Because it has not the smell of hypocrisy and unfaithfulness
Do not undermine that God
Will forgive sinners and forgive lovers

اگر بیاید مشکن کش دلم شاید
که بود خیزره و ریا نمی آید
طمع ز فیض کرست میر که خلق کریم
که ببخشد و بر عاشقان ببخشد
Two couplets of prayers

Calligrapher: Mohammed Baqer Isfahani  
Date: 19th century  
Style: Nasta‘liq  
Size: 20.1 x 10.3  
Accession number: 1998.2.31

Description

A double couplet appears in chalipa composition in fine black Nasta‘liq. The four lines are written on blue and ochre marbled paper. Smaller sized texts, similar to the calligrapher’s signature, are written on the sides of the text box.

The couplets are in the Masnavi style. They comprise prayers for long life, happiness and success to its beholder.

Text

الله انت صبر از جام خورشید
کچ در پژم (....) کار قمید
شراب کام دل در ساغرت باد
ظفر از بندکان کمترت باد
Catalogue no. 66

Two couplets of love poetry
Calligrapher: Asadollah Shirazi
Date: 1252-1269 AH / 1836-1852 AD
Style: Nasta’liq
Size: 20.1 x 10.7 cm
Accession number: 1998.2.123

Description

The single folio displays four main lines of fine Nasta’liq script with a minor prelude and a calligrapher’s signature and dedication. The script is placed within cloud-shaped compartments against gold ground.

The poetry recalls:
"once more I become a young lover and can love deep in my heart, the pain of the lover is described with dear black eyes and a distinct aroma that brings more pain to the heart of her beloved"

The prelude “Howa al Fatih” reveals two names of the 99 names of Allah, in many single folios preludes are used to complement the Easmallah in Qur’anic texts. “He, and the one who Opens” sets the reader into a mystical mood, where the poem sets the duality of the lover and beloved, as a sacred relationship.

Text

پیرانه سرم عشق جوانی بسر افتاد
ان راز که در دل بهما به در افتاد
دردا که از آن اهوا مشکین سیه چشم
چون نانه بسی خون دلم در چگر افتاد
A wise saying in Turkic language

Catalogue no. 67

A single folio of Turkic wise sayings is written in two lines of black Nasta’liq. The phrases are placed within cloud compartments against a bright orange ground. The folio is framed with a foliate border that indicates that it was interceded as a lavha or decorative panel.

The Turkic language has been in use in Ottoman Turkey, and the Central Asian states perhaps up to the late 19th century AD. Due to the similarity between Turkic and Arabic, the first word of each lines reads: “calmness and anxiety”.

Description

Calligrapher: Unknown
Date: 19th century
Style: Nasta’liq
Size: 8.1 x 12.1 cm
Accession number: 1998.2.210
A folio in praise of Fatih Ali Shah

Catalogue no. 68

Calligrapher: Hazrat al Sultanl Abdul Latif Lanijani
Date: Early 19th century
Style: Nasta’liq
Size: 18.7 x 25.5 cm
Accession number: 1998.2.29

Description

In a royal rectangular folio, in two lines, the Nasta’liq script dominates the surface and intermingles with the free-flowing feathery leaves in sparkling gold to produce an elegant composition. The couplet is in praise of Fatih Ali Shah, a Qajar ruler who ruled from 1797-1834 AD and who struck coins using the exact manner in which calligrapher Abdul Latif had rendered his name. Abdul Latif Lanijani proudly signs as the calligrapher of the Sultan, a royal calligrapher affiliated to the royal atelier.
A decorative Lavha panel

Calligrapher:  All Reza
Date:  Late 19th century
Style:  Large Nasta’liq
Size:  10.7 x 13.2 cm
Accession number:  1998.2.20

Text

"Although I won’t complain but let me just mention this: the thirsty soil of our heart didn’t receive the wetness of the ocean of your grace."

Description

A single folio in Nasta’liq script signed by Ali Reza, the Lavha is a decorative panel that is intended to be admired by the viewer. The black script is placed within faded cloud-like compartments all framed with a foliated border of coloured rosettes.
In praise of Allah

Calligrapher: Hakim ibn Visal
Date: 1265 AH : 1849 AD
Style: Nasta’liq
Accession number: 1998.2.190

Description

The Visal family were prominent calligraphers and poets in Iran and India. This poem inscribed in Arabic with inter-lineal translation in Persian occupies 12 folios. The beauty of the composition and the contrast between the black and red scripts on an orange background gives these folios a distinct elegance. "Munajah" is this type of Doa.

Text

O my God and Lord do not deprive me of
Your great compassion, You are the compassionate
And praise be upon Him when a faithful calls for
Thee, and a pious prays to Thee, bowing down in
front of your door.
Written by the slave Hakim ibn Visal may Allah
cherish his tomb with mercy, on the month of the
year 1265 AH.

ولا تحرمني يا إلهي وسدي
شفاعةك الكبيرى فذاك المشفع
وصل عليه ما دعك موحد
وناجاك أخيار ببابك ركع

كتبه العبد حكيم ابن وصال طاب الله ثراه
في شهر سبعة خمس وستين وثمانين بعد الألف