MASTERPIECES OF ISLAMIC ART
THE DECORATED PAGE FROM THE 8TH TO THE 17TH CENTURY

PRESTEL
The evolution of book art and painting in the Islamic world is the product of diverse regions and periods. In this volume Oleg Grabar, a world-renowned specialist on Islamic Art, introduces a wide range of illuminated manuscripts of the Koran, epic poetry, and scientific works from the 8th to the 17th century, placing them in their temporal and spatial context and identifying the main centers of artistic creation.

This collection of carefully chosen works not only illustrates an important period in art history but also serves as a monument to the achievements of Islamic culture.
The evolution of book art and painting in the Islamic world is the product of diverse regions and periods. Islamic art flourished in the great cities and centers of learning of the Ottomans, the Iranian Qajars, and the later Indian Mughals, spreading across a region that extended from the Atlantic Ocean to China.

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Illuminated manuscripts of the Koran, epic poetry, and scientific works are accompanied by a text explaining the subject, describing its particular visual features, and highlighting its artistic qualities. The working methods of the artists and calligraphers are reconstructed and the patrons who rewarded them by collecting their works are identified. In the book's final section the author turns towards the key moments in history, society, faith, devotion, and other aspects of the Islamic world which are represented in the images.
Oleg Grabar is Professor Emeritus at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, and a leading world authority on Islamic Art. He is correspondent member of the British Academy and author of many books and articles.

He taught Islamic Art and Architecture at Harvard [Aga Khan Chair] and was Director of the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem as well as of the excavations at the Qasr al-Hayr al-Gharbi Umayyad Palace in Syria.
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