Acknowledgements

This book aspires to act as an introduction to a wealth of images drawn from among the finest paintings of manuscript and album art created in the Muslim world.

To help guide the viewer's eye, we have on occasion chosen not to show a page in its entirety, deliberately selecting a detail in order to show an aspect of this art that we feel to be of particular significance.

These masterpieces are today preserved in dozens of museums, libraries, and private and public collections all over the world. At the end of the book (p. 277) there is a table of illustrations listing the various art treasures shown here with their current place of preservation.

This work would not have been possible without the invaluable assistance of a number of establishments and collections, both public and private, that allowed us to reproduce the creations of which they are today the guardians; to them we extend our sincere thanks. We owe a particular debt to the generosity of Maimouna Farhad and to the kind and generous assistance given by Cory Grace of the Freer Gallery of Art and Sackler Museum (Washington).

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Oleg Grabar
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