Arif at his home reading the poems of Saadi Shirazi, where the inspiration dawns on him

عازف بالله في داره يقرأ الشعراء سعدی الکرمانی، حتی یبهі الإلهام
A youth on the roof, watching a sheikh, as he falls off

شاب پیکر علی سطح منزل و هو به قرب شیخ با یونه من اعله
Produced at the royal ateliers of Tabriz, this Diwan of Hafiz features within its 300 folios two outstanding miniatures placed on folios 193 and 194, illustrating the courtly gathering on one side showing the Shah, while in the facing side the Queen with her entourage. The illumination and miniature paintings reflect the Tabriz miniature styles, stressing the Safavid turban with its 12 folds, and the red baton. Tabriz was one of the key centers producing outstanding miniatures, and it was the capital of the Safavid empire until 1548, and the gathering place of painters from the Aqqoyunlu kutubkhane, and other nearby art centers.
Double miniature, depicting the Shah on the right and Queen on the left

اللوحة المنحوتة تصور مجلس الشاه على اليمين والملكة في الخريطة على اليسار
The 290 pages manuscript with the title "Aja’ib al Makhluqat wa Ghara’ib al Maujudat"; “The Wonderful and Weird Among Creatures and Beings" was composed by Abu Yahya Zakareya ibn Muhammed al Qazwini (d.682). The text is divided into ten main sections dealing with angels and spiritual beings, fire and meteorology, the earth, cities, trees, statues, mankind, jinn, devils and ogres, birds and animals. The manuscript starts with two Unwan pages elaborately illuminated in blue and gold, with the preface written in Naskh script while the main text is inscribed in Nast’liq in black ink, and the titles are written in Arabic in gold Naskh script.

The work is highly illustrated with line drawings and miniatures in various sizes. The images express the great variety in imagination, indicative of experienced ateliers, and generous patrons.