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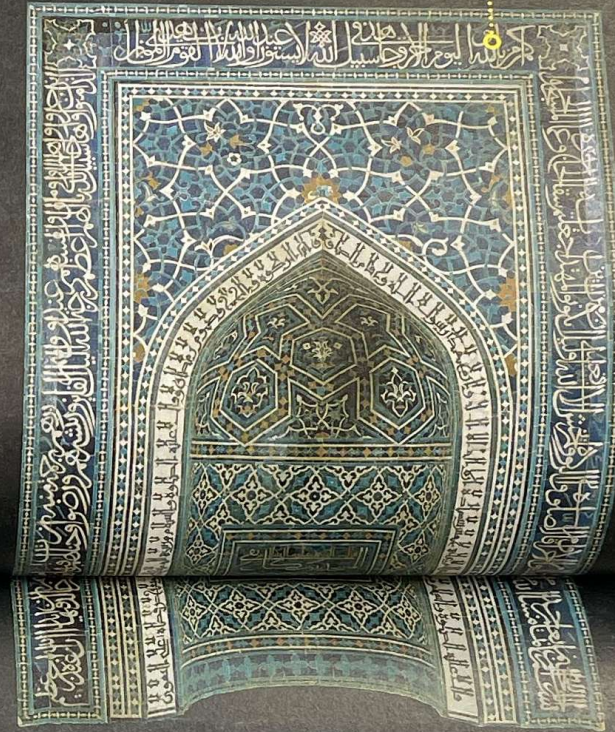
HISTORY THROUGH OBJECTS

ISLAMIC ART

Islamic art features cultural influences from across vast empires. More importantly, it reflects the values and teachings of Islam. Muslim artists initially created calligraphy to beautify the Qur'an. The intricate floral and geometric patterns of arabesque emerged partly in response to an interpretation of the Qur'an. That interpretation discouraged the depiction of people and animals in art.

Mihrab

This archway comes from a mosque in Iran built in the 1300s. It features a mosaic of colorful tiles decorated with arabesque and calligraphy.



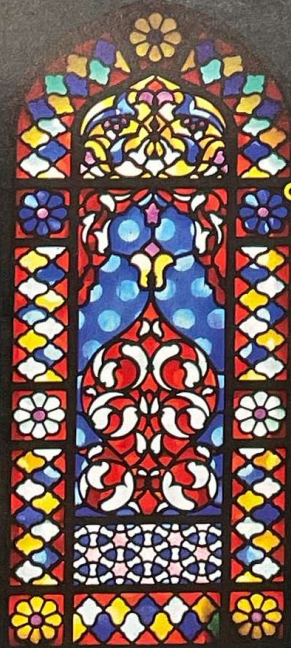
Caftan

This caftan, a long garment, belonged to Bayezid II, an Ottoman sultan who ruled from 1481 to 1512.



Stained Glass

This stained glass window appears in the Blue Mosque, which was built in the 1600s in Istanbul, Turkey.



Ceramic Plate

This decorated plate was made in the 1700s in Morocco.



Tile

This Turkish tile from about 1530 features floral patterns.



Calligraphy

This page of calligraphy comes from a Qur'an produced in Cairo, Egypt, around 1310.

