Curatorial Studies: Exhibition Practices

The Making of the New Galleries of the Arts of the Arab Lands, Turkey, Iran, Central Asia and Later South Asia at The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Taught by Maryam Ekhtiar with presentations by Sheila Canby, Navina Haidar, Phillipe de Montebello, Priscilla Soucek, Walter Denny, Deniz Beyazit and the members of the museum’s conservation, design and digital media staff.

Class meets Mondays 12:30 – 2:30PM

Uris Center, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

On November 1, 2011, the new galleries of the Arts of the Arab Lands, Turkey, Iran, Central Asia and Later South Asia opened to the public. This was a momentous occasion for the museum curatorial staff and administration, Islamic art scholars and our various audiences. To date, the new galleries have been seen by close to 600,000 visitors to date and they continue to attract large numbers of guests every day.

The Fall 2012 Curatorial Studies course explores the renovation and reinstallation project as a whole from the thinking behind the vision and design to the interpretative materials that accompany the installation. The curatorial staff in the Department of Islamic Art, sometimes joined by conservators and other museum staff will present some of the philosophical and practical considerations that affected their fields of scholarship, the installation, and their strategies for enhancing the visitor experience. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions about assigned weekly readings. The two written assignments will be a thoughtful and detailed critique of the Metropolitan’s galleries and an essay that can be posted on the website on an aspect of the new galleries or a group of objects on display in them. Prior formal study of Islamic art is not required, but students must have the instructor’s permission before registering for the course.