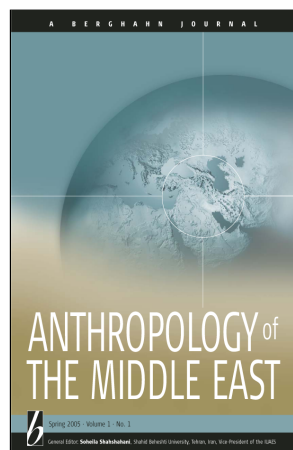




Anthropology of the Middle East



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Call for Papers

Thematic Focus: Art in the Middle East

Editors: Danila Mayer, Soheila Shahshahani

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Since Jericho and Shanidar, Shahr-e Sukhte, Jiroft and Çatal Hüyük, when the first artistic representations of humans and animals were painted on walls and sculpted from clay, art in the Middle East has played a crucial role in the region's societies, with influences reaching far beyond its area. Whether it be the clay figurines of goddesses, stuccos of Anahita, minute mosaics, marvelous patterns on carpets, or architecture of the utmost grandiosity, art in the Middle East is unique, brilliant, and profound.

In contemporary Middle East, arts practices are equally important, taking up the challenges of present-day life and bringing them to the global stage. Moreover, as art works have become a global commodity, Middle Eastern art has gained worldwide importance. Artists who have left the region also play an important role, taking part in the multiple and diverse scenes of contemporary art. Hence, we witness the rise of the Istanbul biennial to one of the most popular of hundreds of biennial exhibitions in the world.

Anthropologists may look at art from various angles, such as: everyday practices of adornment, drawing, painting, weaving and other crafts; encounters with artists on their many journeys through the world, trying to understand their art and putting its meaning into social and cultural context; participant observation in art scenes, shedding light onto social processes connected to the production, distribution and showings of art; investigating the ups and downs, booms and crashes of the art market and the exchange values of artwork; the ravaging and stealing of archeological works from museums (for example in Baghdad); research on present-day museums, exhibitions, theatres, films and biennials, not only taking into account the aesthetical point of view, but their contexts of global practices and manifestations of economic dominance; of utmost importance, the representation of revolutions and uprisings in the Middle East in artists' work, and the fate of museums and exhibitions.

We invite articles, reports from the field and reviews (of shows, exhibitions, biennials, books, films) that deal with the above, and more.

Article Length

max. 7,000 words, in either English or French
AME uses British English punctuation and spelling

Deadlines

1 February 2012 (though they may be sent earlier)

Article, Report and Book Review Submissions

Please email submissions to one of the following: **Soheila Shahshahani** (soheilairan@gmail.com)

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Birgit Reinelt, Managing Editor (birgitreinelt@yahoo.de)

Emailed submissions are preferred. Mailed submissions must include the electronic file and two printed copies of the article. Send to: Soheila Shahshahani
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