

Islam/Media, 21M.289
Self-Guided MFA Visit

*** Email answers by noon on Monday April 6 ***

In lieu of class on March 30 and April 1, please visit the Islamic Art gallery at the Boston Museum of Fine Art (465 Huntington Ave., free admission with MIT ID). The main exhibition space for Islamic Art is Level 1, Gallery 175. (You can see this on a free gallery map, available at the front desk.) Visit the gallery with enough time to really look at objects and generate some questions about them—give yourself at least an hour. If you're not used to going to museums, try spending at least two minutes at each object. Photography with a handheld device (with no flash) is allowed and may be useful if you'd think you might want to write about one of these objects for your Response #2. Here are a few guiding questions, please email me brief answers **by noon, April 6, 2015**.

1. What kinds of different relationships can be seen in this collection between writing and image? And between image and object? Give an example of an object that you find engages with these tensions in interesting ways.

2. How Islamic are these objects? Pick two objects with differing qualities/degrees of "Islamic-ness" and briefly compare/contrast them.

3. Along the wall opposite the cases of objects are a series of illuminated manuscripts and objects from medieval scientists like al-Jazari. What kinds of relationships between technology and arts is visible? Pick two objects that make use of/explore technology in different ways and briefly compare/contrast them.

4. Walk through at least one other gallery in the museum. What do you observe about the curation of the Islamic Art gallery in contrast to others at the museum?

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