

The Barakat Trust

Supporting the study and preservation of the heritage,
architecture, art and culture of the Islamic world.



Since 1987 The Barakat

Trust has supported more than

700 projects and grantees

from **40** countries.



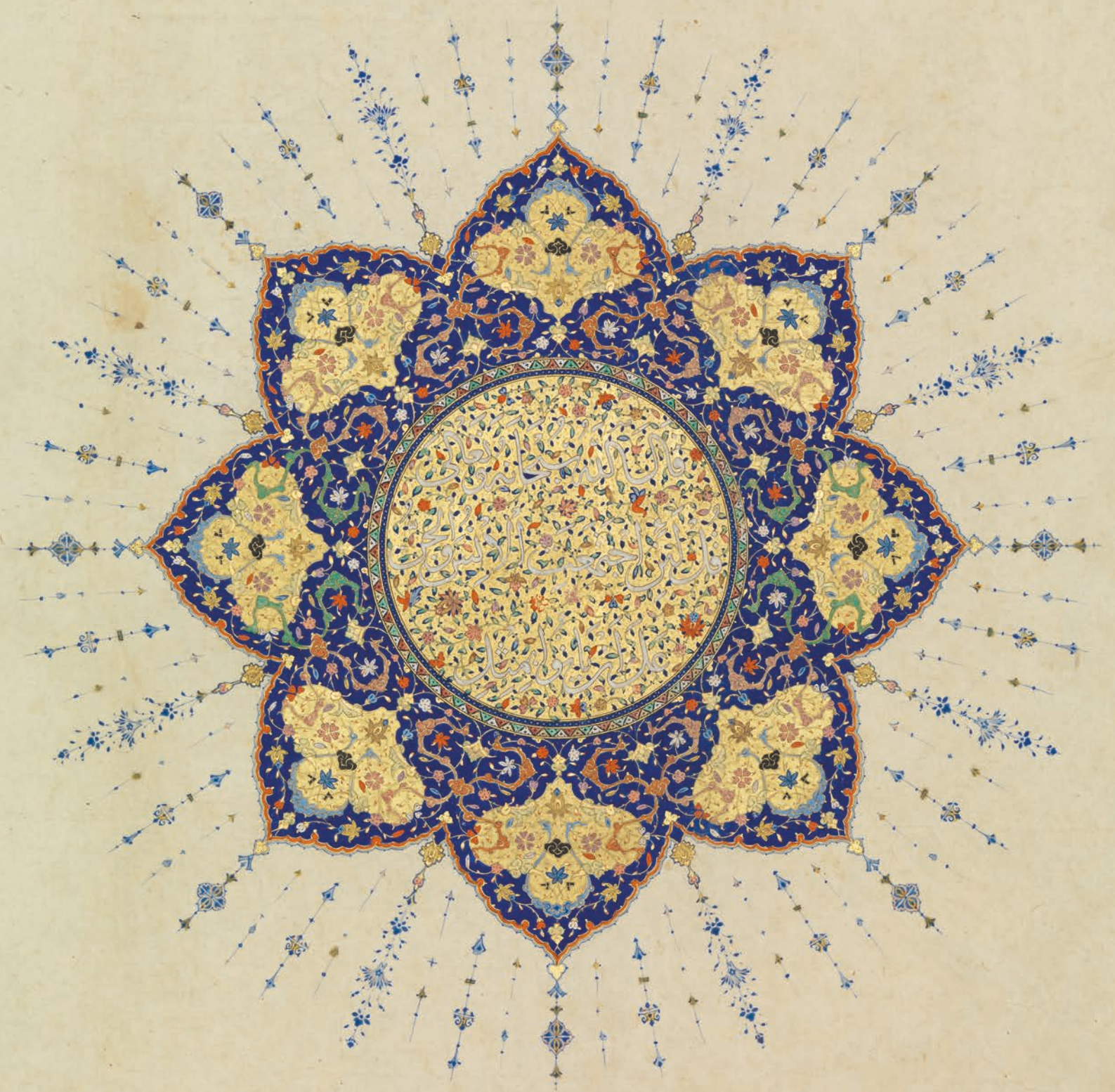
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32. Spain
33. Syria
34. Sudan
35. Sweden
36. Tunisia
37. Turkmenistan
38. Turkey
39. UK
40. USA
41. Uzbekistan
42. Yemen

Thanks to The Barakat Trust, the Chester Beatty Library's magnificent Quran signed by the calligrapher Ruzbihan Muhammad al-Tabi al Shirazi, has now been successfully rebound. The manuscript was produced in Shiraz and is more extensively illuminated than other sixteenth-century Quran known so far. It would have been produced by a team of artists and craftsmen working together over a considerable period of time.

Image: Chester Beatty Quran



The Heritage of the Islamic World and the Need to Preserve it.

For fourteen centuries, the art and architecture of the Islamic world has represented a pinnacle of achievement for some of the greatest civilizations in history.

In recent years there has been deliberate destruction of cultural heritage and looting in Iraq, Syria, Libya and beyond, which has been branded “a form of cultural cleansing” by UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova. In light of the current socio-political climate, there is a pressing need for the arts and culture of the Islamic world to be nurtured through scholarship and study programmes, preserved through elevated levels of curation and conservation, better understood through wider access, digital platforms and cultural activities. Such initiatives, supported by The Barakat Trust, enable the preservation of heritage and safeguard it for future generations.

(below) Archeological excavations in Walila, Morocco.





A paper-making workshop at a summer school entitled “The Arabic manuscript: Codicology, Paleography and History, The National Library of Tunisia, 2017.

“What makes The Barakat Trust so important is that it responds to a particular need of scholarship. Better scholarship is needed for better understanding and thus better preservation.”

- Zeynep Yurekli-Gorkay, Barakat Trust Academic Advisory Board member.



The survey team at Khirbat al-Mafjar, Jordan.

STRATEGIC AIMS

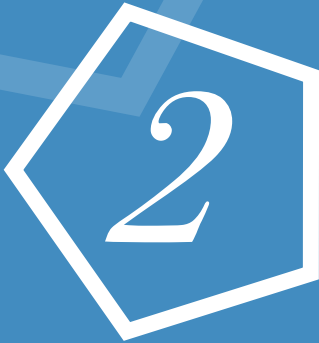
Intellectual Excellence

Support, nurture and promote study and scholarship of the art, history, architecture, archaeology and culture of the Islamic world. We do this by funding a number of postgraduates and doctoral students at the world's best universities every year, as well as in-depth research by established academics. We also provide grants to enable research travel, training, and conference attendance. Our beneficiaries range from those starting out to experts in their field.



Preservation of Heritage

Conserve the material culture of the Islamic world and elevate the level of curation and skills in conservation. To further make the material culture of the Islamic world more accessible through digital and other means. We support training opportunities and fund conservation projects, prioritising those that nurture skills, provide jobs, and are of direct benefit to local communities.



Create Awareness

Provide a platform for cross-cultural understanding and tolerance across the world by promoting the findings, research and project outputs and study of Islamic culture. We hold events around the world and encourage our grantees to share the outcomes of their work within their communities and further afield.



Sustainable Growth & Development

Develop effective long-term partnerships to sustain current and future aims of The Trust. In 2018 - 2019, we created exciting partnerships with Asia House, Leighton House, The Arab British Centre, the Islamic Arts Museum, Malaysia, London Craft Week and Mirage Collections.



Highlights of 2019

Together with Asia House, we launched *Converging Paths* - a series of events to highlight the diverse cultures and heritage of the Islamic world. The programme included oud virtuoso Joseph Tawadros, eminent cultural historians such as Jeremy Johns from Oxford University, Scott Redford and Doris Abouseif from SOAS, Mehreen Chida-Razvi, and Shahed Saleem, author of the highly acclaimed book "The British Mosque: An Architectural and Social History".

One highlight was *Departures: A Photographic Journey Through the Islamic World*, curated by Tarik Alireza and Richard Wilding. We participated in London Craft Week, with events on watchmaking inspired by the great buildings in the Islamic World, recycling palm nibs to make furniture, building contemporary mosques and churches inspired by history.



With the Arab British Centre (ABC), we participated in the London Festival for Architecture, with a site visit to a building by Amin Taha, a debate with contemporary Arab designers, and family workshops about the Damascene house. We organised talks at Leighton House and at ABC covering conservation and community development in Cairo, the Egyptian tentmaking tradition, contemporary mosques in the Gulf, unrequited love in the Diwan of Baki, and the Arabesque.

In partnership with the Islamic Arts Museum, Malaysia, we put on *Hajj Journey: Through the Ages*, an exhibition of paintings and historic photos. We were selected to join the 2019 World Monuments Watch Selection Panel. We were awarded the Rawabi Holdings Award by the Saudi British Society, were short-listed for the Arab Culture Award and featured on Araby TV, NTV and in Arab News among others.

Images: Above: Site visit to a building by Amin Taha as part of the London Festival for Architecture - co-organised by The Barakat Trust and the Arab British Centre. Below: *Departures: A Photographic Journey Through the Islamic World*, Asia House, London, 2019.



Grants Awarded in 2020

International Scholarship:

Zahra Khademi - MA Scholarship to study Islamic Art at the Courtauld Institute, London.

Post Doctoral Research at Oxford:

Nilay Ozlu, From Imperial Palace to Museum: Reinventing the Topkapi Palace during Ottoman Modernization (1808 –1924).

Atri Hatef Naeimi, Transcultural Interactions in Ilkhanid Capital Cities.

Publications:

"Complex Weaves: Technique, Text, and Cultural History of Striped Silks" by Corinne Muhlemann.

Digitisation Grant:

Digitising K.A.C Creswell's International Collections, Victoria and Albert Museum, London; American University in Cairo; Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

Major Grants:

Arabic translation of the publication "Remote Capture: Digitising Documentary Heritage in Challenging Locations" The British Library, London.

Establishment of a public library specialised in heritage conservation in Bayt Yakan, Souq al-Silah Street, Historic Cairo, Egypt.

"Better Knowledge Through Better Understanding" (Translation of material on the Museums With No Frontiers website into Arabic to make it accessible to 420 million Arabic speakers around the world). (www.museumwnf.org).

Barakat Trust Conservation Interns: Preserving the Written Heritage of Kairouan, Tunisia.

Calligraphy at the Frontiers of the Islamic World Conference, Sorbonne University, Paris, France.

Ceramics from Islamic Lands Conference, London, UK. (Funding for young participants from the Islamic world to attend).

Paper Dyes Used in Persian Medieval Manuscripts: Creating a Materials Construction Digital Database, Melbourne University.

Researching the Islamic Collections of the Eastern Museum at Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire, UK.

Funding for al-Imam al-Shafi'i Dome Conservation Project, Cairo, Egypt.

Islamic Baydha Archaeology Project, American Centre of Oriental Research, Jordan.

Precious and Rare: Islamic Metalwork from the Courtauld, Exhibition at The Holburne Museum, Bath, UK.

The Conservation of al-Qaisariyya Bazaar - Phase 1 - Gaza, Palestine.

New Light for Women in Cairo's 'City of the Dead' Leather Jewellery Workshops with Tania Clarke Hall, MISHKA/Sultan Foundation, Egypt.



Image: School children participating in a public awareness session as part of the Gaza Manuscripts Conservation Project.



Diana Digna participating in the Objects in Focus Workshop at the British Museum

British Museum International Training Programme: An Opportunity for Professional Exchange

“When I had the opportunity to attend the International Training Programme I was so happy to get this chance. A full training programme in an international museum in a city everyone wants to be in. I immediately liked the organisation and hard work. I felt the value of time for the first time in my life. After three weeks in London we went to Lincoln for our UK Partner Placement. We met Andrea Martin and Dawn Heywood of The Collection: Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire and they arranged a wonderful programme for us. I gained a lot of useful information about the ways of display in addition to new information about excavations and restoration.”

- Diana Digna, curator at the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums, Sudan.
Participant in the British Museum's International Training Programme,
supported by The Barakat Trust, 2019.

With your support

£2000	Enables one young professional to travel for educational purposes
£7000	Enables a major new publication about Islamic art
£8000	Enables conservation work on buildings and artefacts
£11,500	Enables a major project like an exhibition or conference
£20,500	Enables a post-graduate student to do a UK degree in Islamic art or heritage
£21,000	Enables a scholar to undertake a year of cutting-edge research
£57,000	Enables the digitisation of a major collection

“Heritage is not a luxury – it is where people live, where they work, where children play, and it is how they see themselves and their culture. In every place I work, by the time I am done with conservation, there is a benefit to the community. Places are cleaner, more beautiful, they are better lit up so they are safer, and we create jobs and livelihoods.”

- May al-Ibrashy - Barakat Trust grantee

Below: Restoration work at the shrine of Imam Shafi'i in Cairo.
The Barakat Trust funded visitor interpretation and part of the conservation work.



SUPPORT US

Through the generosity of our donors, sponsors and contributing artists, The Barakat Trust has supported more than 700 projects over 30 years. With your help, we can do much more!

Find out more about us: www.barakat.org



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