



**Katonah Museum of Art**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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# Katonah Museum of Art Presents Contemporary Legacy of Islamic Art February 25 – June 17, 2018

Katonah, NY, Nov. 27 — The Katonah Museum of Art is pleased to present ***Long, Winding Journeys: Contemporary Art and the Islamic Tradition*** (February 25-June 17, 2018). This exhibition features a group of thirty-one artists of Middle Eastern and South Asian descent whose work engages the diverse forms of Islamic visual tradition. *Long, Winding Journeys* is the first exhibition on the subject in an East Coast museum, and with fifty works of art in all media, it is a trailblazing examination of the subject in the United States.

*Long, Winding Journeys* presents artists' stories with sumptuous visual texture, featuring lush color and highly detailed imagery. They draw from centuries-old forms—such as calligraphy, miniature painting, geometric patterning, textiles, and architecture—that have come to define Islamic art. Employing this lineage, artists explore the intersection of visual traditions and other kinds of inherited histories. They examine the rich meaning and complex strictures of religious and cultural customs; rituals of spiritual practice; political conflict; and diaspora's effect on identity. Art of the past acts as a lens through which to view present-day experience. The title is drawn from a text by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Ayad Akhtar, which appears in the exhibition in a collaboration with artist Shahzia Sikander. Akhtar's poem situates Islam as an inspirational force guiding creative life on a "long, winding, journey."



"Since its founding in 1954, the KMA has presented art from all cultures," says Executive Director Darsie Alexander. "This exhibition continues in this tradition by highlighting the diversity of art today and the issues it addresses."

Artists include Anila Agha, Faig Ahmed, Ammar Al Attar, Noor Ali Chagani, Khadim Ali, Shiva Ahmadi, Ghada Amer, Afruz Amighi, Nazgol Ansarinia, Nasser Al Salem, Fereydoun Ave, Shoja Azari, Ala Ebtekar, Monir Farmanfarmaian, Shadi Ghadirian, Babak Golkar, Mona Hatoum, Susan Hefuna, Shirazeh Houshiary, Poursan Jinchi, Hayv Kahraman, Baseera Khan, Hassan Massoudy, Jordan Nassar, Shirin Neshat, Hadieh Shafie, Shahzia Sikander and Ayad Akhtar, Kurosh ValaNejad and Peter Brinson, and Imran Qureshi.

This exhibition is organized by Associate Curator, Elizabeth Rooklidge, with research assistance from Curatorial Intern, Caitlin Monachino, and Assistant Curator, Olga Dekalo.

The exhibition is made possible in part by the generous support of Janet Benton, Robin Simon, Betty Himmel, Yvonne Pollack, Marilyn Glass, Vanessa Diebold, Katherine Moore, and Ellen Grimes. Exhibition programming support is made possible in part by Humanities New York.

**OPENING RECEPTION: Saturday, February 24, 2018**

IST LOOK: 5:00 – 6:00 PM. Curator’s Circle level members and above.

Curator’s talk and walkthrough at 5:30 PM.

MEMBERS PREVIEW: 6:00 – 8:00 PM. All levels of membership. Docent tour at 6:30 PM.



**PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

Contact Elizabeth Rooklidge at [erooklidge@katonahmuseum.org](mailto:erooklidge@katonahmuseum.org) for details regarding exhibition-related public programs, including Family Day, artist lectures, and community tours.

**The Katonah Museum of Art** is a non-collecting exhibition venue which explores ideas about art, culture, and society—past and present. In addition to its visual arts program, the Museum hosts a rich array of public programs including lectures, workshops, international trips, and concerts. The Museum’s strategic plan, *The Forward Edge* (2015), charts five years of program growth, artistic experimentation, and campus renewal, solidifying it as a space that both celebrates and amplifies the power of creative thinking. The Museum is located at 134 Jay Street, Katonah, NY 10536. The Museum hours are: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday from 12 PM – 5 PM, closed Monday. General admission: \$10 adults, \$5 seniors and students. Members and children under the age of 12 always enter free. For more information, please call (914) 232-9555 or visit [www.katonahmuseum.org](http://www.katonahmuseum.org).

**Cover Images:**

Shahzia Sikander, *Portrait of the Artist*, 2016. Suite of four etchings with introductory text by Ayad Akhtar, 27 × 21 inches each. © Shahzia Sikander. Photo courtesy of the artist and Pace Prints.

Faig Ahmed, *Impossible Viscosity*, 2012. Handmade wool carpet, 98 x 39 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Sapar Contemporary, New York.