

Episode 10: Thinking and Rethinking Orientalism
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Producer: Linda Steer

Research, writing and voice: Linda Steer and Madeline Collins

In this episode, called “Thinking and Rethinking Orientalism,” we examine Orientalism as a particular version of the Western gaze that influenced many 19th century European painters. The Western or European gaze treats non-Western subjects as different and inferior, but also as exotic, mysterious, or enticing. After examining the orientalist visual tropes in paintings by Gérôme and Delacroix, we turn towards contemporary artists. Moroccan photographer Lalla Essaydi creates meaningful portraits of Muslim women that challenge perceptions of Arab female identity. Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian was an Iranian artist whose works combine Eastern and Western influences into a unique sculptural style. We take a look at her series *Fourth Family*.

Sources + further reading:

Edward W. Said. *Orientalism*. New York: Vintage Books, 1979.

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Eugène Delacroix. *The Death of Sardanapalus*, 1827. Oil on canvas, 12 ft 10 in x 16 ft 3 in. (3.92 x 4.96 m), Musée du Louvre, Paris.

<https://collections.louvre.fr/ark:/53355/cl010065757>

Kathryn Calley Galitz. “Romanticism.” Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History.

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/roma/hd_roma.htm

British Museum Blog. “How Did the Islamic World Influence Western Art?”

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British Museum Blog. “An Introduction to Orientalist Painting.” *British Museum Blog*.

<https://blog.britishmuseum.org/an-introduction-to-orientalist-painting/>.

Jean Léon-Gérôme. *The Slave Market*, 1871. Oil on canvas, 59.7 x 74.9cm. Cincinnati Art Museum, Ohio.

<https://www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org/art/explore-the-collection?id=11295788>

“Lalla Essaydi,” <http://lallaessaydi.com/1.html>

“Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian: Infinite Possibility. Mirror Works and Drawings, 1974–2014. Guggenheim Museum.

<https://www.guggenheim.org/exhibition/monir>

Hussein Bicar. <http://hbicar.com/biography.html>

Abdul Qader Al Rais. <http://admaf.org/artists/abdul-qader-al-rais>

Charles Hossein Zenderoudi. <http://www.zenderoudi.com/english/artwork.html>

Music Credits

Amitchell125. Beethoven. Opening of String Quartet No. 1. 1801. CC BY-SA 4.0

Rimsky-Korsakov. Scheherazade, Symphonic Suite, Op. 35. The San Francisco Symphony Orchestra conducted by Pierre Monteux. Violin solo by Naoum Blinder. CCO 1.0

JuliusH. Bandari - Persian Arabic Music - Khaliji Drum and Nay Flute. Pixabay license.

Andrewfai. Enti w Ana arabic song OUD Cover. Pixabay license.

Bagher Moazen. Struggle. We played a 10 second sample of this work.
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/legalcode>

Credits

Season 2 of Unboxing the Canon is produced by Professor Linda Steer for her course “Introduction to the History of Western Art” in the Department of Visual Arts at Brock University. Our sound designer, co-host and contributing researcher is Madeline Collins.

Brock University is located on the traditional lands of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

Our logo was created by Cherie Michels. The theme song has been adapted from “Night in Venice” Kevin MacLeod and is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution International 4.0.

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