

Windows into Faith Art Exhibit Catalogue



Image Courtesy of the OSU Huntington Archives

SUNDAY

October 26, 2008

• Bahá'í • Buddhist • Christian • Hindu • Islamic • Jain • Jewish • Sikh •

Introduction

Displays provided by Faith Groups Associated with the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio.

Curator: Pamela O'Loughlin

Catalogue Design: Elysia Landeros-Thomas

Window Facilitators:

Hadiya Abduldarasalaam (Muslim)

Debbie Adelman (Jewish)

Steve Dimler (Baha'i)

Seth Josephson (Buddhist)

Tarunjit Butalia and Gurpreet Kaur (Sikh)

Bangalore Shankar (Hindu)

Les and Sharon Sauer (Christian)

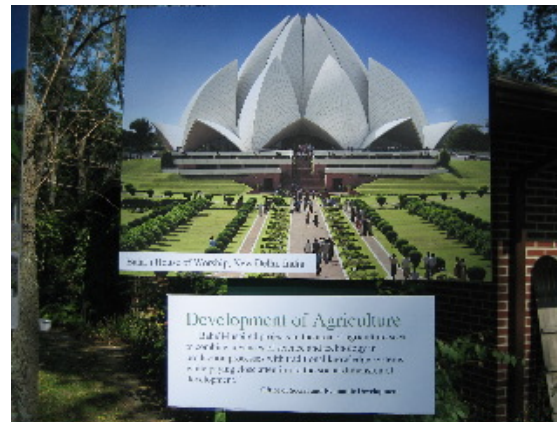
Co-sponsored by:

Greater Columbus Arts Council



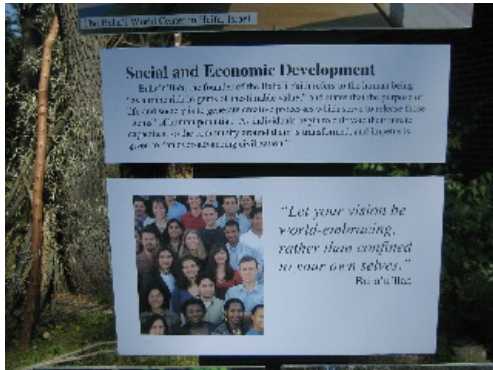


Bahá'í





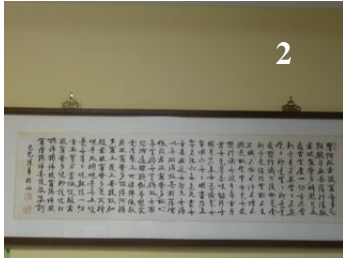
Bahá'í



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Interfaith Association of
Central Ohio

Buddhist



Artifact descriptions at end of catalogue.



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Buddhist

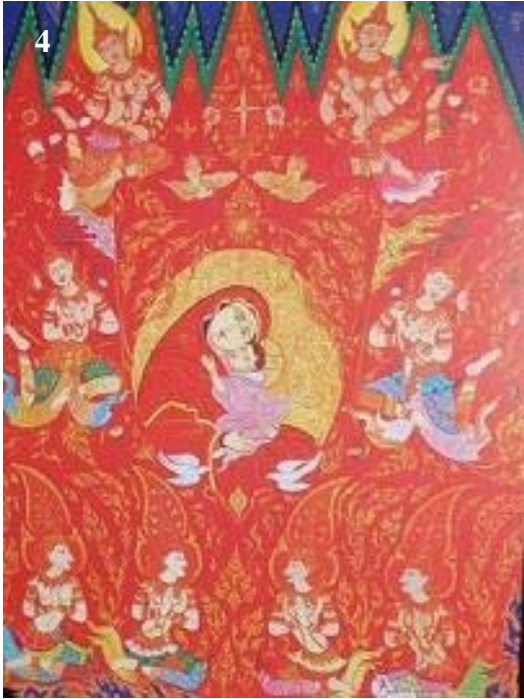




Christian

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Christian



Hindu



Hindu

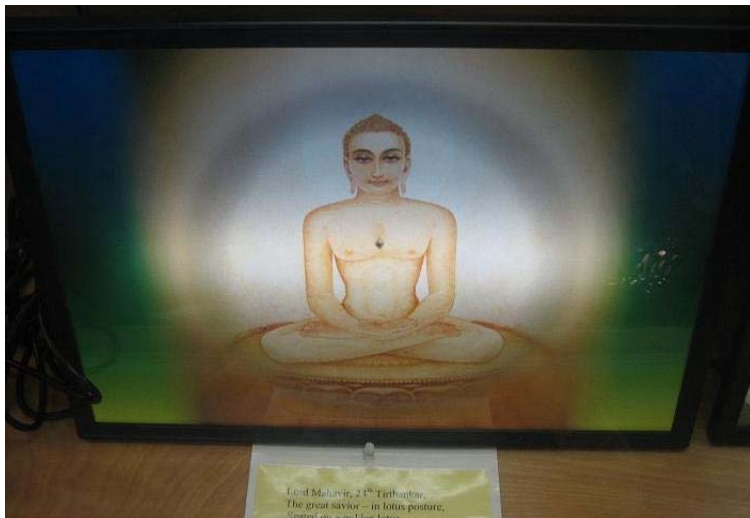
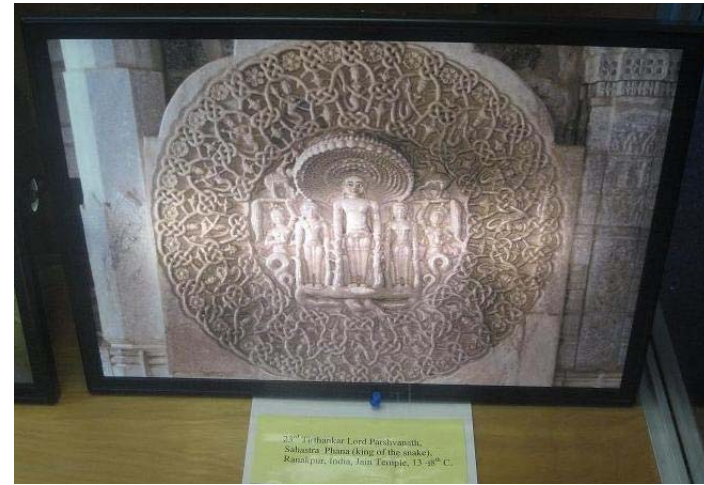




Jain



Jain



Jewish

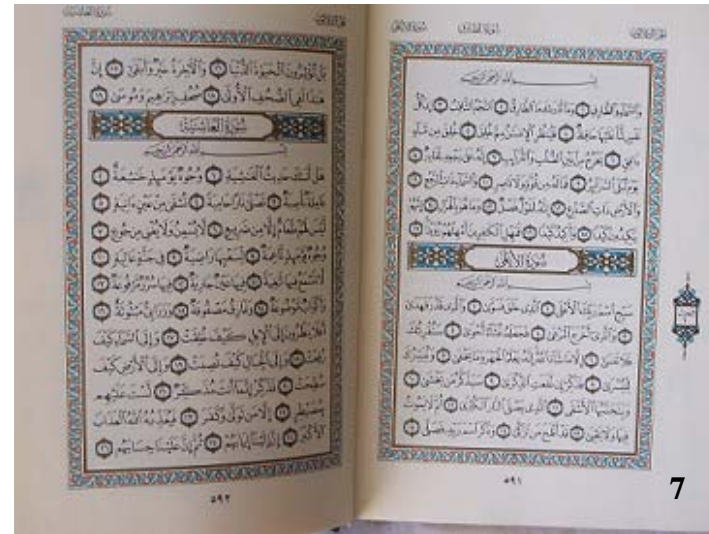
Artifact descriptions at end of catalogue.



Jewish



Muslim



Muslim



1

Artifact descriptions at end of catalogue.



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4

Sikh



Artifact descriptions at end of catalogue.


 Christian

- Item 1** - Pottery Communion plate and chalis hand made by Russ
- Item 2** - Asian (India)silk depiction of Jesus & his 12 disciples at the Last Supper.
- Item 3** - Creche (Manger Scene) carved wood from Jersusalem
- Item 4** - Interpretation of the Holy Spirit painted by Thai seminary student at McGilvary Faculty of Pyap University, Chainmai, Thailand.
- Item 5** - Indian (Asia) banner depicting Jesus as the Good Shepherd.
- Item 6** - Baptismal bowl - hand blown glass by California artist, Ferdinand Thieriot; bowl is placed on wove-stoles from Thailand representing the liturgical colors of the four seasons of the Christian church year.


 Sikh

- Item 1** - Silk scarf (18th century reprint)
- Item 2** - Golden Temple at Amritsar, 1833
- Item 3** - Sikh symbol “Khanda” in brass
- Item 4** - Sikh “Ik Onkaar” (God is one) in brass
- Item 5** - Tapestry weaving “Khanda” and “Ik Onkaar”
- Item 6** - Cavalcade of Sikh Chieftains on Elephants, 1858
- Item 7** - Sikh Chieftains, 1858
- Item 8** - Lotus Phulkari (Sikh weaving from Punjab, 1970s)

Image 1 - Vase, hand painted ceramic, Arabic for "Allah" Made in Indonesia

Image 2 - Sculpture, ceramic (Right side) says 'Allah', (left side) says Prophet Mohammad, (Peace be upon him)
Made in Turkey

Image 3 - Stained glass, hand painted, framed 8"x10" for the declaration ('There is no G-d, but Allah, and Mohammad is his messenger), Made in America

Image 4 - Hand sculpted and painted collage, Arabic, for the declaration, ('There is no G-d, but Allah, and Mohammad is his messenger), sculpted of concrete, and banana leaf. Made in America

Image 5 - Hand painted ceramic fan, Made in America

Image 6 - Hand painted flower vase, Made in America

Image 7 - Holy Qur'an, from Middle East

All images are from the Holy Qur'an

Islamic art began as a religious movement in the early 7th century in Arabia, quickly spreading throughout the Middle East, and then the world. Islamic art was produced in many different geographical regions where diverse cultures were unified through the religion of Islam. Islam forbids the representation of human or animal figures, which is seen by Muslims as offensive, hence the reason for art created in design, abstract or calligraphy form.

Muslim view Arabic as the sacred language of the Holy Qur'an and the writing of the Word as the highest form of art. Calligraphers are held in a place of honor of Islamic artists. Artists create rhythmic patterns of script, geometric designs, or abstract plants, and floral designs. Islamic art is to enrich an environment or to beautify an object. The art seeks to enhance rather than to dominate, therefore Islamic designs are created from humble aspirations.

Islamic art can be seen on Architecture, textiles, pottery, prayer rugs, carpets, ceramics, dishes, lamps, metalwork, and wall hangings, and in literature.

Image 1 - Passover Seder Plate - This contemporary Israeli Seder Plate featuring images of Jerusalem is representative of the special Passover plate containing symbolic foods used by Jews during the Passover Seder. Each of the six items arranged on the plate has special significance to the retelling of the story of the Exodus from Egypt, which is the focus of this ritual meal. The seventh symbolic item used during the meal — a stack of three matzohs— is placed on its own plate on the Seder table.

Image 2 - Chanukiyah - The Nine Branched Menorah used during Chanukah, also known as the Chanukiyah, celebrates two miracles: the victory of the Jews over their Syrian-Greek persecutors and the ability of one small flask of oil to remain lit in the Temple Menorah until new oil could be obtained. The Chanukah Menorah holds nine candles: eight candles symbolizing the eight days the oil lasted after the rededication of the temple, and an extra candle called the "shamash", which is used for lighting the rest of the candles. This particular menorah was created by a contemporary Israeli artist.

Image 3 - Tzedakh Box - The tzedakh box enables Jews to perform one of the most important acts of Judaism. According to the ancient sages, the commandment of giving charity is equally important to all other Jewish commandments. The High Holiday prayers state that God judges all who have sinned. But, teshuvah (repentance), tefilah (prayer) and tzedakah can reverse His decision. Tzedakah boxes may be found in homes and synagogues and can take many forms. The building displayed is a representation of Congregation Tifereth Israel, a Conservative synagogue in Columbus.

Image 4 - Challah Cover - A challah cover is a decorated cloth placed over two loaves of challah, the special bread that is blessed on the Sabbath and Jewish holidays. Challah covers became a way of beautifying and embellishing the family's Sabbath table. Many challah covers are works of art. According to one tradition, the challah cover represents the protective layer of dew that fell on the manna when the Jewish people wandered in the desert.

Image 5 - Mezuzot - A mezuzah is a piece of parchment inscribed with specified Hebrew verses from the Torah (Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and 11:13-21). These verses comprise the Jewish prayer, "Shema Yisrael," which begins with the phrase, "Hear O Israel, the Lord your God, the Lord is One." Many families place a mezuzah on the front door only, but observant Jews fix one on most inside doorways as well. The parchment is prepared by a qualified and highly trained scribe ("sofer") and is written in indelible black ink with a special quill pen. The parchment, a copy of which is included in this mezuzot display, is then rolled up and placed inside the case. Observant Jews fix one on every doorway in the home apart from bathrooms, and closets too small to qualify as rooms. The parchment is prepared by a qualified scribe who has undergone many years of meticulous training, and the verses are written in indelible black ink with a special quill pen. The parchment is then rolled up and placed inside the case.

Image 6 - Siddur - A siddur is a Jewish prayer book, containing a set order of daily prayers.

Some siddurim have only prayers for weekdays; others have prayers for weekdays and Shabbat (Jewish Sabbath). Many have prayers for weekdays, Shabbat, and the three Biblical festivals, Sukkot (the feast of Tabernacles), Shavuot (the feast of weeks) and Pesach (Passover). The latter are referred to as a Siddur Shalem ("complete siddur").

Image 7 - Havdalah Candle and Spice Holder - The Havdalah ritual service which marks the end of Shabbat involves the use of a glass of wine, fragrant spices, and a special Havdalah candle. Typically separate, the Israeli Havdalah candlestick on display combines two of these items. Blessings are recited over the wine, spices, and multi-wicked candle. A final blessing is over the separation of different things, namely the sacred and secular, light and darkness, the Sabbath and the six days of labor. Wine is used to extinguish the flame from the candle.

Image 8 - Shabbat Candlesticks - Shabbat candlesticks are a central element of the Friday night Shabbat table. Whether elegant, modern (as in this display's candle sticks), or traditional, they are a focal point of Sabbath observances. Jews welcome the Sabbath (as well as the beginning of every other holy day) into their homes by lighting the candlesticks before sunset. It is customary to light two candles which represent the dual commandments to remember and to keep the Sabbath.

The candles are usually lit by the woman of the household and are accompanied by specific blessings and rituals.

Image 9 - Illustrated Haggadah Page - The Haggadah is the ancient Jewish prayer book which relates the story of the Exodus of the Jews from Egypt and the journey from slavery to freedom. Containing the Passover seder rituals, Haggadas over the generations have exhibited many examples of artistic imagery. This particular contemporary artistic rendering by Israeli artist, David Moss, illustrates the Hebrew script declaring that members of each generation must think of themselves as having personally experienced the flight from Egypt. He achieves this effect by portraying correctly costumed men and women across the centuries. The mirrors are placed so that if the book is closed each character would only see a personal reflection. When the pages are opened as in this reproduction, all the generations come into view and the current observers can also put themselves "into the picture".

Image 1 - Buddha - This statue is a traditional Asian representation of Amitabha Buddha. His hands are in the mudra, or gesture, of meditation. Amitābha is a celestial buddha described in the scriptures of the Mahāyāna school of Buddhism.

Image 2 - The Heart Sutra

Image 3 - The Kalachakra Mandala - Everything in this mandala is the symbolic representation of some aspect of the Kalachakra deity and the deity's universe. There are 722 deities in the mandala which symbolise various manifestations of aspects of consciousness and reality, all part of the ultimate wisdom of the Kalachakra deity.

Image 4 - Lotus - Lotus flowers are symbols of goodness and purity. The lotus rises above the mud to bloom on the surface of the water. In the same way, that people can rise above their difficulties and challenges of life and achieve enlightenment. The lotus is also associated with definite aspects of a teacher, or of wisdom.

Image 5 - Patriarch and Old Tree, Zen Landscape by Matt Swift - Patriarch and Old Tree is inspired by two historically important Chinese ink paintings, combined to further symbolize the ideas of a growing knowledge found with age and achieving enlightenment through tranquility.

Image 6 - Prayer Flags - Traditionally, prayer flags are used to promote peace, compassion, strength, and wisdom. Tibetans believe the prayers and mantras will be blown by the wind to spread the good will and compassion into all pervading space. Therefore, prayer flags are thought to bring benefit to all.

Image 7 - Prayer Wheel - From the smallest to the largest, the prayer wheel always consists of a hollow cylindrical body, usually metal, engraved with mystic emblems or prayers. Inside the cylinder are thousand sacred texts or mantras, written on paper or parchment. The cylinder of the wheel rotates in the same direction as the sun, and each turn is the equivalent of a reading of the prayers enclosed within. By spinning the wheel, practitioners release prayers into the world.

Image 8 - Four Armed Avalokiteshvara Thangka Painting by Tyler Starkey - Avalokiteshvara has been a favored deity of both entry level Buddhist practitioners and traditional tantric masters alike. The “Lord who looks down” is the ideal bodhisattva or hero of enlightenment who dwells on the verge of nirvana yet has sworn to remain in the world of suffering until all beings have attained enlightenment.

Image 9 - Inspirational Views, Zen Landscape by Matt Swift - Inspirational Views is inspired by multiple Chinese paintings producing a dialogue with the historical significance of each painting as well as encompassing the concept of how inspirational achievement can create a pathway towards enlightenment. The Chinese text stating “He is able who thinks he is able” is a personal mantra providing the mental clarity allowing ourselves to be inspired and achieve our spiritual goals.

