Exploring Recreative Practice Methodologies in Islamic Art – Writing on Stone at the Frontiers of the Islamicate World

23 novembre 2022, 17h – 19h
Institut national d'Histoire de l'Art, salle Walter Benjamin
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Abstract:

Recreative practice – the process of re-making an object or image – is widespread in the arts and humanities as a technique for retrieving haptic and tacit forms of knowledge or lost technologies. Nevertheless, it is dress and fashion historians who have led the field in the development of clear methodologies of recreative practice and sophisticated reflection on the merits and pitfalls of such an approach. This paper presents the early stages of a collaborative project between Elizabeth Lambourn, a historian of material culture, and Islamic calligrapher Nuria Garcia Masip which was sparked by contact with this practice and the resulting literature. Building on the pioneering work of dress historians Jane Malcolm-Davies (University of Copenhagen) and Jenny Tiramani (The School of Historical Dress, London) our project explores the way that these now well-articulated and theorised approaches might be translated to the study of Islamic calligraphy on stone. This project focuses on calligraphic panels on marble produced at the port of Khambhat (Cambay) in Gujarat during the thirteenth through fifteenth centuries CE but offers the potential for much wider application.