

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### **YASSER TABBAA**

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### **EDUCATION**

- PhD 1983 Institute of Fine Arts , New Your University  
Dissertation : The Architectural Patronage of Nur al-Din ,1146-1174
- MA 1977 Institute of Fine Arts , New York University
- BA 1972 Ohio State University  
Major : Anthropology

### **PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS**

- 2004-2006 Visiting Associate professor , Oberlin College
- 2001-2004 Visiting Assistant professor , Department of Arts, Oberlin College , Oberlin ,Ohio
- Spring 1999 Visiting Lecture , Meadows School of the Arts , Division of Art History , Southern Methodist University , Dallas , Texas
- 1988-1996 Assistant Professor of Islamic Art & Architecture , Department of the History of Art, University of Michigan
- Fall 1987 Visiting Assistant Professor , Department of Fine Arts , Harvard University
- 1982-1988 Age Khan Development Professor for Architectural History . History , Theory and Criticism Department of Architecture , Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 1981-1982 Lecture , Department of Art , University of Texas , Austin
- 1972-1975 Archaeologist , Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums , Saudi Arabia

### **GRANTS , HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS (Since 1990)**

- Winter 2006 Powers Travel Grant , Oberlin College
- Winter 1998 The Oriental Institute , Oxford University , Barakat Trust Senior Fellow
- 1997-98 Fondation Max van Berchem , Geneva , Switzerland
- 1996-97 Postdoctoral Fellowship for Under-Represented Disciplines , Social Science Research Council
- 1996 The Barakat Trust (Grant for book : Constructions of power and piety)
- 1994-95 Ailsa Mellon Bruce Senior Fellow , Center For Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (National Gallery, Washington DC)

- 1994 Millard Meiss Publication Subvention Grant , College Art Association of America  
(for Constructions of Power and Piety)  
1992 University of Michigan Rackham Summer Research Grant  
1990 University of Michigan Rackham Summer Research Grant

### **EXHIBITIONS AND CONSULTING**

- 2005-06 "Discover Islamic Art: Ayyubid Syria," Museum With No Frontiers-European Union/Euromed Heritage  
2004-05 University of Michigan Museum of Art:  
Curator: "The Art of Written word in the Middle East"  
Curator: " The Islamic Collection"  
June 2004-06 Visiting Lecturer, Center for the built Environment , Amman , Jordan.  
May 2003 State Department Art Expert for INTERPOL and ICOM Meetings in Lyon .  
Winter 2000 UNESCO Consultant at the Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyya , Kuwait National Museum.  
Feb 1991 Contributor and curatorial consultant , Writing in the Ancient World , Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.  
October-November,1990. Consultant , Near East Department Cincinnati Art Museum.  
Winter 1989 Curator, Near Eastern Ceramics From The University of Michigan Collections.  
March-April,1985. Consultant , Islamic Calligraphy from India , Harvard Semitic Museum.

### **RESEARCH LANGUAGES**

- Arabic (classical and most dialects)  
French (read ,speak ,moderate writing)  
German (read and basic speaking)  
Some Persian, Spanish , and Italian

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **BOOKS**

- Constructions of power and piety in Medieval Aleppo (University Park, PA : Pennsylvania State University Press, 1997)  
The Transformation of Islamic Art during the Sunni Revival (Seattle and London :University of Washington Press, 2001; Paperback edition,2002)  
The Medieval Islamic Hospital : Institutional and Architectural History (forthcoming)  
This book reconstructs the history and institutional development of the bimaristan (Physical and mental hospital) from literary sources, archival documents inscriptions , and the remaining monuments.

## ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- "The Muqarnas Dome: Its Origin and Meaning." *Muqarnas*, 3(1985): 61-76.
- "Monuments with a Message :Propagation of Jihad under Nur al-Din".In *The Meeting of Two Worlds: Cultural Exchange Between East and West During the Period of the Crusades*, ed. V. Goss and C. Veōzar-Bornstein . Kalamazoo, Michigan : Medieval Institute Publications ,1986, 223 -241
- "Bronze Shapes in Iranian Ceramic of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries ." *Muqarnas* ,4(1987):26-47.
- "Toward an Interpretation of the Use of Water in Islamic Courtyards and Courtyard Gardens," *Journal of Garden History* , 7/iii (July-September,1987):197-220.
- "Geometry and Memory in the Madrasat al-Firdaws in Aleppo,1235." In *Theories and Principles of Design in the Architecture of Islamic Societies* , ed. Margaret Sevckenko. Cambridge , MA :Age Khan Program Publications , 1988,23-34.
- "The Transformation of Arabic Writing , I. Quranic Calligraphy." *Ars Orientalis* ,21(1991):119-147.
- "Typology and Hydraulics in the Medieval Islamic Garden ." In *Landscape and Garden History : Issues, Approaches, Methods*, ed. J. D. Hunt. Washington D.C : Dumbarton Oaks ,1992,303-329.
- "Survivals and Archaisms in the Architecture of Northern Syria, ca. 1080-ca. 1150. " In *Essays in Honor of Oleg Grabar* , *Muqarnas* ,10 (1993):29-41.
- "Circles of Power : Palace , Citadel and City in Ayyubid Aleppo." In *Pre-Modern Islamic Palaces : Ars Orientalis* 23 (1993);181-200.
- "The Transformation of Arabic Writing , II. The Public Text." *Ars Orientalis*,24 (1994):119-148 .
- "Al-'imara al-zankiyya w'al-ayyubuyya fi sutiya w'al-jazira," (Zangid and Ayyubid Architecture in Syria and the Jazira)In *Al-Fann al-'arabi al-islami* 3 vols. Tunis ,1995, Vol. 2, 184-203.
- "Canonicity and Control : The Sociopolitical Underpinnings of Ibn Muqla's Reform." *Ars Orientalis* 29 (1999):91-100.
- "Dayfa Khatun : Architectural Patron and Regent Queen." In *Women , Patronage and Self – Representation in Islamic Societies* , ed. D. Fairchild Ruggles . Albany : SUNY Press,2000,17-34.
- "The Functional Aspects of Medieval Islamic Hospitals." In *Poverty and Charity in Middle Eastern Contexts*, ed. Michael Bonner and Amy Singer. Albany : SUNY Press ,2003 , 95-119.
- "The Mosque of Nur al-Din in Mosul,1170-72," *Annales Islamologique* 36 (2002):339-60.
- "An Image of What Once Was: The Ayyubid Fortifications of Jerusalem." In *Ayyubid Jerusalem* , ed. Robert Hillenbrand and Sylvia Aulds , Forthcoming.
- "Defending Ayyubid Aleppo: The Fortifications of al-Zahir Ghazi (1186-1216)." In *Muslim Fortifications in Bilad al- Sham*, ed. Hugh Kennedy. Leiden : E.J. Brill, 2006, 175-183.
- "Invented Pieties: The Revival and Rebuilding of Shi'ite Shrines in Contemporary Syria," in *Festschrift for Priscilla Soucek* (forthcoming)
- "Andalusian Roots and Abbasid Homage in the Qubbat al- Barudiyym in Marrakesh" in *Festschrift for Oleg Grabar* (Forthcoming)

## SHORTER ARTICLES AND ENTRIES

- "The Salsabil and Shadirvan in Medieval Islamic Courtyards." *Environmental Design : The Garden as a City the City as a Garden* (Rome, 1988):34-37.

"The Art of Writing : Calligraphy in The Islamic World," essay and 18 catalog entries in M.L. Allen and K. Dix, eds. *The Beginning of Understanding: Writing in the Ancient World* eds. (Kelesy Museum of Archaeology, 1991): 43-45;137-141;154-158.

"Architecture : Syria, the Jazira and Iraq , 900-1250." In *The Dictionary of Art*, ed. Jane Turner. Macmillan Publishers Ltd. 1996,vol. 16,178-183.

"Muqarnas. " In *The Dictionary of Art*, ed. Jane Turner. Macmillan Publishers Ltd. 1996, vol. 22 ,321-325.

"Fortifications: the Islamic World to 1250." In *The Dictionary of Art*, ed. Jane Turner. Macmillan Publishers Ltd., 1996,vol.21,581-584.

"The Arab Garden." In *The Dictionary of Art*, ed. Jane Turner. Macmillan Publishers Ltd.,1996,vol.12,77-78.

"Faith and Rationality in the Medieval Islamic Hospital," Center 16 , Record of Activities and Research reports. Washington, DC: National Gallery of Art, 1996.

"The Medieval Islamic hospital," *Bulletin Fondation Max van Berchem* 9/ii (1998):14-18.

"The Muqarnas Domes and Portal Vaults of Cairo," *Bulletin of the American Research Center in Egypt*, 182 (Spring-Summer, 2002):1-7.

"Lessons from Looting: The place of the Museum in Iraq," *IAS Newsletter* 31 (July,2003):43-44.

"Rukham"(Marble), *The Encyclopaedia of Islam* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Appendix,2004.

"Aleppo,"(8,000words)*The Encyclopaedia of Islam* , 3<sup>rd</sup> edition

"Architecture"(3,000words)*The Encyclopaedia of Islam* , 3<sup>rd</sup> edition

## **ONLINE PUBLICATIONS**

"Visions of Iraq" <http://www.oberlin.edu/art/Iraq/Iraq.html>

## **REVIEWS**

E. Dodd and S. Khairallah, *The Image of the Word*. Beirut ,1983. In *International Journal of Middle eastern Studies* , 17/ij (1985):263-66.

*Muqarnas* , vol. I. In *Journal of the American Oriental Society* ,105/iv (1985): 752-755.

Julian Raby, ed., *The Art of Syria and Jazira, 1100-1250*. Oxford 1986. In *Middle east studies Association Bulletin* , 21/i (July, 1987): 103-105.

Glen Lowry, *A Jeweler's Eye : The Henri Vever Collection* . Washington DC , 1985. In *AO*. 19(1990): 129-30.

Annemarie Schimmel , *Islamic Calligraphy and Culture*. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1986. In *IJMES*, 23/iv (November 1991):680-681.

Nezar al-Sayyad, *Cities and Caliphs : On the Genesis of arab Muslim Urbanism* , Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1991 . In *IJMES* , 25/iii (August 1993):524-526.

Ross Burns, *Monuments of Syria* . New York 1992. In *MESA Bulletin* ,28/I (July,1994):125-126.

Jens Kroger ,et al, *Oriental Splendor ,Islamic Art from German Private Collections*, Hamburg: Museum Fur Kunst und Gewerbe,1993. In *AO* 24(1994): 152-153.

Michael Meinecke , *Die Mamlukische Architektur in Agypten und Syrian (648/1250-923/1517)*, 2 Volumes Gluckstadt :Verlag J.J. Augustin, 1992.

In AO 26(1996): 118-20.

Nasser O. Rabbat , *The Citadel of Cairo*, Leiden: E.J.Brill,1995. In AO 26(1996) : 117-18.

Robert Hillenbrand , *Islamic Architecture, Form , Function and Meaning* , Columbia University Press, 1995. In JAOS 117/I (1997):180-82.

Oleg Grabar, *The Shape of the Holy, Early Islamic Jerusalem* , Princeton university\_Press, IN AO, 28(1998):115-16.

Hanspeter Hanisch , *Die ayyubidischen Toranlagen der Zitadelle von Damaskus*, Wiesbaden,1996. In IJMES 30/iv (November, 1998):577-78.

Rika Gyselen,ed. *Sites et monuments disparus d'après les témoignages des voyageurs* , Res Orientalis VII (Bures-sur Yvettes,1996) In JAOS, 119/iii (1999):540-41.

Sheila S. Blair , *Islamic Inscriptions*, New York: New York University Press ,1998; Irene A. Bierman, *Writing Signs: The Fatimid Public Text*. University of California Press,1998; Eva Baer, *Islamic Ornament* ,New york : New York University Press, 1998.In AO 29 (1999):180-82.

Tharwat 'Ukasha Al-Qiyam al-jamaliyya fi'l-'imara al-islamiyya (*Aesthetic Values in Islamic Architecture*). Cairo , Dar al-Shuruq, 1994. In Al-'Usur al-Wusta (Spring,2001).

Jonathan M. Bloom, *Paper before print: The History and Impact of Paper in the Islamic World*. New Haven and London: Yale University press . In *Medieval Encounters*, forthcoming.

Wendy M. K. Shaw . *Possessors and Possessed: Museums ,Arcaeology , and the Visualization of History in the Late Ottoman Empire* Berkeley , Los Angeles, and London : University of California Press,2003. In *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, Forthcoming.

Oliver Leaman , *Islamic Aesthetics :An Introduction* (University of Notre Dame Press,2004),in CAA Online Reviews, forthcoming.

Ethel Sara Wolper , *Cities and Saints : Sufism and the Transformation of Urban Space in Medieval Anatolia* (University Park,PA: Pennsylvania State University Press,2003).In JSAH, Forthcoming.

Walter B. Denny, *Osmanische Keramik aus Isnik* (Berlin:Hirmer,2005)in JNES, Forthcoming.

### **SELECTED PAPERS (since 2003)**

"*Invented Pieties : The Revival and Invention of Shi'ite Shrines in Syria*," in F. Barry Flood, *Retrofit , Rebuilding, and Reinscription : Pre-modern Conversions of Sacred Space* , Society of Architectural Historians , Denver, CO, April 23-27,2003.

"*Days of Looting , Decades of Agony: The Loss Of Iraqi Cultural Artifacts*," in INTERPOL Meeting for Cultural Property Lost in Iraq. Lyon, 5-7 May ,2003.

"*Between Condemnation and Royal Glory:The Mausoleum in the Islamic World*," Charles Wilkinson Lecture, Matropolitan Museum of Art, New york, May 16, 2003.

"*In Defense of Aleppo:The Fortifications of al-Zahir Ghazi in Northern Syria*," International Conference on Muslim Fortifications in Syria. Aleppo, 16-18 September, 2003.

"*Medicine without Borders: The Hospital in Medieval Syrian and Turkey*," XII International Congress of Turkish Art, University of Jordan , Amman ,5-9 October 2003.

Discussant: *Word of God , Art of Man The Qur'an and its Creative Expressions*.The Isma'ili Center, London, 18-21 October , 2003.

"*Archaeology , Ideology, and the Corruption of Culture in Baathist Iraq*," Advocacy Panel for Iraqi Culture, Organized by Marta Teegan , CAA, Seattle ,15-18 February,2003.

“Circles of Power: City, Citadel, and Ceremonial in Medieval Aleppo.” In *Cities and Authority*, St. Andrews University, 23-25 May 2004.

“Between Orientalism and Ultra nationalism: The Place of Archaeology and Museum in Iraq and the Arab World.” In *A Past for Our Future*, Bilge University, Istanbul, 23-26 July, 2004.

“The Art of the Written Word in Middle Eastern Societies,” The University of Michigan Museum of Art, 15 February, 2005.

“Disjunction and Difference in Islamic Art: The Case of Calligraphy and the Public Text,” Department of Art, Virginia Commonwealth University, 31 March 2005; University of California at Davis, 27 April, 2005.

“Invented Pieties: The Revival and Rebuilding of Shi’ite Shrines in Contemporary Syria,” John Silberberg Lecture Series, Institute of Fine Arts, NYU, New York, 2 December, 2005; Institute for Islamic Studies McGill University, 17 January, 2006.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **PANELS AND SYMPOSIA : ORGANIZER**

Zangid and Ayyubid Syria. Middle East Studies Association, Ann Arbor, November, 1980.

Muqarnas: Form, Function, and Symbolism, International Symposium held at MIT, June 1983.

Ayyubid and Mamluk Architecture. Middle East Studies Association in Boston, November, 1986.

Architecture and Ceremonial in the Medieval Islamic Palace. Middle East Studies Association, New York, November, 1988.

The Arab-American Experience, 1880-1990. Center for Middle Eastern Studies, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 1990; with Ernest McCarus.

Medieval Islamic Institutions: Architectural and Social History. Middle East Studies Association, Washington, DC, December 1995.

Islamic and the Crusades : Nur al-Din as a Paradigmatic Figure. International Congress on Medieval studies, Kalamazoo, MI, 3-6 May, 2002.

### **EDITORIAL AND REVIEW ACTIVITIES**

Editorial Board, *Ars Orientalis*, 1988-1997.

Assistant Editor, *Muqarnas*, 1985-1988.

Dissertation of the Year Committee reviewer, Middle East studies Association, 1985.

Read proposals and manuscripts for University of Chicago Press, Canadian Council for the Humanities, Dumbarton Oaks, Getty Art Trust, and University of Washington Press.

### **PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATION**

Historians of Islamic Art, Secretary and treasurer, 1984-1986.

Board Member, 1999-2003

Middle East Studies Association, Program Committee, 1986.

Midwest Art History Society, Board Member, 1995-98

### **MEMBERSHIPS**

Society of Architectural Historians (irregular)

College Art Association

Middle East Studies Association  
Historians of Islamic Art.  
Middle East Medievalists

### **DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES (THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN)**

Concentration Counselor, 1988-1992.  
Honors Program Advisor, 1989-1992.  
Freer Committee, 1988-1996.  
Graduate Committee ,1988-1989.  
Executive Committee, Art History ,1990-1992.  
Curriculum Committee ,Chair 1993-1994.

### **UNIVERSITY SERVICE (THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN)**

Rackham Predoctoral Grant Committee,1989.  
Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Executive Committee member,1989-1991.  
Center for Middle Eastern Studies, FLAS Committee,1991.  
Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Review Committee, 1991.  
Middle East Faculty Seminar, Chair 1997-1992.  
Rackham Faculty Grant Committee,1992-1993.

### **TEACHING: LECTURES AND SEMINARS TAUGHT 1988-2003**

The Art of the Near East and Europe to 1400  
Cultural Expressions in the Islamic World  
Islamic Art and architecture  
The Decorative Arts in Islamic Countries  
Islamic Architecture to 1500  
Islamic Architecture ,1500-1900  
Modern and Contemporary Architecture in the Middle East  
Arab and Persian Painting and the Arts of the Book  
The Islamic City  
The Art and Architecture of Islam in South Asia  
Constantinople/Istanbul: Byzantine and Ottoman Architecture  
Theories and Method of Art History(Seminar)  
Islamic, Byzantium, and the Medieval west(lecture &Seminar)  
Orientalism and Occidentalism in Art and Architecture(Seminar)  
Transformation in Medieval Islamic Architecture(Seminar)  
Persian Painting ,14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> Centuries (Seminar)  
Palace and Garden in the later Islamic World (Seminar)