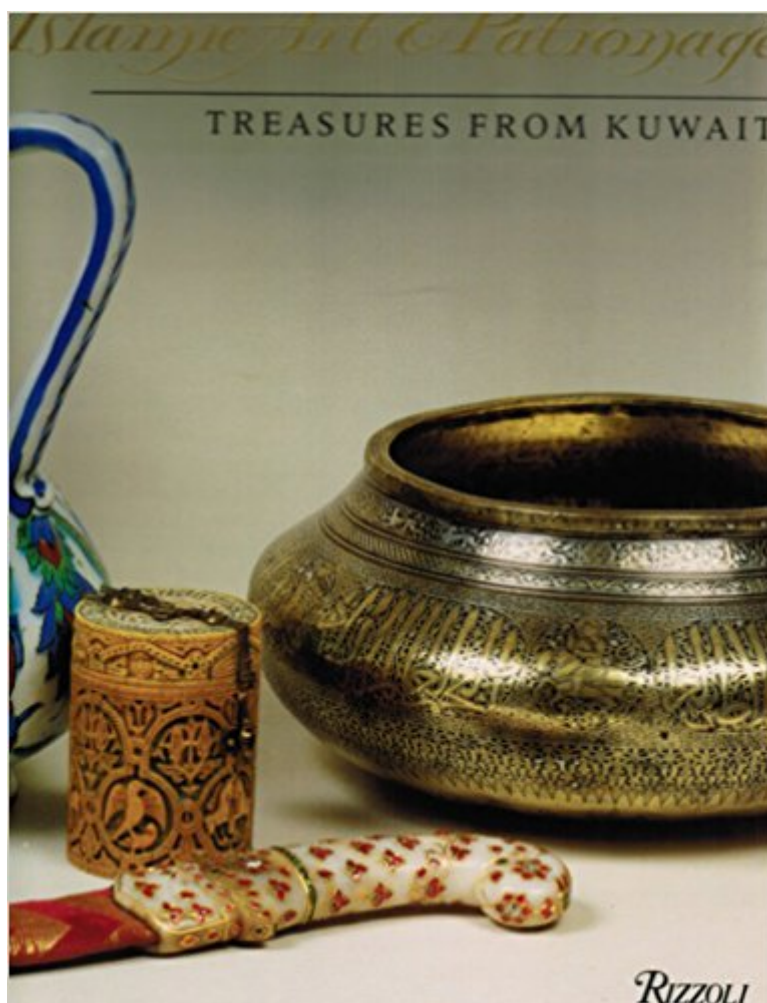


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Islamic Art & Patronage: Treasures From Kuwait



Synopsis

Book by Atil, Esin (editor)

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Customer Reviews

Besides oil, Kuwait has another treasure: a world-class collection of Islamic art assembled by members of the country's ruling family. This lavishly illustrated catalogue of an exhibition touring the U.S. showcases a dazzling array of objects, including colorful Iranian "splash ware" pottery, Egyptian rock-crystal bottles, Indian Mughal crystal bowls inlaid with gems, and a 17th-century concentric view of Venice by a Turkish artist. Prayer rugs, star-shaped tiles, gilded leather book bindings, brass astrolabes, carved ivory boxes, illuminated manuscripts, jewelry and textiles attest to the artistic refinement that marked Islamic life between the sixth and 18th centuries. Led by Atil, an art historian at the Smithsonian, a team of scholars contributes essays that argue tendentiously that patronage increases cross-fertilization among the arts and fosters regard for art as a useful social and economic activity. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This sumptuous and beautifully reproduced volume is the catalog of the exhibition of the works of Islamic art from the al-Sabah collection in the Kuwaiti National Museum. This world-class collection, assembled over the last ten years, includes works dating from early Islam to the 19th century, executed in every medium, and representing every Islamic civilization. Each period is discussed in a separate chapter written by an eminent scholar. There is also a short chapter on the museum and a fascinating discussion of patronage in Islamic Art by Oleg Grabar. Luckily, the collection was on

world tour when the Iraqis invaded Kuwait and so was saved. The volume is a scholarly addition to the study of Islamic art useful to both art historians and connoisseurs of art. Beautifully produced, it contains a very useful map, helpful and full notes, and a fine bibliography and dynastic tables. An important addition to any library interested in Islamic art.- Martin Chasin, Adult Inst., Bridgeport, Ct. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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