

# ISLAMIC ART





**Apparently, The Met did an exhibition on horses in Islamic art in 2000, called Riding across Central Asia: Images of the Mongolian Horse in Islamic Art. This primarily focused on the Seljuq and Ilkhanid periods (ca. 12th-14th century) in Iran. The Seljug were a nomadic Turkic people, while the Ilkhanids were of Mongol descent, tracing their ancestry back to Genghis Khan. Now I'm going to stop everyone right here and not-so-subtly recommend they watch Marco Polo on Netflix. So much of Mongol culture was based on the horse and one's skill as a rider was essential. We thus see some of the most beautiful tack come out of this part of the world, like in the portrait of Shah Jahan (actual examples in the Arms and Armor department).**

**It's also here that we see early depictions of the Arabian horse, specifically in the two tiles and gold painting below. The small head and swan-like neck are distinctive attributes of the royal stock, and images of these animals are frequently found in fifteenth-, sixteenth-, and seventeenth-century Iranian, Turkish, and Indian art. The three bridle ornaments from India I've included were meant either for an Arabian stallion or an elephant, both of which were major status symbols at the time.**





1

2



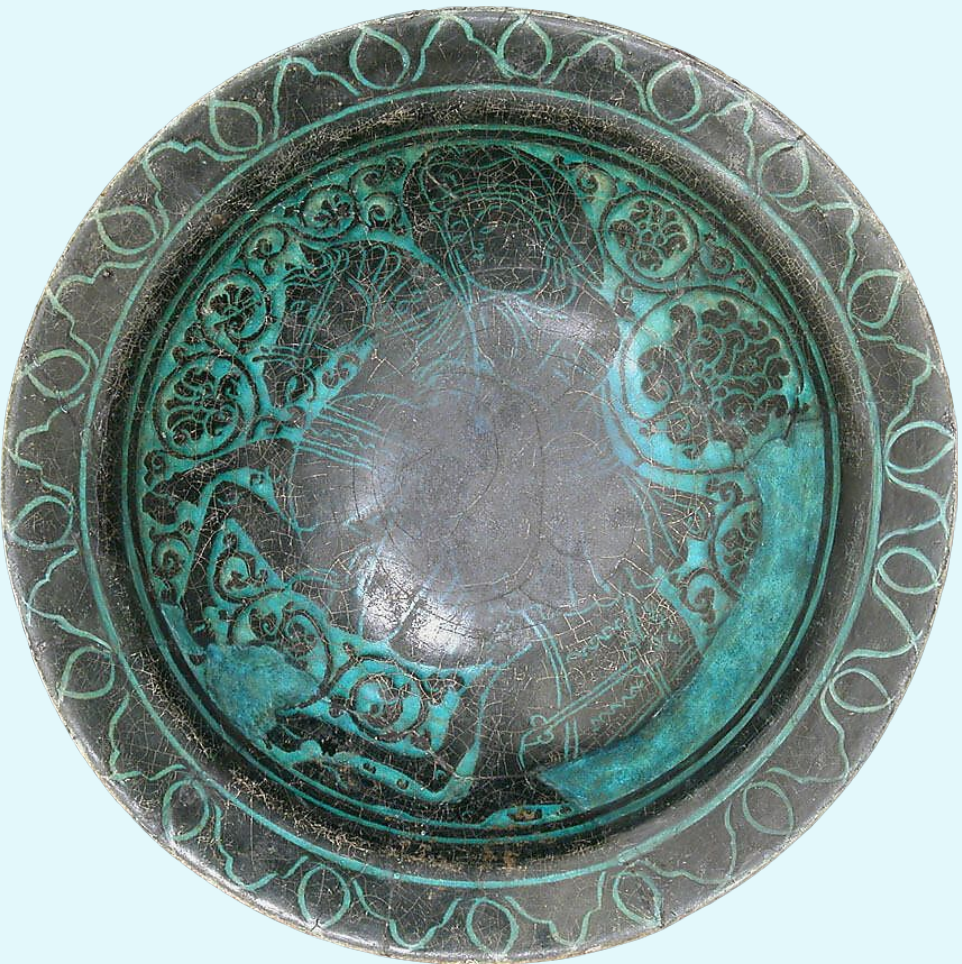
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**1**

**Title: "Shah Jahan on Horseback", Folio from the Shah Jahan Album**

**Artist: Painting by Payag (Indian, active ca. 1591–1658)**

**Calligrapher: Mir 'Ali Haravi (died ca. 1550)**

**Date: verso: ca. 1630; recto: ca. 1530–50**

**Geography: Attributed to India**

**Medium: Ink, opaque watercolor, and gold on paper**

**Accession Number: 55.121.10.21**

**On View: No, but look it up online!**

**2**

**Title: Square Tile**

**Date: late 13th century**

**Geography: Made in Iran, Kashan**

**Medium: Stonepaste; molded and luster-painted on opaque white glaze under transparent glaze**

**Accession Number: 40.181.10**

**On View: Gallery 455**

**3**

**Title: Tile with an Image of a Prince on Horseback**

**Date: second half 19th century**

**Geography: Made in Iran**

**Medium: Stonepaste; molded, polychrome painted under transparent glaze**

**Accession Number: 83.1.67**

**On View: Gallery 462**

**4**

**Title: A Stallion**

**Artist: Painting by Habiballah of Sava  
(Iranian, active ca. 1590–1610)**

**Date: ca. 1601–6**

**Geography: Attributed to present-day  
Afghanistan, Herat**

**Medium: Ink, opaque watercolor, and gold on  
paper**

**Accession Number: 1992.51**

**On View: Gallery 462**

**5**

**Title: Three Ornaments from a Bridle**

**Date: mid-17th century**

**Geography: Attributed to India**

**Medium: Silver; stamped, punched, gilded**

**Accession Number: 1987.254.1–.3**

**On View: Gallery 463**

**6**

**Title: Dish with Horse and Rider**

**Date: 13th century**

**Geography: Attributed to Iran**

**Medium: Stonepaste; incised decoration  
through a black slip ground under a  
turquoise glaze (silhouette ware)**

**Accession Number: 45.153.2**

**On View: Gallery 453**