

# BALTIMORE

## Pearls of Wisdom

AN EXHIBITION AT THE WALTERS ART MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS THE FORCES THAT INFLUENCED ISLAMIC ART

AN 18TH-CENTURY DIAMOND-ENCRUSTED RIFLE with priceless treasures hidden inside its secret chamber. A rare 16th-century edition of the *Shahnameh* (Persian Book of Kings), whose illustrations are curiously enhanced with European-influenced painting techniques. These rare artifacts are among those included in “Pearls on a String: Art in the Age of Great Islamic Empires,” an exhibition at the Walters Art Museum showcasing three significant, albeit little-known, influencers of Islamic art.

The exhibition explores the multiplicity of cultures within the Islamic world, highlighting three artists who lived between the 16th and 18th centuries. A writer composed the history of Akbar, the eminent Mughal Indian ruler; a Persian painter enhanced illustrations of two coveted literary historiographies; a Turkish Sultan was a music composer and arts patron.

“[The exhibition] focuses on how these specific individuals innovated something that has resonance today, through their own individual genius and collaborations with people around them,” says Amy Landau, associate curator of Islamic and South Asian art. The collection features about 120 objects created or inspired by the protagonists, including historic texts, vibrant textiles, hand-painted book-art illustrations, sculptures and jeweled artifacts. About a third of the pieces on display come from the museum’s large collection of Islamic art, with others on loan from institutions like the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Nov. 8–Jan. 31. 410-547-9000; [thewalters.org](http://thewalters.org)



*Young Woman in a Georgian Costume.* Probably Isfahan, late 17th century. Oil on canvas



Gobrecht silver dollars are among the coins on display at the Whitman Coin and Collectibles Winter Expo.



## Flipping Coins

Rare Gobrecht silver dollars, newly minted money and early American copper coins are among the massive collections of priceless coins, currencies and metals on display at Whitman Coin and Collectibles Winter Expo. An important event for serious currency collectors and traders, the expo at the Baltimore Convention Center Nov. 5–8 also provides numismatic neophytes an opportunity to score collectibles for \$10 or less.

“If you’ve always wondered whether those coins you found in the attic are truly valuable, the Whitman Baltimore Expo is the place to find out,” says Lori Kraft, Whitman’s general manager. “Bring them ... and get a variety of expert opinions about their value.” Plus: Attending won’t cost you a dime.

[expo.whitman.com](http://expo.whitman.com)

For additional event, attraction, restaurant and hotel information, visit [baltimore.org](http://baltimore.org)



## SAVE the DATE

### JONESTOWN

#### “PAUL SIMON: WORDS & MUSIC”

Through Jan. 18

The Jewish Museum of Maryland is the first stop on this Rock and Roll Hall of Fame tour, which features artifacts of Simon’s 50-year career, including guitars, performance videos and costumes. 410-732-6400; [jewishmuseummd.org](http://jewishmuseummd.org)

### INNER HARBOR

#### ICE SKATING AT THE HARBOR

Mid-November to February

Baltimore’s holiday ice rink in McKeldin Square dazzles in its second year. Enjoy skating, lessons and broomball. 443-278-4700; [innerharboricerink.org](http://innerharboricerink.org)

### MOUNT VERNON

#### X’S AND O’S (A FOOTBALL LOVE STORY)

Nov. 13–Dec. 20

Inspired by America’s football obsession, this play examines the conflicted ethics about the dangers of the game, based upon interviews with players, their families, and fans. 410-332-0033; [centerstage.org](http://centerstage.org)

### HAMPDEN

#### BALTIMORE’S MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

Nov. 28–Jan. 1

This now-famous neighborhood block is aglow with light displays beyond the typical twinkle, showcasing icons of Baltimore like crabs, Natty Boh, the Utz girl, Ravens and Orioles. [christmasstreet.com](http://christmasstreet.com)

### MOUNT VERNON

#### WASHINGTON MONUMENT HOLIDAY LIGHTING

Dec. 3

The crowd counts down, music begins and fireworks ignite as the Washington Monument is illuminated, ushering in Baltimore’s holiday season. 410-752-8632; [promotionandarts.org](http://promotionandarts.org)