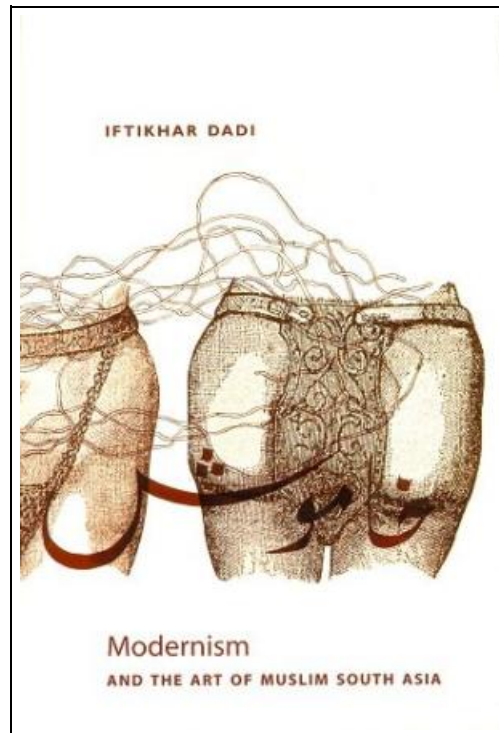


Modernism and the Art of Muslim South Asia



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Reviews

Just no phrases to describe. It typically does not price an excessive amount of. It is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding, once you begin to read the book.

(Felton Hessel)

MODERNISM AND THE ART OF MUSLIM SOUTH ASIA

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Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers Pvt. Ltd., 2012. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Colour & b/w illustrations (illustrator). First Indian Edition. 17 x 25. The pioneering work traces the emergence of the modern and contemporary art of Muslim South Asia in relation to transnational modernism and in light of the region's intellectual, cultural, and political developments. Art historian Iftikhar Dadi here illuminates the art and writings of major artists ranging from the late colonial period to the era of independence and beyond, revealing the complex richness of aesthetic developments in twentieth-century Muslim South Asia. Dadi demonstrates how a wave of artists associated with Pakistan—men and women, many of whom moved among several South Asian countries and England during the course of their careers—re-imagined critical aspects of their heritage and contributed to the development of transnational modernism in the postcolonial era. Dadi looks at the stunningly diverse artistic production of key artists, including Abdur Rahman Chughtai, Zainul Abedin, Shakir Ali, Zubeida Agha, Sadequain, Rasheed Araeen, and Naiza Khan. Dadi shows how, beginning in the 1920s, these artists addressed the challenges of modernity by translating historical and contemporary intellectual conceptions into their work, re-working traditional approaches to the classical Islamic arts, and engaging the modernist approach toward subjective individuality in artistic expression. In the process, they dramatically reconfigured the visual arts of the region. By the 1930s, these artists had embarked on a sustained engagement with international modernism in a context of dizzying social and political change that included decolonization, the rise of mass media, and development following the national independence of India and Pakistan in 1947. Bringing new insights to such concepts as nationalism, modernism, cosmopolitanism, and tradition, Dadi underscores the powerful impact of translationalism during this period and highlights the artists' growing embrace of modernist and contemporary artistic practice in order to...

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