

Massumeh Farhad, PhD

Chief Curator and The Ebrahimi Family Curator
of Persian, Arab, and Turkish Art

Massumeh Farhad joined the Freer | Sackler in 1995 as associate curator of Islamic art. In 2004, she was appointed chief curator and curator of Islamic art. A specialist in the arts of the book from sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Iran, she received her PhD in Islamic art history from Harvard University in 1987.



Farhad has curated numerous exhibitions on the arts of the Islamic world at the Freer | Sackler, including *Art of the Persian Courts* (1996), *Fountains of Light: The Nuhad Es-Said Collection of Metalwork* (2000), *Style and Status: Imperial Costumes from Ottoman Turkey* (2005–6), *The Tsars and the East: Gifts from Turkey and Iran in the Moscow Kremlin* (2009), *Falnama: The Book of Omens* (2009–10), *Roads of Arabia: History and Archaeology of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia* (2012), and *The Art of the Qur'an: Treasures from the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts* (2016). Her publications include *Slaves of the Shah: New Elites in Safavid Iran* (2004), *Falnama: The Book of Omens* (2009), *The Art of the Qur'an: Treasures from the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts* (2016), and *A Collector's Passion: Ezzat-Malek Soudavar and Persian Lacquer* (2017).