



# LM Museum

Tales of a Connected World.

*Tooba Aziz*

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**Introduction: Tales of Connected World**

**W**hat do we mean by 'Orientalism'? Orientalism refers to 'Western' representations, imitations and, often, misinterpretations of the 'Eastern' world. In art we might find this through the medium of paintings, sketches, photographs, ceramics or fashion.

This work by French painter Jean-Léon Gérôme is a beautiful depiction of a musician. It is so realistic, one might think it captures a particular moment in time. But like many Orientalist painters, Gérôme often painted from his studio, where he employed models to pose, and drew inspiration from photographs or artefacts he had collected on his travels.

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Jean-Léon Gérôme, *The Black Bard*, 1888, oil on canvas, 61.2 x 50.8 cm. Lusail Museum, Qatar Museums, 2022.

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Many Orientalist artists travelled or lived across parts of North Africa, the Middle East and the Indian Ocean World. Some took great care to document their experiences accurately while others painted entirely from their imaginations.

The range of approaches taken by Orientalist artists in capturing the essence of their subject matter is a testament to the complexity and diversity of the movement itself. Some artists meticulously documented the landscapes, architecture, and people they encountered, seeking to provide an authentic portrayal of the cultures they encountered. They meticulously studied local customs, traditions, and attire, ensuring their artworks were imbued with an air of authenticity.

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Encampment near Constantinople, 1878, an example of Gérôme's plein-air oil sketches Ger Eenens Collection, The Netherlands

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On the other hand, certain Orientalist painters embraced a more fantastical and romanticized approach. Drawing inspiration from literary works,

historical accounts, and their own imaginations, they created elaborate scenes that transported viewers to exotic and mythical realms. These artists aimed to evoke emotions and evoke a sense of wonder, blurring the lines between reality and fiction to convey their own interpretations of the Orient.

Regardless of their chosen approach, Orientalist artists played a pivotal role in shaping the Western world's perception of the East. Their works of art served as windows into distant lands, cultivating a fascination for the exotic, the mysterious, and the unfamiliar. Through their brushstrokes, they offered glimpses into a world steeped in culture, history, and enchantment, stimulating the imaginations of viewers and leaving a lasting impact on the art world.



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# I

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## LM museums: Doha, Qatar

*Tooba Aziz, Intern at LM, LM Museum*

*Excerpt from Tales of a Connected World: About the Galleries Virtual Library.*



The Lusail Museum is a remarkable institution that boasts an extensive and captivating collection of Orientalist art, making it one of the most significant repositories of its kind in the world. Within its walls, visitors have the opportunity to immerse themselves in a journey through time, exploring archaeological artifacts, artworks, and media that span from prehistoric eras to the vibrant present of the 21st century.

The primary focus of the museum's exhibition is to shed light on the intricate cultural interactions that have occurred between the greater MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region and its surrounding peripheries. Beyond the MENA region itself, the exhibition delves into the connections and exchanges with Europe, Central and East Africa, as well as Central, South, and East Asia. By examining these diverse interactions, the museum aims to foster a deeper understanding of the cultural interplay that has shaped the artistic landscape of these regions throughout history.

One of the core themes explored within the exhibition is the role of art in the transformation of cultural representations from the pre-Islamic period up to the present day. By showcasing a wide array of artistic expressions, ranging from ancient artifacts to contemporary creations, the museum enables visitors to witness the evolution and continuity of cultural narratives. This exploration encompasses various art forms, such as paintings, sculptures, ceramics, textiles, and multimedia installations.



[https://youtu.be/ocipW\\_Z1KR4](https://youtu.be/ocipW_Z1KR4)

**Video 1** The New Lusail Museum Lusail Museum, Qatar Museums, 2022.

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Through this comprehensive examination, the exhibition provides insight into how art has both reflected and influenced societal, religious, and political changes over time. It delves into the repercussions of these transformations, considering their impact on cultural

identity, intercultural dialogue, and the formation of artistic movements. By doing so, the Lusail Museum creates a space for contemplation and critical reflection on the rich and complex tapestry of cultural heritage.

Moreover, the museum serves as a platform for scholarly research, fostering collaborations with experts and institutions from around the world. It actively engages in archaeological excavations, conservation efforts, and curatorial projects, continually expanding its collection and knowledge base. By staying at the forefront of academic discourse and embracing innovative exhibition practices, the Lusail Museum strives to remain a beacon of cultural exchange and understanding, promoting dialogue and appreciation for diverse artistic traditions.

Overall, the Lusail Museum's dedication to showcasing Orientalist art and cultural artifacts, combined with its emphasis on the interconnectedness of various regions and time periods, makes it a unique and invaluable institution in the global art world. It provides a captivating and enlightening experience for visitors, inviting them to embark on a transformative journey through the intricate tapestry of human creativity and cultural expression.

Figure 1 Lusail Museum, Qatar Museums, 2022.

متحف لوسيل هو مؤسسة رائعة تفتخر بمجموعة واسعة وأسرة من الفن الاستشراقي ، مما يجعلها واحدة من أهم المستودعات من نوعها في العالم. داخل جدرانه ، يتمتع الزوار بفرصة الانغماس في رحلة عبر الزمن ، واستكشاف القطع الأثرية والأعمال الفنية والوسائط التي تمتد من عصور ما قبل التاريخ إلى الحاضر النابض بالحياة للقرن الحادي والعشرين

ينصب التركيز الأساسي لمعرض المتحف على تسليط الضوء على التفاعلات الثقافية المعقدة التي حدثت بين منطقة الشرق الأوسط وشمال إفريقيا (الشرق الأوسط وشمال إفريقيا) والأطراف المحيطة بها. خارج منطقة الشرق الأوسط وشمال إفريقيا نفسها ، يتعمق المعرض في الروابط والتبادلات مع أوروبا ووسط وشرق إفريقيا ، وكذلك وسط وجنوب وشرق آسيا. من خلال دراسة هذه التفاعلات المتنوعة ، يهدف المتحف إلى تعزيز فهم أعمق للتفاعل الثقافي الذي شكل المشهد الفني لهذه المناطق عبر التاريخ

أحد الموضوعات الأساسية التي تم استكشافها في المعرض هو دور الفن في تحول التمثيلات الثقافية من فترة ما قبل الإسلام حتى يومنا هذا. من خلال عرض مجموعة واسعة من أشكال التعبير الفني ، بدءاً من القطع الأثرية القديمة إلى الإبداعات المعاصرة ، يتيح المتحف للزوار مشاهدة تطور واستمرارية الروايات الثقافية. يشمل هذا الاستكشاف أشكالاً فنية مختلفة ، مثل اللوحات والمنحوتات والسيراميك والمنسوجات وتركيبات الوسائط المتعددة

من خلال هذا الفحص الشامل ، يقدم المعرض نظرة ثاقبة لكيفية انعكاس الفن وتأثيره على التغيرات المجتمعية والدينية والسياسية بمرور الوقت. ويتعمق في تداعيات هذه التحولات ، أخذاً في الاعتبار تأثيرها على الهوية الثقافية ، والحوار بين الثقافات ، وتشكيل الحركات الفنية. من خلال القيام بذلك ، يخلق متحف لوسيل مساحة للتأمل والتفكير النقدي في النسيج الغني والمعد للتراث الثقافي

علاوة على ذلك ، يعمل المتحف كمنصة للبحث العلمي ، وتعزيز التعاون مع الخبراء والمؤسسات من جميع أنحاء العالم. تشارك بنشاط في الحفريات الأثرية ، وجهود الحفظ ، ومشاريع تنظيم المعارض

Figure 2 Lusail Museum, Qatar Museums, 2022.

، وتوسع باستمرار قاعدة مجموعتها والمعرفة. من خلال البقاء في طليعة الخطاب الأكاديمي واعتماد ممارسات العرض المبتكرة ، يسعى متحف لوسيل إلى أن يظل منارة للتبادل الثقافي والتفاهم ، وتعزيز الحوار والتقدير للتقاليد الفنية المتنوعة

بشكل عام ، فإن تفاني متحف لوسيل في عرض الفن الاستشراقي والتحف الثقافية ، جنباً إلى جنب مع تركيزه على الترابط بين مختلف المناطق والفتحات الزمنية ، يجعله مؤسسة فريدة لا تقدر بثمن في عالم الفن العالمي. يوفر تجربة أسرة ومفيدة للزوار ، ويدعوهم للشروع في رحلة تحويلية من خلال النسيج المعقد للإبداع البشري والتعبير الثقافي

Figure 3 Lusail Museum, Qatar Museums, 2022.

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المناطق والفترات الزمنية ، يجعله مؤسسة فريدة لا تقدر بثمن في عالم الفن العالمي. يوفر تجربة أسرة ومفيدة للزوار ، ويدعوهم للشروع في رحلة تحويلية من خلال النسيج المعقد للإبداع البشري والتعبير الثقافي بشكل عام ، فإن تغاني متحف لوسيل في عرض الفن الاستشراقي والتحف الثقافية ، جنبًا إلى جنب مع تركيزه على الترابط بين مختلف المناطق والفترات الزمنية ، يجعله مؤسسة فريدة لا تقدر بثمن في عالم الفن العالمي. يوفر تجربة أسرة ومفيدة للزوار ، ويدعوهم للشروع في رحلة تحويلية من خلال النسيج المعقد للإبداع البشري والتعبير الثقافي بشكل عام ، فإن تغاني متحف لوسيل في عرض الفن الاستشراقي والتحف الثقافية ، جنبًا إلى جنب مع تركيزه على الترابط بين مختلف المناطق والفترات الزمنية ، يجعله مؤسسة فريدة لا تقدر بثمن في عالم الفن العالمي. يوفر تجربة أسرة ومفيدة للزوار ، ويدعوهم للشروع في رحلة تحويلية من خلال النسيج المعقد للإبداع البشري والتعبير الثقافي

**Figure 4** Lusail Museum, Qatar Museums, 2022.

**Figure 5** Walker Evans. *Floyd and Lucille Burroughs, Hale County, Alabama*, 1936. Lusail Museum, Qatar Museums, 2022.

بشكل عام ، فإن تغاني متحف لوسيل في عرض الفن الاستشراقي والتحف الثقافية ، جنبًا إلى جنب مع تركيزه على الترابط بين مختلف المناطق والفترات الزمنية ، يجعله مؤسسة فريدة لا تقدر بثمن في عالم الفن العالمي. يوفر تجربة أسرة ومفيدة للزوار ، ويدعوهم للشروع في رحلة تحويلية من خلال النسيج المعقد للإبداع البشري والتعبير الثقافي

#### NOTES

1. Memorandum draft by Walker Evans, reproduced in *Walker Evans at Work*, (New York: Harper and Row, 1982), 112.
2. Walker Evans to Ernestine Evans, unfinished two-page letter in black ink on hotel stationery, dated Feb. 1934, first published in *Walker Evans at Work*, 98. This letter is part of the Evans Collection at the Getty (JPGM84.XG.963.42).
3. From a review by W. B. Shaw, quoted in *Book Review Digest: Books of 1929* (New York: H. W. Wilson, 1930), 591.



# Catalogue

**Exhibit 1. Uncovering  
Orientalism**

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**Exhibit 2. Souq**

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## Exhibit 1. Uncovering Orientalism

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<b>Artist</b>	Dorothea Lange
<b>Year</b>	1936
<b>Dimensions</b>	34.1 cm × 26.8 cm (13 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>16</sub> in × 10 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>16</sub> in.)
<b>Medium</b>	Gelatin silver print
<b>Location</b>	J. Paul Getty Museum

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The first publication of this renowned image occurred on March 11, 1936, on the third day that the San Francisco News ran a story about the pea pickers' camp at Nipomo. It was also featured as a full-page reproduction in September 1936 issue of *Survey Graphic*, titled "Draggin'-Around People" and captioned "A blighted pea crop in California in 1935 left the pickers without work. This family sold their tent to get food." Also in this issue was an article by Taylor entitled "From the Group Up." His report on demonstration projects of the New Deal's Resettlement Administration in Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, and California was illustrated with four more picture by Lange.

Since it was first published, this composition, best known as *Migrant Mother*, has come to represent not only the pictorial archive created by the RA/FSA during the 1930s but also the Great Depression itself. Posters and other publicity of later activists fighting racial, economic, and political oppression have borrowed from Lange's icon of the time. The handsome, androgynous face, the pose of stoic anxiety, and the encumbrance of three young children proved to be universal attributes. With Lange's artistry, Owens took on the timeless quality of Eugène Delacroix's strong female rebel (*Liberty Leading the People*), Jean-François Millet's peasant woman (the agrarian ideal), Honoré Daumier's laundresses (the working woman) and Käthe Kollwitz's proletarian woman warrior (one of the mothers leading her *Peasants' War*).

Owens, although she became famous, did not enjoy, even momentarily, the life of a celebrity. She had three more children and kept moving with her family, following the

California crops. She did become involved in efforts to organize farm labor and would sometimes serve as the straw boss, one who negotiates wages for migrants as the picking season begins. She was still working in the fields at age fifty before finally marrying again (to George Thompson) and settling into a stable life in Modesto, California.

Several Lange images from the same photoshoot with Owens and her children exist in other collections. These give us the chance to consider the many varied choices in composition that Lange made in producing her iconic final image.

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**Figure 1.2** Lawrence Alma-Tadema, *The Meeting of Antony and Cleopatra*, ca. 1884, oil on panel, 65.5 x 91.4 cm. Lusail Museum Collection. Photo: © Lusail Museum, Qatar Museums, 2022.

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### EXHIBITIONS

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This image became iconic after it was on the cover of *National Geographic* in 1985. As well portraying the displacements caused by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, it came to symbolise the fate of refugees. But it raised some difficult questions about voyeurism and power. While Steve McCurry became instantly famous for his photograph, Sharbat Gula, the model, remained anonymous, staying in the Nasir Bagh refugee camp for 18 years before returning to Afghanistan.

William Bouguereau, *Girl with a Pomegranate*, 1875, oil on canvas, 59 x 44.5 cm. Lusail Museum, Qatar Museums, 2022.

William Bouguereau, *Girl with a Pomegranate*, 1875, oil on canvas, 59 x 44.5 cm. Lusail Museum, Qatar Museums, 2022.

The Carpet Menders, Rudolf Swoboda, 1883, Oil on canvas. Lusail Museum, Qatar Museums, 2022.

## Exhibit 2. Souq

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<b>Artist</b>	Walker Evans
<b>Year</b>	1936
<b>Dimensions</b>	19.4 x 24.4 (7 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> x 9 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> in.)
<b>Medium</b>	Gelatin silver print
<b>Location</b>	J. Paul Getty Museum

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An enduring meeting place for people, goods and ideas from all over the world, the souq is, and has been, a core part of daily communal experience – a continuation of shared activities under one roof from market to mosque and home.

Standing at the heart of Damascus, one of the world's long-inhabited cities, Souq Al-Hamidiyah has stood witness to the city's turbulent history.

Sunlight streams through bullet holes in its iron canopy, erected by the Ottomans, as a testament to the 1920s conflict between the Syrians and French Colonists. Throughout the ongoing war, the Souq has escaped damage.

The thriving commercial heart of the historic city, the souq has welcomed merchants from far and wide, with goods exchanging hands and travelling out across the Indian Ocean World and beyond.

As bustling and dynamic meeting places, souqs have featured regularly in the works of Orientalist artists.

### EXHIBITIONS

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William Bouguereau, *Girl with a Pomegranate*, 1875, oil on canvas, 59 x 44.5 cm. Lusail Museum Collection. Photo: © Lusail Museum, Qatar Museums, 2022.

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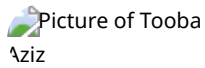
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# Contributor

## Tooba Aziz



As an intern at a prestigious museum, I am fortunate to have the opportunity to immerse myself in the captivating world of art and culture. Joining the museum in [year], I have been able to contribute to various aspects of its operations, gaining invaluable hands-on experience along the way. Under the guidance of seasoned professionals, I have had the privilege of assisting with exhibition preparations, conducting research on artworks, and engaging with visitors to enhance their museum experience. Additionally, my time as an intern has allowed me to collaborate closely with curators and museum staff, gaining insights into the intricate processes of collection management and conservation. This internship has been a transformative experience, deepening my appreciation for the importance of preserving and sharing art, and inspiring my own growth as a future museum professional.