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*Included only in printed and CD-ROM versions*
THE MUSEUM WITH NO FRONTIERS (MWNF) PROGRAMME

✔ To present art, culture and history from the local perspective
✔ To promote awareness for the unity as a mosaic of diversities
✔ To understand art and architecture as ambassadors of peoples and cultures

are the purposes of Museum With No Frontiers.

Capitalising on the diversity and huge variety of the artistic and cultural heritage, MWNF invites partners from all over the world to contribute to greater mutual understanding through better knowledge of our different cultural identities and historical backgrounds.

Two new Exhibition formats – the Exhibition Trail presenting the exhibits in situ together with their natural environment and the Virtual Exhibition using the virtual space as a joint exhibition venue of partners from different countries – constitute the pillars of the MWNF programme. Exhibitions that do not require moving the works of art but that provide numerous possibilities for research, documentation, and awareness.

Great visibility and an output-focused management, based on standardised methodologies and a uniform Corporate Identity, keep the international MWNF network together and allow it to act as a catalyst for local development through the promotion of cultural tourism and educational programmes.

The non-profit organisation MWNF was founded in 1994 in Vienna, initiated by Eva Schubert. In 1998 MWNF moved its operational base to Madrid before transferring its Head Office in 2002 to Brussels as the most neutral place to coordinate a multilateral programme. MWNF finances its flexible infrastructure within projects and through incomes from sponsorships and the marketing of its know-how.
CHRONOLOGY

1994 – 1996

Conceptualisation of the Exhibition Trail as a new exhibition format presenting the exhibits in situ. The exhibition catalogue is used as a thematic travel guide providing explanations for each monument and site visited. Written by renowned local scholars, it promotes the discovery of art and history from the local perspective. Uniformly designed signposts identify the items on display.


The Tyrolean Exhibition Trails were implemented by Austrian Art Service, which in 1996, promoted the establishment of the non-profit making Organisation Museum With No Frontiers.
On the occasion of the inauguration of the Maximilian I Exhibition Trail in June 1996, an international Colloquium on Muslim Art in the Mediterranean was organised in Innsbruck, initiated by Eva Schubert, the inventive mind behind the MWNF programme. The purpose was to transfer the experience of the Austrian pilot project to the Mediterranean region.

The Innsbruck Colloquium, which took place six months after the signing of the Barcelona Declaration in November 1995, was the beginning of the MWNF programme to promote Islamic art and architecture in the Mediterranean and since then, the programme has continued to be strongly connected to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership established by the European Union and its Mediterranean neighbours. Two projects – the Exhibition Trails Islamic Art in the Mediterranean and the Virtual Museum Discover Islamic Art – could be realised thanks to the financial support of the Euromed Heritage programme, one of the budget lines of this Partnership.

The name Museum With No Frontiers (MWNF) was used for the first time at the Innsbruck Colloquium to create a joint heading for the Tyrolean pilot project and the planned programme in the Mediterranean.
1997 – 1998

Preparation of the Exhibition Trail cycle *Islamic Art in the Mediterranean*:

**1st Academic Coordination Meeting**
hosted by the Spanish Ministry of Culture in [Barcelona](https://www.museumwithnofrontiers.org/en/locations/barcelona) (July 1997). Representatives of 12 countries of the European Union, North Africa and the Middle East agreed on a specific theme for each Exhibition Trail.

*Barcelona, July 1997*

**Training programme** organised by MWNF in [Innsbruck](https://www.museumwithnofrontiers.org/en/locations/innsbruck) to familiarise young experts from different Mediterranean countries with the methodology of the Exhibition Trails (July 1997, with the support of the Tyrolean Government and the Tyrolean Tourism Board).

*Innsbruck, Tyrol, July 1997*


*Stockholm, October 1998*
1998
Launch of the first Italian Exhibition Trail *I Principi della Chiesa* in Latium and publication of the related catalogue in Italian.

Launch of the first German Exhibition Trail *Barock & Rokoko* in Southern Bavaria and publication of the related catalogues in German.

1999 – 2004
Creation of nine Exhibition Trails within the cycle *Islamic Art in the Mediterranean*. Some 1,500 monuments, museums and archaeological sites from the Umayyad period (AD 661–750) up to the beginning of the Ottoman Empire (1299–1922) have been introduced to a wider audience and became important catalysts for local development. The accompanying thematic guides – richly illustrated exhibition catalogues written by renowned local scholars from each country – have been translated into up to six languages.

The exhibition catalogues can be used as thematic guides during the visit.
The year refers to the date of the Exhibition Trail launch:

1999

**Portugal**

*IN THE LANDS OF THE ENCHANTED MOORISH MAIDEN:*

Islamic Art in Portugal

**Turkey**, Western Anatolia and Thrace

*EARLY OTTOMAN ART: The Legacy of the Emirates*

2000

**Morocco**

*ANDALUSIAN MOROCCO: A Discovery in Living Art*

**Tunisia**

*IFRIQIYA: Thirteen Centuries of Art and Architecture in Tunisia*

**Spain**

*MUDEJAR ART: Islamic Aesthetics in Christian Art*

2001

**Jordan**

*THE UMAYYADS: The Rise of Islamic Art*

2002

**Egypt**

*MAMLUK ART: The Splendour and Magic of the Sultans*

2004

**Palestinian Authority**

*PILGRIMAGE, SCIENCES AND SUFISM:*

Islamic Art in the West Bank and Gaza

**Italy**, Sicily

*SICULO-NORMAN ART:*

Islamic Culture in Medieval Sicily

The MWNF exhibition catalogues are published in a number of languages including English, French, Italian and Spanish. Some titles are available in German, Portuguese and Turkish and soon also in Arabic.

For more information and to order copies please visit http://www.museumwnf.org/book_platform_home.php
1999 – 2004

**Creation of nine Exhibition Trails Islamic Art in the Mediterranean**
in Egypt, Italy, Jordan, Morocco, the territories of the Palestinian Authority, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey.

Approximately two years preparation – including meetings, field trips and the elaboration of texts and images according to standardised criteria – culminates in the launch of the Exhibition Trails and publication of the related exhibition catalogues. The events are celebrated by the local communities and international press tours are organised for each launch.
2002
Launch of the **second Portuguese Exhibition Trail THE MANUELINES: Portuguese Art during the Great Discoveries** and publication of the related catalogue in four languages.

Following Maximilian I in Tyrol, this new Exhibition Trail in Portugal continues the cycle: The Great Patrons of the Arts.

Cover of the Manueline catalogue.

2004
Launch of the **MWNF Virtual Museum** programme which makes use of the virtual environment to create a museum allowing the presentation of monuments, archaeological sites and artefacts in disparate places and in different museums to be viewed in relation to each other. Thus, the **participating museums** are perceived as the **gateways to a unique museum with no frontiers** making it possible for visitors from all over the world to experience art and architecture as ambassadors of the different peoples and cultures represented.

*Qasr al-Mushatta in Jordan.*

*The Mushatta Façade, Pergamon Museum, Berlin.*
2004 – 2007

Realisation of the Discover Islamic Art Virtual Museum with the support of the European Union under the Euromed Heritage programme.

Within a unique spirit of international cooperation 17 partner museums together with 23 associated museums have collaborated to create a joint on-line permanent collection of 1,235 exhibits including 850 objects and 385 monuments.

The collection comprises a diverse selection of Islamic objects, monuments and historical sites from 14 countries and covers the various Islamic dynasties and cultures of the Mediterranean region spanning some 1,280 years from AD 634 when the Muslim Arab armies first entered the Levant, to the fall of the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the 20th century.

Curators from all participating museums and countries jointly elaborated the content of the Virtual Museum’s different sections during several international meetings.
The Discover Islamic Art Partner Museums

**Algeria**  Museum of Islamic Art at the Archaeological Museum, Algiers

**Egypt**  Islamic Art Museum, Cairo

**Germany**  Islamic Art Museum at the Pergamon Museum, Berlin

**Italy**  National Museum of Oriental Art “G. Tucci”, Rome

**Jordan**  Jordan Archaeological Museum, Amman

**Morocco**  National Archaeological Museum, Rabat

**Palestinian Authority**  Islamic Museum and Al-Aqsa Library, al-Haram al-Sharif, Jerusalem

**Portugal**  Archaeological Area and Museum of Mertola coordinating a network of 15 Portuguese museums including the Gulbenkian Museum in Lisbon

**Spain**  National Archaeological Museum, Madrid

**Sweden**  Museum for Mediterranean and Near Eastern Antiquities, Stockholm

**Syria**  National Museum, Damascus

**Tunisia**  Islamic Art Museum, Raqqada (Kairouan) coordinating a network of five Tunisian museums including the Bardo Museum in Tunis

**Turkey**  Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts, Istanbul

**United Kingdom**  The British Museum, London
 Glasgows Museums, Scotland
 National Museums of Scotland
 Victoria and Albert Museum, London
9 December 2005

The *Discover Islamic Art* Virtual Museum went life opening its virtual doors to a permanent collection and database which provide explanations in Arabic, English and French, as well as in the local language of each country.

**Launch events took place in all participating countries** thus symbolically opening local gateways to the joint museum with no frontiers. Thirteen events were held between 22 November and 13 December 2005 hosted by the partner museums in Rome, Berlin, Lisbon, Madrid, London, Istanbul, Amman, Ramallah, Damascus, Cairo, Tunis, Algiers and Rabat.

*Launch in the United Kingdom held at the British Museum on 25 November 2005.*

*The Palestinian launch held at the Cultural Centre in Ramallah on 1 December 2005.*
2005

Realisation of the second MWNF Virtual Museum Discover Baroque Art.

The project further develops the foundations laid by the MWNF Virtual Museum pilot project Discover Islamic Art.

A Consortium composed of museums, universities and cultural-heritage institutions from Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Portugal and Turkey is building an on-line permanent collection that for the first time combines Baroque artefacts and monuments from different museums and countries within a single joint collection. The selection covers items from the period between the end of the Council of Trient (1563) until the Congress of Vienna (1815).

Discover Baroque Art is “self-financed”, whereby each partner finances its own share of the project.

For further information visit:
http://www.museumwnf.org/atrium_chronology_home.php
FORECAST

Winter 2006/07
Launch of the MWNF travel platform offering specialised travel agencies from all over the world the possibility to advertise tours based on the MWNF Exhibition Trails.

Launch of an educational programme in connection with the www.discoverislamicart.org Virtual Museum.

Spring 2007
Launch of the Virtual Exhibition cycle Discover Islamic Art in the Mediterranean

18 Virtual Exhibitions present the political, social and cultural life of the Islamic Dynasties that for almost 13 centuries ruled large parts of the Mediterranean basin starting from the Umayyad Caliphs – who in AD 661 established their first capital in Damascus – until the end of the Ottoman Empire in 1922. For the first time a wider audience worldwide will be in the position to discover the history, art and culture of this great civilisation from the perspective of its heirs and successors. Explanations will be provided in Arabic, English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Turkish.

Autumn 2007
Launch of two new Exhibitions Trails in Algeria and Syria, within the Islamic Art in the Mediterranean cycle.

Launch of the Discover Baroque Art Virtual Museum.
THE MWNF TEAM

MWNF Head Office
Rue des Boers 59
1040 Brussels, Belgium
Phone: +32 2 7375100
Fax: +32 2 7375109
office@museumwnf.net

MWNF Board

Eva SCHUBERT
Chair and Chief Executive
management@museumwnf.net

Amr HAMDY, Cairo
Vice-President
ahamdy@aucegypt.edu

Cristina CORREIA, Lisbon
Vice-President
msf.ccorreia@netcabo.pt

Members

Aicha BENABED, Tunis
benabed.aicha@planet.tn

Mohammad NAJJAR, Amman
najjar_m@yahoo.com

Javier MUÑIZ, Madrid
munizjavier@terra.es

www.museumwnf.org

Discover Islamic Art Local Coordinators

Algeria
Algiers
Boussad OUADI
boussadouadi@wanadoo.fr
boussadouadi@hotmail.com

Egypt
Cairo
Enaam SELIM
amalmwnf@yahoo.com

Italy
Rome
Irene SALERNO
mwnfitaly@museumwnf.net

Jordan
Amman
Ghada AL-YOUSEF
c/o Friends of Archaeology
foa@nets.com.jo

Morocco
Casablanca
Naima ELKHATIB BOUJIBAR
nael69@hotmail.com

Palestinian Authority
Ramallah
Sa’d NIMR
sfnimr@hotmail.com

Portugal
Mertola
Santiago MACIAS
santiagomacias@sapo.pt

Spain
Madrid
Miguel GARCIA
mwnfspain@museumwnf.net

Syria
Damascus
Zena TAKIEDDINE
z_takieddine@yahoo.com

Tunisia
Tunis
Saloua ZANGAR
salouazangar@yahoo.fr

Turkey
Izmir
Inci KUYULU ERSOY
ikuyulu@yahoo.com
Mehmet KAHYAOGLU
c/o MWNF Head office
mehmet@superonline.com
assistant@museumwnf.net

For all other countries please contact the
MWMF Head office