

## ***Curatorial Appointments at the Aga Khan Museum***

***Toronto, April 11, 2019 – The Aga Khan Museum is pleased to announce the appointments of Dr. Marika Sardar and Dr. Michael Chagnon as curators.***

***Dr. Marika Sardar*** is a specialist in South Asian Art. Her significant curatorial, research and exhibition experience include former positions at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and her role as Associate Curator for Southern Asian and Islamic Art at the San Diego Museum, where she was instrumental in reorganising the South Asian galleries. Most recently, she held the position of Curator for South Asia at the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha. Dr. Sardar holds a PhD in Islamic Art and Archaeology from the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University. She will be joining the Aga Khan Museum in mid-April.

***Dr. Michael Chagnon*** specializes in the arts of depiction and cultures of the illustrated book in early modern Iran. He was most recently Curator of Exhibition Interpretation at Japan Society, New York, where he was responsible for exhibitions and related programs. Prior to joining the Japan Society, Dr. Chagnon was Acting Curator of Islamic Art at the Brooklyn Museum. With a PhD in History of Art from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, he also has teaching and research experience, including developing a graduate seminar on critical approaches to Persianate painting at Columbia University in Spring 2019. Dr. Chagnon will be joining the Aga Khan Museum in early May.

Dr. Sardar and Dr. Chagnon will join Dr. Filiz Cakir Phillip, Curator and Ms. Bitva Pourvash, Assistant Curator, to complete the curatorial team at the Aga Khan Museum which is responsible for the curation of the permanent collections and temporary exhibitions. The team will play a crucial role in driving the continuing intellectual and visitor-focused relevance and impact of the Museum and its collections in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

The Aga Khan Museum in Toronto, Canada, has been established and developed by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), which is an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). The Museum's mission is to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of the contribution that Muslim civilizations have made to world heritage while often reflecting, through both its permanent and temporary exhibitions, how cultures connect with one another. Designed by architect Fumihiko Maki, the Museum shares a 6.8-hectare site with Toronto's Ismaili Centre, which was designed by architect Charles Correa. The surrounding landscaped park was designed by landscape architect Vladimir Djurovic.