



Encounters with the Ottoman Miniature: Contemporary Readings of an Imperial Art (International Library of Visual Culture)

By Özden, Begüm Fırat

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The dominant form of Ottoman pictorial art until the eighteenth century, miniatures have traditionally been studied as reflecting the socio-historical contexts, aesthetic concerns and artistic tastes of the era within which they were produced. Begüm Özden Fırat proposes instead a radical re-reading of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century miniatures in the light of contemporary critical theory, highlighting the viewer's encounter with the image. *Encounters with the Ottoman Miniature* employs contemporary concepts such as the gaze, frame/framing, reading and re-reading, drawing on thinkers such as Walter Benjamin, Roland Barthes and Gilles Deleuze to establish the vibrant cultural agency of miniature paintings. With analysis that illuminates both the social and political situations in which these miniatures were painted as well as emphasising the miniature's contemporary relevance, Fırat presents an important new re-imagining of this art form.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Begüm Özden Firat is Assistant Professor, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Department of Sociology, Istanbul, Turkey. She holds a PhD in Visual Culture from the University of Amsterdam and is the co-editor of *Commitment and Complicity in Cultural Theory and Practice* (2009).

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