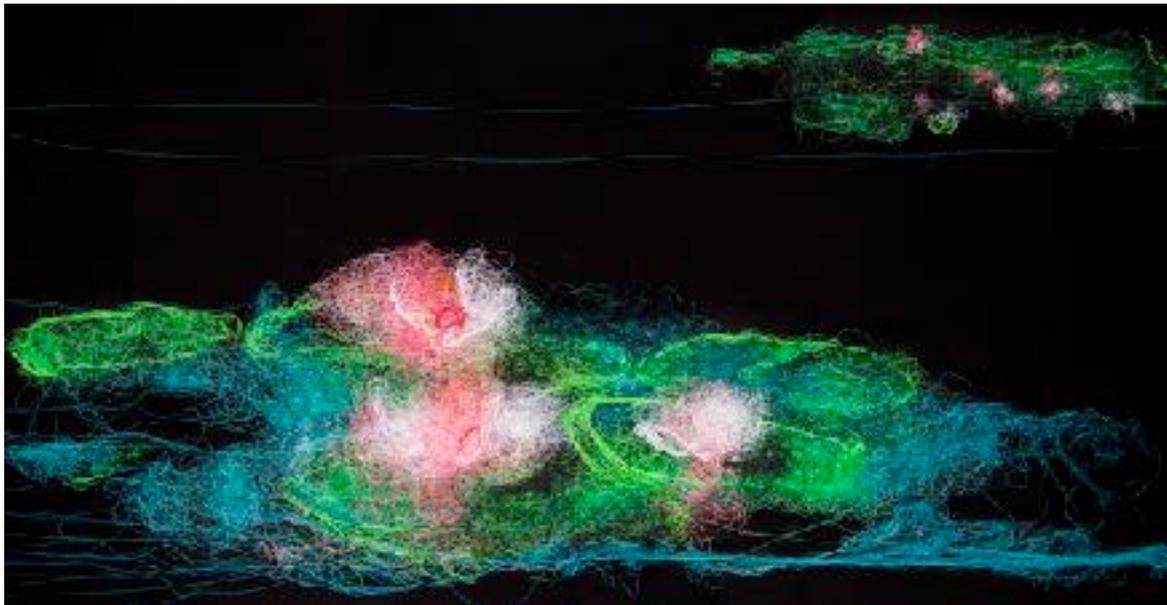




## First exhibition-sale organized by the auction house Rim Enchères Islamic art interacts over floral and calligraphic themes

Exhibition and auction curated by Rim Mezghani  
from September 30 to October 15 in Paris and online



Mathieu Ducournau (Born in 1965 in Morocco) « Nymphéas », 2017 - 110 x 150 cm - 9.000/10.000 euros.

As a new player in the international art market, Rim Enchères marks her entrance by organizing its first exhibition-sale "Floral and calligraphic dialogue" from September 30 to October 15, 2021 in Paris and on the internet, including more than 150 eclectic works that span centuries and regions of the world. This unprecedented experience bringing Oriental art to interact with other disciplines, will combine an exhibition in Paris, notably at the prestigious Samarcande Gallery in the 6th arrondissement of the capital (from October 2 to 11) and an auction of all the pieces exhibited, simultaneously, on the Drouot digital platform. These works of art from private collections have been selected for the occasion by Rim Mezghani, founder of the auction house. Manuscripts, ceramics, silverware, paintings, all specific crafts to the Middle Ages up to the modern era will be auctioned from 100 euros to 20,000 euros.

### A fine story...

This remarkable Persian manuscript from the prestigious workshops of Shiraz, in fifteenth-century Iran, is a Book of Kings (Shahnameh) whose provenance since the 17th century has been traced by the auction house Rim Enchères as well as by a number of art scholars. This majestic work was part of the collection of the princes of Tâlesh (Iranian governorate covering the north-western region of Iran and the south of the current Republic of Azerbaijan), who passed it on to their successive heirs, across generations. Several owners' seals and bookplates display eminent personalities of this lineage, revealing the manuscript's course from the mid-17th century to the end of the 19th century. **Arriving in France prior to 1925, it was acquired by a private collector, and kept since then within the same family for nearly a hundred years.**

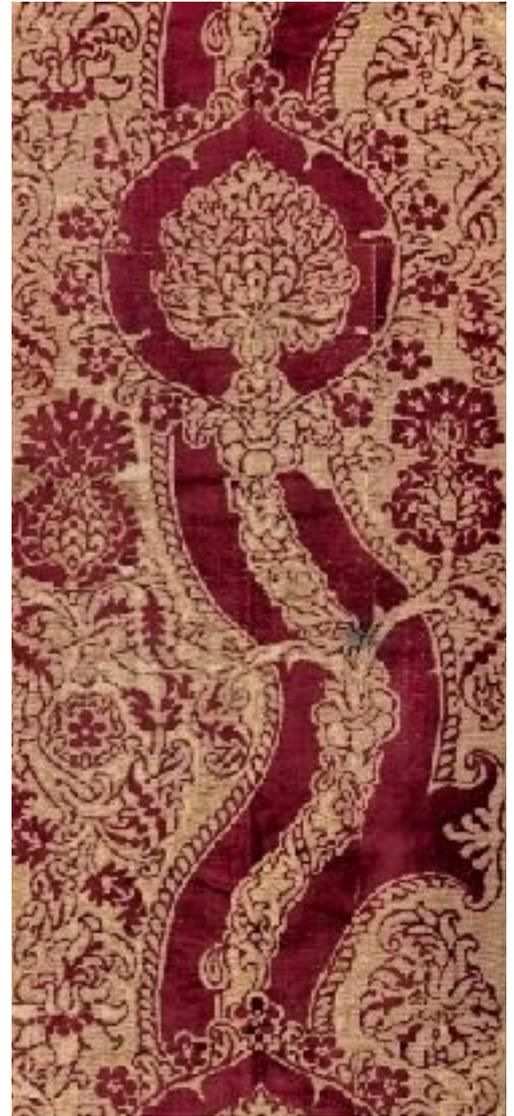


A Persian manuscript without illustrations : Shahname (Book Of Kings) of Firdousi, from The library of the Governors of Khanat-I Tâlesh, Iran, Shiraz, Circa 1560. Acquired in France before 1925. - 45 x 27,4 cm. 11 kg. 10.000/15.000 euros

## A new adventure for Islamic art

- An exhibition in Paris and an auction on the internet held simultaneously,
- An artistic dialogue between oriental art and other disciplines over floral and calligraphic decor,
- A selection of works appraised by the greatest specialists and selected by the auction house Rim Enchères, founded by the specialist Rim Mezghani in association with Raphaële Laxan, auctioneer.
- A range of art objects from the early 10th century to the modern era, estimated between 100 and 20,000 euros.

*"The flower often accompanies calligraphy in Islamic art. These decorative elements are present on artworks from varied materials and all eras, from China to Spain," says Rim Mezghani, founder of the auction house.*



In elaborating this new concept of thematic exhibition-sale, the founder of Rim Enchères wishes to offer a unique experience aimed at **rejuvenating perspectives on Islamic art by emphasizing its purely decorative character and its accessibility.** In this light, Rim Mezghani would like to invite collectors and decorators to integrate works of Eastern civilizations in a contemporary decor.

To assist her in the preparation of this exhibition-sale, the founder of Rim Enchères has involved a number of experts and art scholars. Indeed, as a renowned expert on the art market, Rim Mezghani intended on developing a scientific and curated approach of her auctions.

Velours « griccia » à la mandorle rouge Italie pour le marché ottoman, XVIe-XVIIe siècle  
Dim. : 131 x 58 cm. Largeur du lé sans les lisières : 56 cm Estimation : 2.000 – 3.000 euros

A large Ottoman mother-of-pearl, tortoiseshell, and bone-inlaid casket. Turkey, late 18th-19th Century 86,5 x 48 x 49,5 cm. 6.000/8.000 euros



## Ottoman and Persian art in dialogue with contemporary works



A small gold box with initials of H.H.I Princess Hanzade Sultan, Europe, 20th century. 7,3 x 5 x 1 cm, 800/1.200 euros - A signed gold brooch in the shape of a grape, by Iradj Moini, 1990/2000 11 x 9 cm. 134 g. 1200/1500 euros

This first thematic sale of floral and calligraphic art will bring together rare, eclectic and accessible works, such as a set of medieval ceramics from a private collection published in a catalog and exhibited in Germany in 1989. Also included in the sale is an Ottoman chest with acanthus leaf rinceaux from the late 18th century as well as an important set of calligraphies and album pages with gilded floral and animalistic margins by the greatest Persian masters. The program also includes contemporary works, such as a brooch of naturalist inspiration by the Iranian jeweler Iradj Moini recently spotlighted at an exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

**Rim Enchères will also have the honor of presenting artist Mathieu Ducournau for the first time at auction, with his 2017 "Nymphéas".** *"I discovered this young French artist at the Chevalier Gallery in Paris, and I was immediately seduced by his virtuoso work on thread and his explosive use of vibrant colors, whose freshness and brightness remind me of those appearing on Indian miniatures"*, as Rim Mezghani elaborates, insisting on the dialogue she likes to instigate between the works.

### A scientific and curated approach

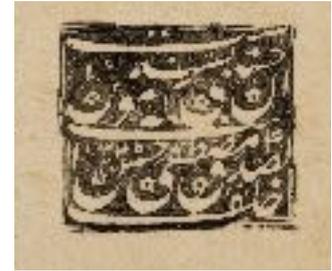
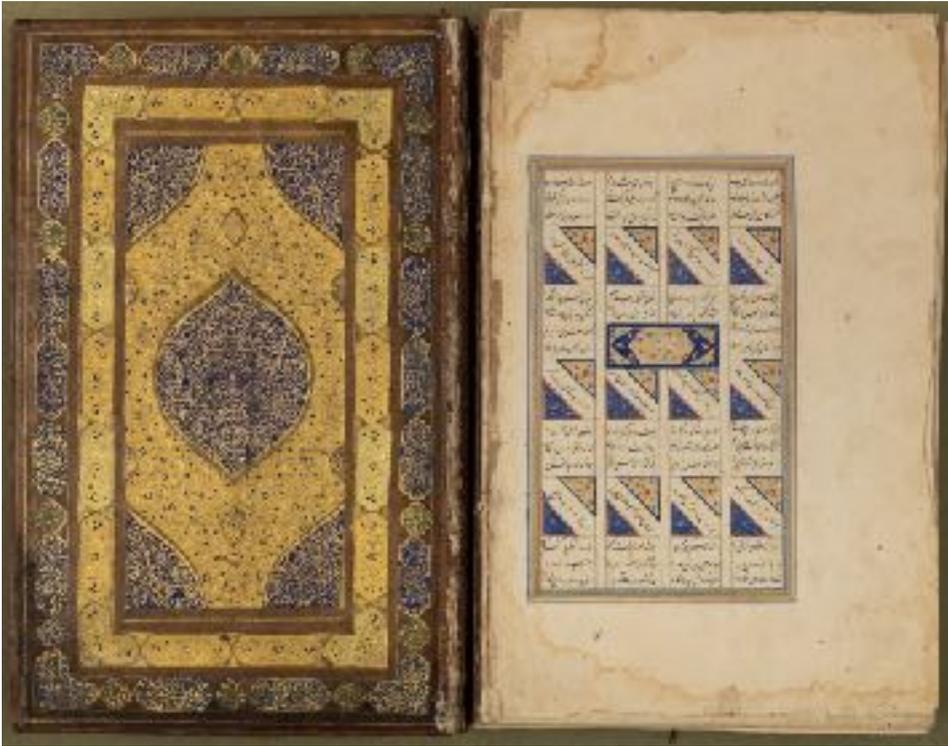


If the exaltation of nature and the aesthetics of the floral registry inspired Rim Mezghani's idea for this exhibition-sale, she also wished to illustrate the role of the flower in the development of the decor in early Islam. *"We have selected a rare tenth-century jug decorated with an inscription in ornamental Kufic, one of the oldest oriental scripts. **The floral endings of the Kufic letters show a shift towards a more sophisticated style and testify to a true impaction on the orthodoxy of the usual angular Kufic script**"*, says Rim Mezghani.

A rare ornamental Kufic decorated pottery jug, Eastern Persia or Central Asia, Nishapur or Samarqand, 10th Century. 12.000/15.000 euros.

## Exceptional traceability of a 16th century Persian manuscript

Rim Mezghani unveils a remarkable 16th century Persian manuscript: The Book of Kings (Shahnameh) by Ferdowsi. Thanks to the contribution of French art scholars, Rim Enchères has traced back the list of its multiple owners since the 17th century.



A Persian manuscript without illustrations : Shahnama (Book Of Kings) of Firdousi, from The library of the Governors of Khanat-I Tâlesh, Iran, Shiraz, Circa 1560. Acquired in France before 1925. - 45 x 27,4 cm. 11 kg. 10.000/15.000 euros

**Reconstituting the course of this manuscript has been made possible thanks to the many seals of owners as well as to the bookplates.** The latter not only provide us with precious dated information and names of eminent personalities, but also testify to the presence of this piece within the collection of the princes of Khânât-i Tâlesh (Iranian governorate covering the north-western region of Iran and the southern part of the current Republic of Azerbaijan). *"It has been acquired by the ancestor of the princes of Tâlesh and was passed down across generations from the mid-17th century until the end of the 19th century. **The earliest date appearing in the bookplates is 1654-55, during the reign of Shah Abbas II (1642-1666), period in which the ancestor of the governors of Tâlesh, Mîr Abbas Khân-i Khalifa, was appointed Caliph of the region by Shah Abbas II,** points out Rim Mezghani.*

## Acquired before 1925 by a French collector and kept since then within the same family

Acquired before June 1925 by a French collector, it has been carefully preserved by his descendants for nearly 100 years. The story of its acquisition is both recounted and documented by written communications exchanged, at the time, between the purchaser and the merchant who sold it to him. *"The current owner's grandfather, a collector and true artwork connoisseur, bought this large Shahnameh from a merchant named Aziz Ezra, who sold oriental objects and carpets in Paris between the 1920s and 1930s. **It is particularly rare to have access to such detailed information on acquisitions made at the beginning of the 20th century**", as Rim Mezghani stresses.*



## An exceptionally rare content

As one of the most prestigious manuscripts achieved during the reign of Shah Tahmâsp (1524-1576), **it is assumed that it has been elaborated in a royal workshop that employed the best master calligraphers and illuminators of the time.** This 11-kilogram book contains 500 folios, although it has been separated from its 35 miniatures since its acquisition, and stands out owing to its majestic binding with embossed and gilded decoration. *"The sumptuous inside covers are decorated with gilded and embossed floral designs at the same time and, in filigree, gilded and open-worked surfaces reveal the colored background in blue lapis and green. The ensemble creates a quite exceptional playing of reliefs"*, as Rim Mezghani explains.



Finely calligraphed in Nastaliq script on paper from Dowlatabâd (as noted in a bookplate), a region of the Deccan in India famous for the fineness of its paper, it includes several flowery illuminations of exceptional quality, in polychrome and gold. *"What makes this manuscript all the more remarkable is the presence of the introduction of Baysonghor, the Timurid prince: Baysonghor I (1397-1433), grandson of Timur and eminent calligrapher. **The original copy of this introduction was written on the occasion of the Shahnameh known as "Baysonghor", completed in 1430. This manuscript is kept in the Golestan Palace in Tehran and is listed by the UNESCO in the Memory of the World Register"***, says Rim Mezghani.

## An online auction

All the selected pieces will be available for purchase, starting from a few hundred euros up to 20,000 euros. The online auction will be held on the Drouot Digital platform from September 30 to October 15, 2021. *"**This way, buyers will have the time to think about the acquisitions they wish to make through this more flexible format, which offers, at the same time, an equivalent level of purchasing safeties as a traditional auction**"*, say the founder and the auctioneer. Throughout the exhibition and the online sale, Rim Mezghani and her team will be available to the public to present the pieces and advise them on their purchases.



**RIM  
ENCHÈRES**  
PARIS

## RIM ENCHÈRES



Rim Mezghani, founder of the auction house Rim Enchères

After 17 years of experience in the art market within international auction houses, Rim Mezghani (specialist in Islamic and Indian art) and Raphaële Laxan (auctioneer) feel the desire to innovate by creating a new experience around the art of the Orient. The founders propose accessible works of art, integrated in thematic sales, in which Islamic art dialogues with other fields in art. Art lovers will be able to take the time to discover these selections of expertly appraised pieces thanks to dedicated exhibitions organized in parallel with online auctions, taking place over several days on the internet.

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Coming in 2022 : “Shades of blue”, the next thematic exhibition-sale organized by Rim Enchères will take place from January 15 to 30, 2022.

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## Further informations

### **First exhibition-sale - Islamic art interacts over floral and calligraphic themes**

#### **Paris**

On appointment from September 30 to October 15, 2021  
Exhibition from October 2 to 11 at the Samarcande Gallery  
13, rue des Saints-Pères, 75006 Paris  
From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on appointment

#### **Online Auction**

from September 30 to October 15, 2021  
[www.drouotonline.com](http://www.drouotonline.com)

#### **Rim Enchères**

[www.rimencheres.com](http://www.rimencheres.com)  
14, rue Lincoln 75008 Paris  
on appointment only

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