

1996–2006



MUSEUM WITH NO FRONTIERS

MUSÉE SANS FRONTIÈRES | متحف بلا حدود | MUZEJ BEZ GRANICA
MUZEUM BEZ HRANIC | MUSEUM OHNE GRENZEN | MÚZEUM HATÁROK NÉLKÜL
MUSEO SENZA FRONTIERE | MUSEU SEM FRONTEIRAS | MUSEO SIN FRONTERAS
MUSEUM UTAN GRÄNSER | SINIRLAR ÖTESİ MÜZE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The MWNF programme	3
MWNF Chronology	4
The MWNF Team	16
Press review (extract) <i>Included only in printed and CD-ROM versions</i>	18

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.

Realisation of three Tyrolean Exhibition Trails *Die Gotik* (1994), *Barock & Rokoko* (1995), *Maximilian I* (1996)



Exhibition catalogues and signposts.

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.

15 June 1996

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.



Participants from 13 countries attended the Innsbruck Colloquium.

After an excursion to Lake Achensee, Tyrol, June 1996.

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** (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** 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



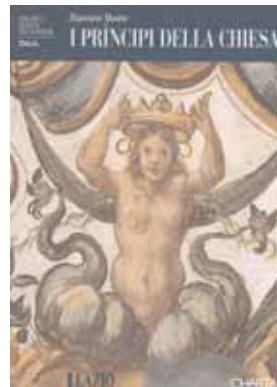
Stockholm, October 1998

CD-ROM-based **panoramic presentation** of the Exhibition Trail cycle *Islamic art in the Mediterranean* at the Museum for Mediterranean and Near Eastern Antiquities in **Stockholm**, within "Stockholm – European Capital of Culture 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*** and ***I Principi della Chiesa*** in Southern Bavaria and publication of the related catalogues in German.

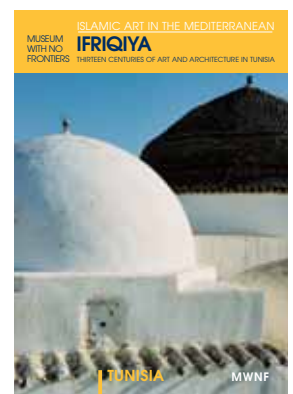
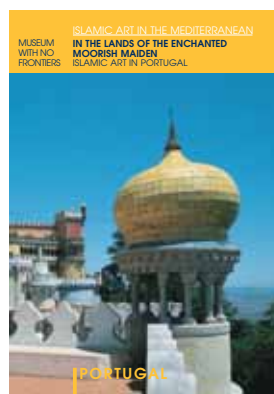


After the launch of Barock & Rokoko in Tyrol, the two Exhibition Trails in Latium and Bavaria further developed the cycle on the Baroque. Cover of the exhibition catalogues.

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

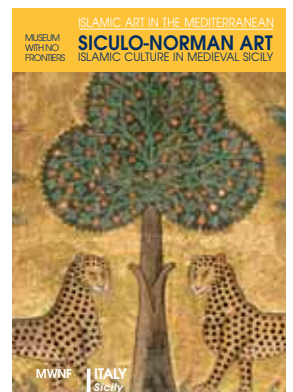
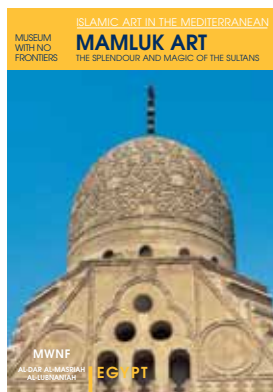
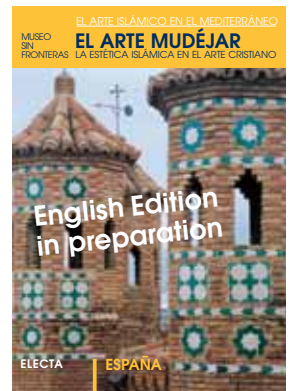
Egypt
MAMLUK ART: *The Splendour and Magic of the Sultans*

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 MANUELINE: Portuguese Art during the Great Discoveries*** and publication of the related catalogue in four languages.

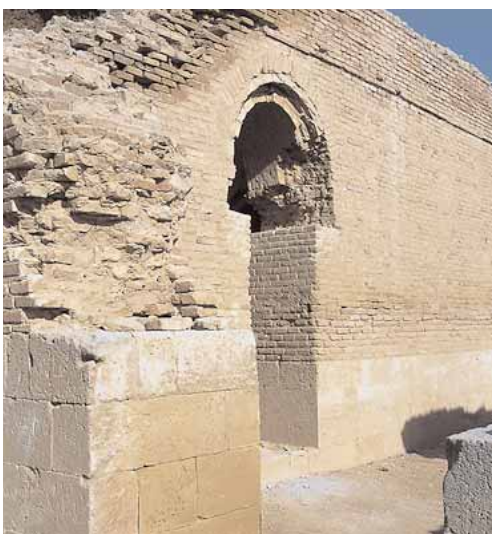


Following Maximilian I in Tyrol, this new Exhibition Trail in Portugal continues the cycle: The Great Patrons of the Arts.

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.



The MWNF Virtual Museum at www.discoverislamicart.org

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**.



2nd Academic and Curatorial Coordination Meeting for Discover Islamic Art partners, El Escorial, December 2004

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 Glasgow Museums, Scotland National Museums of Scotland Victoria and Albert Museum, London

9 December 2005 The ***Discover Islamic Art*** Virtual Museum **went live** 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.



Constituting Meeting of Discover Baroque Art partners. Brno, Czech Republic, February 2005.

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.

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