

Ute Franke, Ina Sarikhani Sandmann, Stefan Weber  
(ed.). *Iran. Kunst und Kultur aus fünf Jahrtausenden*

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## REFERENCES

Ute Franke, Ina Sarikhani Sandmann, Stefan Weber (ed.). *Iran. Kunst und Kultur aus fünf Jahrtausenden (Berlin Exhibition)*. Munich: Hirmer, 2021, 396 p., 520 ill., ISBN: 978-3-7774-3804-7

- 1 Epic Iran—an exhibition which took place in London in the summer of 2021 (see review in *Abstracta Iranica* 44, R5.0, N°2)—subsequently moved to Germany, where it was re-curated as an inter-related yet separate show. Entitled *Iran: Five Millennia of Art and Culture*, some 360 objects from the Sarikhani Collection in London and the collections of the Berlin State Museums and other Berliner institutions were put on display at the James Simon Gallery (4 December 2021 – 20 March 2022), a new entrance building within the Museum Island (open in 2019). Different from the London version of the exhibition, Iran did not involve any other lenders and did not include contemporary artworks. Another difference lies in the contents of the catalogue. It involves some 20 contributors who provide short chapter essays. Each essay incorporates some of the objects on display, while the catalogue does not have separate object entries (only a list of exhibits, p. 359-391). Among the exhibition highlights are cotton wall hangings (nos. 355-356, featured in page 331, Berlin State Museums – Museum of Islamic Art). A substantial part of the following essays, “The Arrival of the Mongols – Genghis Khan and His Heirs (by Robert Hillenbrand, p. 216-221) and “Mongol Iran – Ceramics and China” (by Oliver Watson, p. 234-245) is drawn on the reviewer’s standard work on this subject, *Islamic Chinoiserie: The Art of Mongol Iran* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University

Press, 2009/2018), although both essays fail to acknowledge this book as a sources of information and visual comparison, intentionally or unintentionally.

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