

# Coloring Book

from the Welch Collection

2020



The Fine Arts Library  
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#ColorOurCollections



## **The Stuart Cary Welch Islamic & South Asian Photograph Collection** Harvard Fine Arts Library

Stuart Cary Welch, Jr. (1928-2008) was a celebrated curator, lecturer, and collector of Islamic and Indian art. His professional positions included special consultant in charge of the Department of Islamic Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, a post he held from 1979 to 1987, and honorary keeper, then curator of Islamic art at Harvard University's Fogg Museum from 1956 to 2008.

In the course of his long career in the latter half of the 20th century, he assembled over 60,000 35mm slides for his research and teaching, documenting his unique access to private and public art collections from across the world. The collection consists mostly of high-resolution photographs of South Asian paintings and drawings from the 14th–17th centuries, but it also contains reproductions of historical photographs, sculpture, and architecture.

This includes the photographs he used to create his most famous work, a two-volume concordance of the now-dispersed *Shahnama* of Shah Tahmasp (colloquially known as the Houghton *Shahnama*). Though his final publication contained few color images, most of the manuscript paintings are reproduced in full color, and sometimes in situ, in the collection now held by the Harvard Fine Arts Library. See them here: <https://bit.ly/TahmaspShahnama>.

Since acquiring Welch's slides in 2014, the Fine Arts Library has been engaged in the complex work of digitizing and cataloging them, then releasing the digital images to the public, open access. View the images currently catalogued here: <https://bit.ly/WelchCollection>.

For more information about the Stuart Cary Welch Islamic and South Asian Photograph Collection, see our entries in the Fine Arts Library Blog (<https://bit.ly/FALWelchBlog>), or our ArchNet exhibition, which displays some key images and themes (<https://archnet.org/collections/1501>).



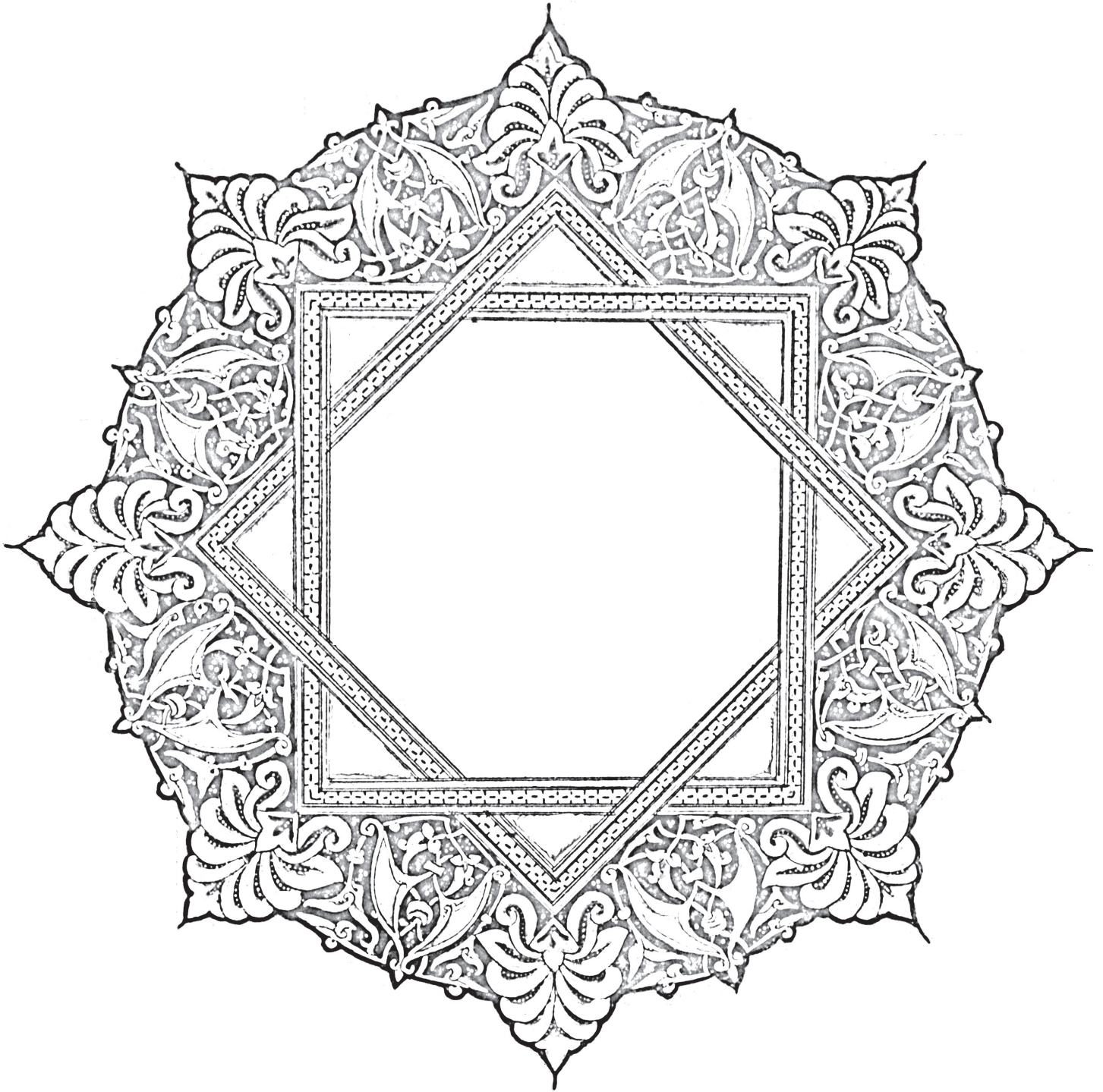
Rajput hunter batters a leaping tiger, India, ca. 1625 (Harvard Art Museums, 2009.202.39). Available via the Stuart Cary Welch Islamic and South Asian Photograph Collection, Harvard Fine Arts Library. <https://bit.ly/2UpOctV>.



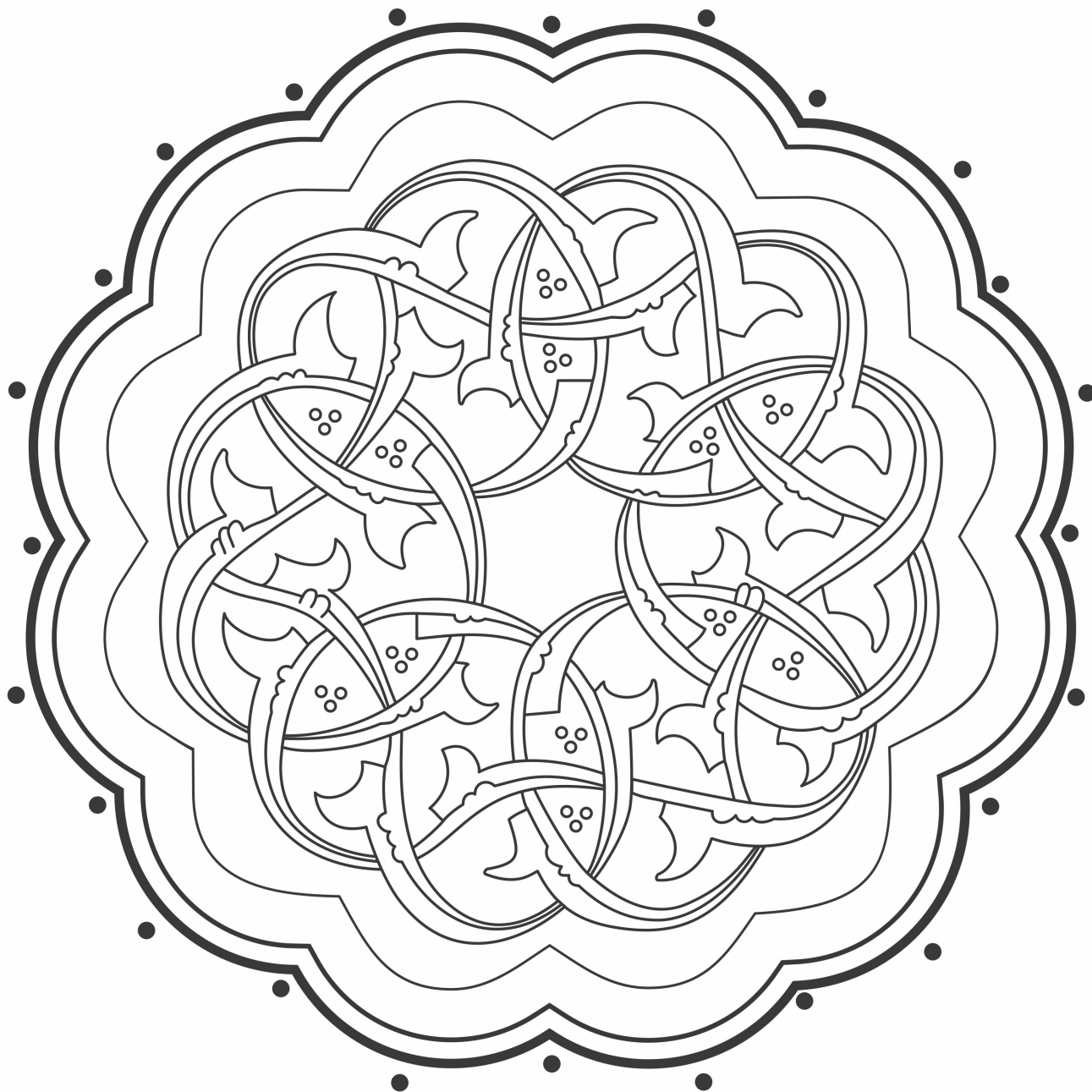
Peri playing a lute, Iran, 16th c. (Album, Topkapi Palace Museum Library, H. 2162, f. 7v).  
Available via the Stuart Cary Welch Islamic and South Asian Photograph Collection,  
Harvard Fine Arts Library. <https://bit.ly/30lkHxb>.



Young prince seated in a landscape, Iran, ca. 1630 (Fitzwilliam Museum, PD.150-1948). Available via the Stuart Cary Welch Islamic and South Asian Photograph Collection, Harvard Fine Arts Library. <https://bit.ly/3h6Pwvo>.



Shamsa, Iran, 1314-1315 (Jami' al-tawarikh, Edinburgh University Library Or.Ms.20, f. 137r).  
Available via the Stuart Cary Welch Islamic and South Asian Photograph Collection,  
Harvard Fine Arts Library. <https://bit.ly/37c89tr>.



Shamsa. Unidentified manuscript.  
Available via the Stuart Cary Welch Islamic and South Asian Photograph Collection,  
Harvard Fine Arts Library. <https://bit.ly/2XHo3ZM>.



Illuminated borders, Iran, 16th c. (Reclining woman, Harvard Art Museums, 2011.536, detail).  
Available via the Stuart Cary Welch Islamic and South Asian Photograph Collection,  
Harvard Fine Arts Library. <https://bit.ly/3f5eRnM>.





Chukar partridge, India, 16th c. (Sackler Gallery, S1986.413).

Available via the Stuart Cary Welch Islamic and South Asian Photograph Collection,  
Harvard Fine Arts Library. <https://bit.ly/3fc0Ww3>.



Birds in foliage, 15th c. (Fatih Album, Topkapi Palace Museum Library, H. 2153).  
Available via the Stuart Cary Welch Islamic and South Asian Photograph Collection,  
Harvard Fine Arts Library. <https://bit.ly/2AmNhDE>.



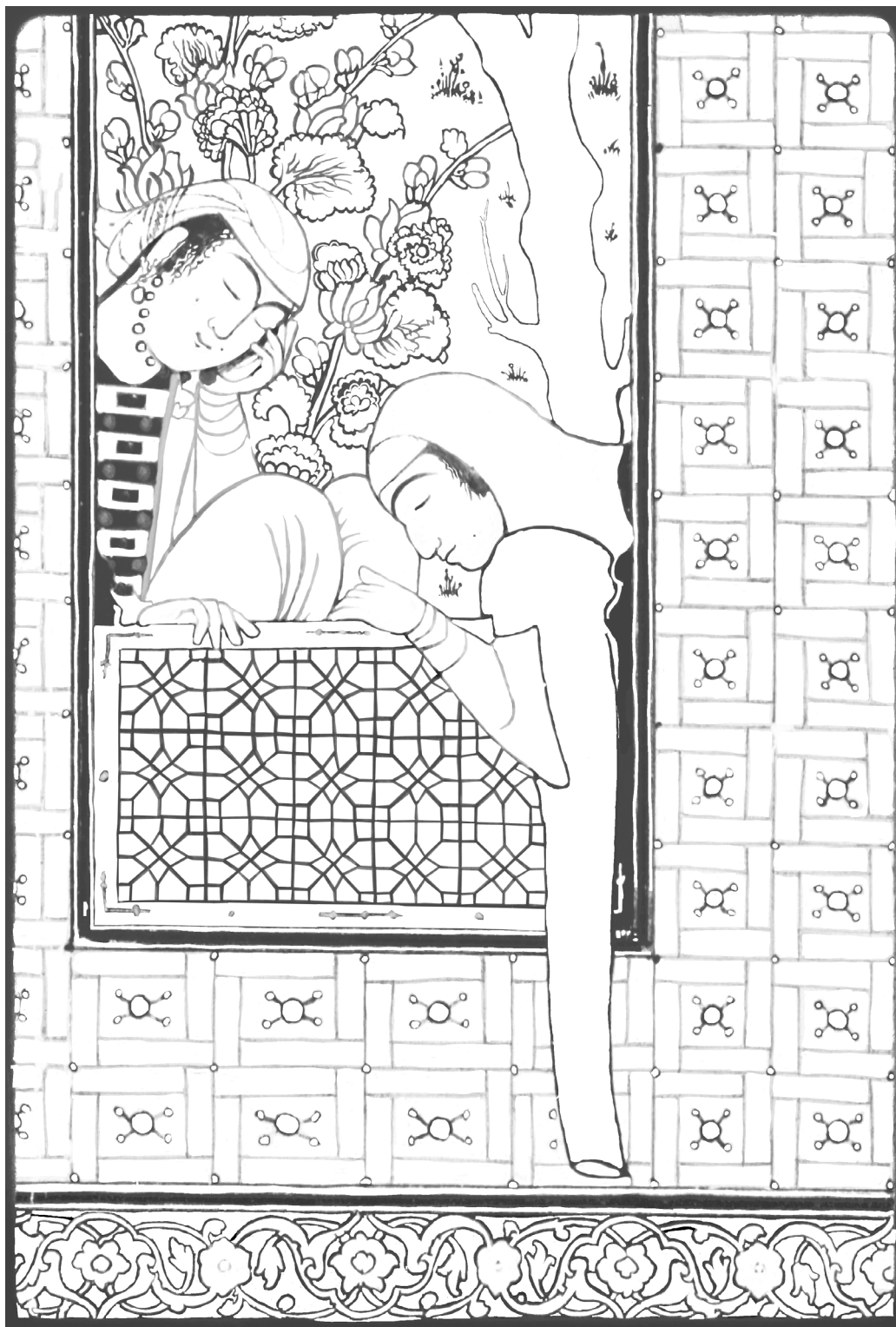
Reclining woman, Iran, 16th c. (Harvard Art Museums, 2011.536).  
Available via the Stuart Cary Welch Islamic and South Asian Photograph Collection,  
Harvard Fine Arts Library. <https://bit.ly/2UrZbD3>.



Crow addresses the animals, India, 1590-1620 (British Museum, 1920,0917,0.5).  
Available via the Stuart Cary Welch Islamic and South Asian Photograph Collection,  
Harvard Fine Arts Library. <https://bit.ly/3dtGxSa>.



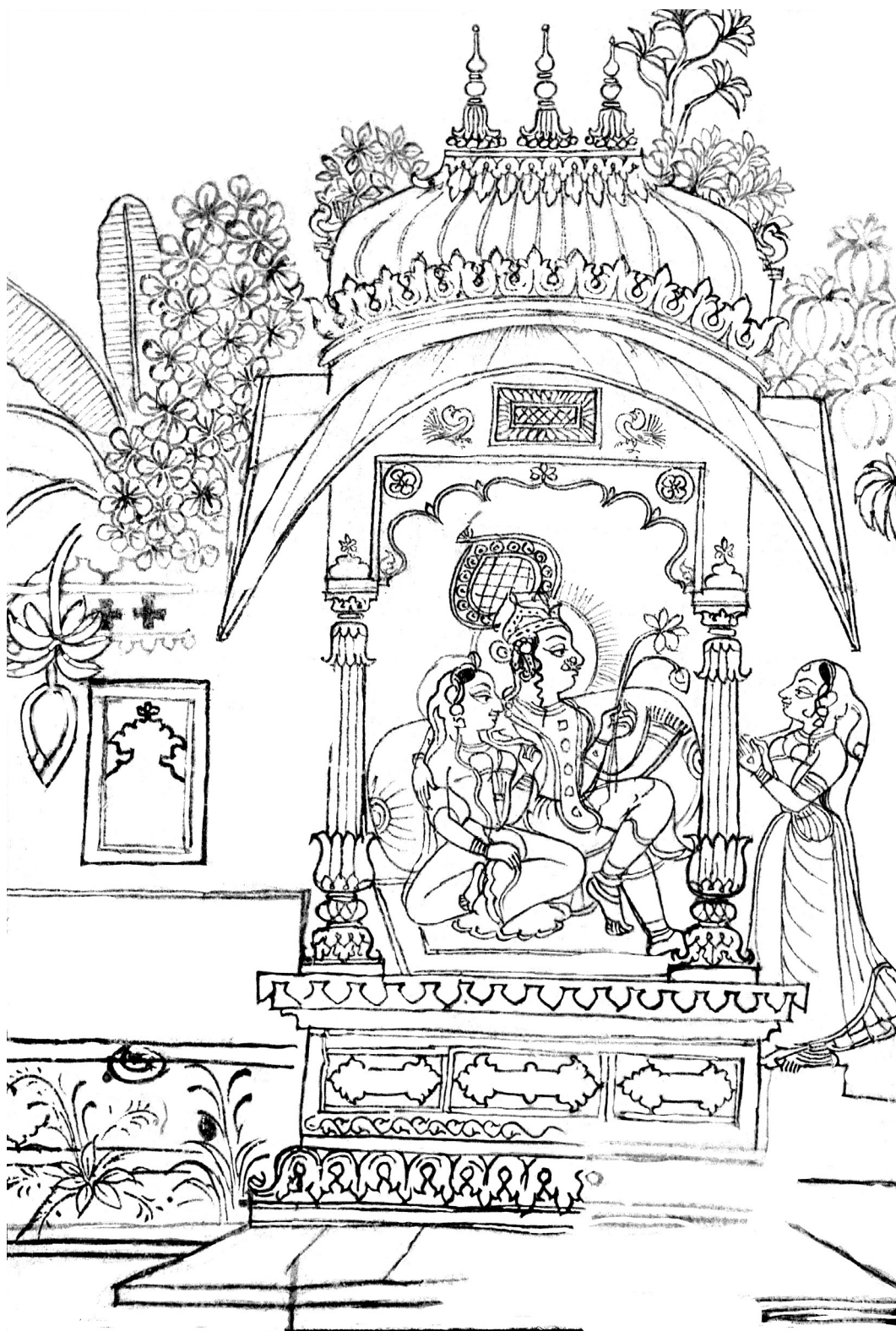
Dragon in foliage, Turkey, 16th c. (Cleveland Museum of Art, 1944.492).  
Available via the Stuart Cary Welch Islamic and South Asian Photograph Collection,  
Harvard Fine Arts Library. <https://bit.ly/3f7Ku02>.



Ardashir and the slave girl, Iran, 1525-1530. (Shah Tahmasp Shahnama, f. 516b, detail, Nasser D. Khalili Collection, MSS 1030). Available via the Stuart Cary Welch Islamic and South Asian Photograph Collection, Harvard Fine Arts Library. <https://bit.ly/2XUGnP7>.



Exotic flowers, India, 17th c.. (Dara Shikoh Album, f. 68, British Library, Add. Or. 3129).  
Available via the Stuart Cary Welch Islamic and South Asian Photograph Collection,  
Harvard Fine Arts Library. <https://bit.ly/380jUDw>.



Krishna and Radha in a pavilion, India, 18th c. (Harvard Art Museums, 2009.202.95). Available via the Stuart Cary Welch Islamic and South Asian Photograph Collection, Harvard Fine Arts Library. <https://bit.ly/3807KKT>.





The elephants and the hares, Egypt, 14th c. (Kalila wa Dimna, f. 71r, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Arabe 3467). Available via the Stuart Cary Welch Islamic and South Asian Photograph Collection, Harvard Fine Arts Library. <https://bit.ly/2BA56Q2>.



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Mule, Iran, 14th c. (Manafi al-hayawan, Harvard Art Museums, 1960.204).  
Available via the Stuart Cary Welch Islamic and South Asian Photograph Collection,  
Harvard Fine Arts Library. <https://bit.ly/37YLuRC>.



## About the Fine Arts Library

The Fine Arts Library (<https://library.harvard.edu/libraries/fine-arts>) is the primary resource for the study of the history of art and architecture and related subjects at Harvard University.

Since the founding of the Fogg Art Museum in 1895, the library has served the needs of teaching faculty, art museum staff, undergraduate and graduate students, researchers, and historians.

The history of the library is intertwined with Harvard's role in the development of academic programs in art and architectural history and museum studies. With the 1874 appointment of Charles Eliot Norton, Harvard became the first university in the United States to institute a professorship in art history.

In 1927, Harvard dedicated a new Fogg Museum building, which was designed to display art in a setting together with classrooms, conservation labs, painting studios, and a research library.

In 1962, Widener Library's arts-related holdings were transferred to an expanded library space within the Fogg Museum. At this time, the Fogg Museum Library became a part of the Harvard College Library and was given its current name, the Fine Arts Library. Specialized collections continued to grow in the next decade: the Rübél Asiatic Research Collection (<https://bit.ly/FALRubel>) of the Oriental Department was added to the collection in 1978, and in 1979 the library became one of two documentation centers of the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture (<https://bit.ly/FALAKPIA>), located at both Harvard and MIT.

The newly combined collection formed one of the largest art research collections in the United States, serving as a model for other institutions for building their art libraries.

Since its beginnings as a museum library more than 120 years ago, the Fine Arts Library has developed its collections and services for a growing community of users in fields across the academic spectrum.