



West Asia and South-Central Asia: Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan & Pakistan

Manitoba Crafts Museum and Library

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Dear Reader,

The document has been prepared to make all the works from the West and South-Central Asia regions in the Manitoba Crafts Museum and Library collection as accessible as possible to community, and contains information about the cultural objects currently in our care.

The information is accurate to the best of our knowledge as of May 2026.

We acknowledge that some information might be missing or incorrect. We welcome input and additional information from community members.

If you have any comments or questions, or if you would like to add information about any of these works, please contact me at:

204.615.3951 or mcml@c2centreforcrafft.ca

Best,

Andrea Reichert

Curator



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Doll

Artist: Unknown

Accession number: 246.00-01

Object name: Doll

Period: Early 20th Century

Description: Set of two dolls. 246.00 is a male doll with a white turban, white shirt and pants with a multi colored over coat. His face is painted and he has on pink shoes or slippers. Nails are sticking out of the back of both feet. 246.01 is a female doll, wearing an orange shirt and pants, and a multi colored overcoat. Her face is painted on and covered with a veil. Her shoes or slippers are pink. Both feet have nails sticking out the back.

Material: Cotton; Metal Nails

Measurements: 7 CM x 20 CM ; 9 CM x 22 CM

Culture: Turkish, West Asia





Doll

Artist: Unknown

Accession number: 365.00

Object name: Doll

Period: Mid 20th Century

Description: Turkish dancer doll. Doll wears a white shirt with flared sleeves trimmed in brown and orange, has a wide leather belt with beads on it. It also wears red felt pants, with a gold leaf design on their upper legs and gold trim on sides and hem. Its knees are bent to the sides. He wears brown leather shoes which are tied around the ankle. His face is painted on. On top of his head is a headdress that is red with gold trim and blue "feather" on top and gold ribbons in the back. 9 black braids stick out of lower edge of headdress. It is hand-sewed.

Material: Linen; Felt; Leather

Measurements: 29 CM x 59.4 CM

Culture: Turkish, West Asia





Coffeepot

Artist: Unknown

Accession number: 3555.00

Object name: Coffeepot

Period: Mid 20th Century

Description: Turkish Coffee pot done in metal.
Floral scribing design on surface

Material: Metal

Measurements: 10 CM x 10.5 CM

Culture: Turkish, West Asia





Table Throw

Artist: Unknown

Accession number: 334.00

Object name: Table Throw

Period: Early 20th Century; Late 19th Century

Description: Red table throw with a black center and a multi-coloured pattern of paisleys and flowers throughout. The border has a base color of black with designs in multiple colours. The edge of the border is a multi-coloured patchwork fringe.



Marks/Label: Small cotton label with the name "H.L. Sweet" written in cursive. It is believed that one of the previous owners added it and not the maker/artist.

History of Use: These types of table throws are most commonly used to set a table for dinner or to lay on top of a korsi. A korsi - کرسی in Farsi, is a low top table, with a heater placed underneath and multiple blankets placed on top. Additionally, this piece could be a Pateh-پته in Farsi, which is a traditional needlework folk art found in the Kerman region of Iran that Kermani women and girls will create together.

Narrative: Because of the color, design and embroidery found on this piece, it was most likely made in Iran. The designs and the prominence of red in this piece indicate that it was likely created in the Kerman region.

Material: Wool; Cotton/Polyester

Measurements: 181 CM x 186 CM

Culture: Iranian, West Asia





Wall Hanging

Artist: Unknown

Accession number: 66.00

Object name: Wall Hanging

Period: Early 20th Century

Description: Piece of wine coloured woven linen material, with embroidered detailing in gold/yellow, cream, dark navy blue, white and pale green. The embroidered embellishments depict a scenery of houses, triangular clouds and suns with small mirrors sewn in. along the bottom of the piece there are multiple rows of geometric patterns with additional small mirrors woven in. Along the top half of the piece there are several small patterns, such as crosses and circular shapes.



Narrative: The incorporation of mirrors in textiles are most common in India, Afghanistan and some surrounding regions. Due to the predominantly geometric style of embroidery, depictions of houses and the colours used, this piece was likely made in Afghanistan or Baluch regions. This appears to be an unfinished component of a full wall hanging. The final product was likely meant to look like accession number 92.00, below.

Material: Linen; Cotton; Silk

Measurements: 155 CM x 46 CM

Culture: Afghan, South-Central Asia





Wall Hanging

Artist: Unknown

Accession number: 92.00

Object name: Wall Hanging

Period: Early 20th Century

Description: Wall hanging interwoven with glass inserts and embroidered in cross stitch. Bottom half of the piece is a wine coloured embroidery with depictions of houses, sun, flowers and geometric patterns. Top half of the piece is silk embroidered light red and dark green patterns.

Narrative: Countries that are most well known for weaving in small mirrors into textiles are India, Afghanistan, and some surrounding regions. Due to the style of the geometric motifs and the use of colours, this piece was likely made in Afghanistan, Baluchistan or by an Afghan artist in another country. This piece appears to be the complete version of 66.00 (above).

Material: Wool; Cotton

Measurements: 209 CM x 103 CM

Culture: Afghan, South-Central Asia





Picture, Marquetrie

Artist: Unknown

Accession number: 1820.00

Object name: Artwork

Period: Mid 20th Century; Late 20th Century

Description: Design is woman in flowing dress carrying a vase, with leaves in the background. Sections of design have dyed straw of a brown colour. Fabric is glued onto board and backed with paper. Grain stalks (wheat?) sliced open lengthwise, glued onto paper, design cut out and glued onto fabric backing.

History of Use: Purchased at Mennonite Central Committee in Winnipeg. Made in Pakistan.

Material: Grain Stalks; Fabric; Cardboard

Measurements: 45.7 CM x 30.6 CM

Culture: Pakistani, South-Central Asia





Picture, Marquetry

Artist: Unknown

Accession number: 1821.00

Object name: Artwork

Period: Mid 20th Century; Late 20th Century

Description: Design is a house with tree next to water where two boats are sailing. Moon is full in the sky. Fabric is glued to cardboard. Grain stalks (wheat?) sliced open lengthwise, glued onto paper, design cut out and glued onto fabric backing.

History of Use: Purchased at Mennonite Central Committee in Winnipeg. Made in Pakistan.

Material: Grains Stalks; Fabric; Cardboard

Measurements: 33 CM x 20.4 CM

Culture: Pakistani, South-Central Asia





Batik

Artist: Unknown

Accession number: 2070.00

Object name: Artwork

Period: Late 20th Century

Description: A batik "painting" of a Pakistani woman weaving. Woman is sitting on a pillow on the floor in front of an upright loom. She is weaving something with a floral pattern with a geometric border. A basket of yarn is to her left, and to her right are tools including scissors, mallet, and an unknown tool. The background is a flat red, the floor is white with black cracks. A black border surrounds the image.

History of Use: This was likely made a decoration that can also be hung on a wall.

Material: Cotton; Wax; Ink/Paint

Measurements: 35 CM x 35 CM

Culture: Pakistani, South-Central Asia

