

Fatemeh Tashakori, PhD  
Postdoctoral Research Associate, 2020-2021  
The Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History

In 2020, Dr. Fatemeh Tashakori earned her PhD in Art History and the Philosophy of Art from The University of Texas at Dallas. There she specialized in Islamic Art, with a focus on gender and sexuality in Modern Islamicate Art History. The interdisciplinary nature of her dissertation topic led her to incorporate the phenomenology of art and culture into her research. This enabled her to complete a dissertation wholly original to the field, a work entitled *The Invisible Foreigner: European Women as the Eroticized Other in Later Iranian Art*.

The dissertation focused on Persian murals and architectural decoupage decorations featuring nude and semi-nude representations of European women. She researched and documented these little-studied images during her field work in Iran. These largely ignored and untouched historical works exist in Safavid (1502–1736) and later Qajar-era (1785–1925) private houses, mostly in the city of Isfahan.

Currently, she is developing this research for publication as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History. In addition, her postdoctoral position enables her to collaborate with Dr. Heather Ecker on the Mashhad Observatory Project at the Dallas Museum of Art. This project will culminate in an exhibition at the DMA in 2024.

Dr. Tashakori's work on the Mashhad Project includes the study and translation from Persian of the charts and accompanying illustrations of constellations in two manuscripts (New York Public Library and Egyptian National Library) of the *Tarjumah-i Suwar al-Kawakib (Book of Fixed Stars)* of 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sufi, produced in Iran in the early 1630s by the astronomer Hasan b. Sa'ad al-Qa'ini. Dr. Tashakori is responsible for the first modern transcription of the *Tarjumah-i Suwar al-Kawakib*, which she is carrying out by comparing the New York and Cairo manuscripts with an earlier Persian translation of Nasir al-Din Tusi from the thirteenth century.

Finally, a special passion of Dr. Tashakori is her bilingual Farsi/English podcast *Artisthinktive Iran: a Forum for Distinctive Thinking on Iranian Arts*. An original production for American audiences, the project spotlights emerging contemporary Iranian artists.