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Deviant Ornaments

Noor Bhangu

Edited by Kristian Wikborg Wiese

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- Some of the historical works are of unknown origin, and more is known about the context they were made in, than about the people who made them
- The publication explores historical periods full of transformations, translations and exchanges across cultures and borders
- In the publication you'll see a broad spectrum of works and techniques, which depict or hint at diverse sexualities in different ways: from the explicit to the coded and ornamental
- Accompanies the exhibition *Deviant Ornaments* at the National Museum of Oslo, 28 November 2025–15 March 2026

Emerging from the expanding field of Islamic art history, ***Deviant Ornaments*** brings together historical and contemporary works from across the Islamic world to produce a more global understanding of sexuality. This catalogue begins with an essay by external curator Noor Bhangu, followed by thematic essays by Dr. Anjali Arondekar, Dr. Andrew Gayed, and Dr. Laura U. Marks. The essays are accompanied by an interview with Oslo-based activist Rana Issa, a section on terminology, and curatorial texts on exhibited artworks.

Text in English and Norwegian.

Noor Bhangu is a curator and scholar, whose practice is rooted in relational curatorial aesthetics and practices. She completed her BA in the History of Art and her MA in Cultural Studies: Curatorial Practices at the University of Winnipeg. In 2018, she began her PhD in Communication and Culture at Toronto Metropolitan University and York University in Tkaronto, Toronto. Her dissertation investigates cultures of sexuality within Islamic visual culture to develop a queer genealogy, linking the past to the contemporary

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