

Anita Chowdry, M.A.

Artist and educator

Tel: 0203 556 7075

Mobile: 07521 897 782

E-mail: anitachowdry@talktalk.net

Website: <http://www.anitachowdry.com>

Blog: <https://anitachowdry.wordpress.com>

Curriculum Vitae

OVERVIEW

1985-The Present: I am a practicing self-employed visual artist, providing **visual art, design, research, education, project management, consultancies and writing**. I have long standing associations with major museums and cultural and academic institutions in London, Oxford and Cambridge. I also work with international institutions across the world, including the University of Melbourne and the National Library in Cairo. My working practice includes public art installations, design, organizing and running public workshops and exhibition based education programmes, and in-house seminars and research projects.

My creative practice addresses historical materialism with a focus on mathematics, geometry, technology, pigments, alchemy and chemistry. I work in two and three dimensions using a variety of media and techniques, including metalwork, printmaking, book arts, drawing, paper engineering and surface design.

Current Project I am currently a *Bahari Visiting Fellow in the Persian Arts of the Book* at the Bodleian Library, University of Oxford. I am researching the codicology and historical context of a group of 15th Century Turcoman manuscripts in the library's Special Collections.

FORMAL EDUCATION and TRAINING

Formative Education : Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Hexham:

"O" Levels: English Language & English literature, Maths, History, Latin, Art, German, French, Biology. "A" Levels: Latin, French, History.

Sept 1977 – June 1978 : Art & Design Foundation at Westgate Road Art School

Sept. 1978-June 1982: B.A. Hons. Sandwich in Fashion Design & Technology at Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic. Degree obtained: BA 2/1, distinction for written dissertation " English dress in the 18th century with reference to trading links and the East India Company." Work experience placement at fashion company "Marina Ferrari" in Milan.

Sept.1983-June 1984: Arts Council of Great Britain bursary under "Theatre Designer's scheme" practical training for one year at the Bristol Old Vic.

October 2011 – June 2013: M.A. in Art & Science at Central Saint Martin's college of Art, University of the Arts, London. Degree obtained: Distinction (A)

ACADEMIC

(Papers available to download at <http://csm-arts.academia.edu/AnitaChowdry>)

September 2017 – Current: The City Literary Institution: Art History Tutor – designing and teaching courses on Islamic and Indian Art History.

13 November 2017 – 13 January 2018: Bodleian Libraries – Exhibition Curation "Making Manuscripts for a Prince of the Black Sheep"

2016 – 2017: Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford, Bahari Visiting Fellowship in Persian Arts of the Book – Codicological and Contextual Research into a collection of 15th Century Turkman Manuscripts.

1 December 2014 - 2016: V&A course "Arts of South and Southeast Asia and the Islamic Middle East" Lecturing on Indian art.

17 – 18 March 2014: "Visions of Enchantment" conference at Cambridge University, Delivered conference paper "More than the colour red: The unspoken symbolism of cinnabar pigment in Indian painting"

29 May, 2013: Central Saint Martin's School of Art & Design, UAL - M.A. Art & Science Symposium: State of Matter: Collisions and Connections in Art and Science – Presentation: "*Form and Beauty: The underlying impact of mathematics and geometry*".

M.A. research paper: "*Chaos and the role of mathematics in the aftermath of post-modernism: some visual and conceptual artefacts for the new millennium.*"

9 – 11 July, 2012 : Eighth Islamic Manuscript Conference at Queen's College, University of Cambridge: "The Science of Manuscripts and Manuscripts of Science" - Conference Paper: "*A visual analysis of the illuminated opening pages of a sixteenth century Iranian manuscript.*"

March 2010 : School of Oriental and African Studies, Research Seminar in Islamic Art, Department of Art & Archaeology - Presentation: "*Geometry, Illumination and Beyond*", convened by Prof. Anna Contadini.

2007: Awarded a Wingate Scholarship for independent research: "The materials and techniques of painting in Persian and Mughal Manuscripts".

Nov. 2007: Centre for Cultural Conservation, University of Melbourne symposium "The care and conservation of middle Eastern manuscripts" - Conference paper and workshop on pigment preparation and technique in Indo-Persian manuscript painting

March 2007: Hearst Museum of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley - Lecture and demonstration: "*Pigments, Tools, and their influence on Indo-Persian Manuscript Painting.*"

CREATIVE PRACTICE

Most Recent

2016

- **February 2015: University of Waterloo and St. Jerome's, Canada:** Bridges Lecture series, Department of Pure Mathematics, and Art & Design student workshops on the harmonograph.

2015

- **November 2015: Harmonic Capital, London:** Art rental and Artists' talks with Made in Arts London.
- **October 2015: "The Iron Genie at Dulwich Picture Gallery, London,** installation in the main gallery of harmonograph sculpture supporting "The Amazing World of M.C. Escher"
- **October, 2015: Christie's, London:** "Multiplied" art fair with Made in Arts London.
- **July 2015: The Calligraphy Society of Victoria at the University of Melbourne,** "Summer School in Winter" professional development workshops in gold pigment and illumination.
- **July 2015: International Islamic University, Kuala Lumpur,** Faculty lectures on Islamic illumination for research cluster "International Islamic Heritage and Sustainable Conservation".
- **June 2015: Bodleian Libraries Weston Library, University of Oxford,** "Lapis Lazuli: Myth, Matter and Majesty" Two-day lecture and seminar with David Margulies in collaboration with department of care and conservation.
- **June 2015: The British Library, London,** - Manuscript seminar with Barbara Brend "Painting and illumination in Persian and Mughal Books".
- **March – April 2015: Woburn Walk Studio, London:** "Making and using 24 ct. Shell Gold", professional development workshops.
- **April 2015: Made in Arts, London:** "Capsule" group exhibition at The Embassy Tea Galleries

2014 and previous

- **November – December 2014: Atelier Art Consultancy** Private commission of "Geometry, Illumination and Beyond" series brush drawings.
- **8 July – 21 September 2014: "The Iron Genie" at The Museum of the History of Science, University of Oxford,** Art@MHS series: installation of harmonograph sculpture "The Iron Genie" in the main galleries of the museum, with artist talks and demonstrations.
- **14 – 19 August 2014: Bridges Math Art Organization at Guacheon National Science Museum, Seoul, Korea,** Group exhibition of maths related art, featuring "Iron Genie" etchings series.

- **June – December 2014: NESTA Head Office Gallery**, Art/Science Group exhibition, Steel Shamsa installation.
- **25 Feb – 24 March 2013: “Encounters Between Art & Science”**, **The British Library** Group exhibition, Central Saint Martin's Art & Science unit, creating interventions and installations in the public spaces of the British Library building.
- **16 October 2012: V&A Digital Futures** – Showing and sharing current research in the Sackler digital studios.
- **22 October 2012 – 4 January 2013 : Waterman's Art Centre, “ Enter 12”** Group exhibition of new work in art, design and technology, curated by Irini Papadimitrou.
- **14 – 28 September 2012 : Dar al-Kutub Project, Cairo**, Thesaurus Islamicus Foundation: A series of specialist lectures and workshops on codicology and pigments and creative input for public displays in the library.
- **27 – 31 July 2011 : Bridges Math Art Organization at the University of Coimbra, Portugal**, Group exhibition of maths related art.

EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS:

The Brunei Gallery SOAS

- **April – June 2009: “Geometry, Illumination and Beyond”** Exhibition of my own work with schools and adult education programme focussing on manuscripts and mathematics.
- **April – June 2008 : “Retracing Heinrich Barth”** Education programme.
- **August 2007 – Jan 2008: “Objects of Instruction”** Contract with Brunei Gallery, - Education programme for launch of Foyle Special Collections gallery.
- **Oct. - Dec 2004: “Asia: Body Mind Spirit”** Wellcome Trust. Educational programme for schools & community
- **2002: “A Garden Bequest: Plants from Japan”** Developed and coordinated schools and adult education projects.
- **2001 -Oct.-Dec. : “ India: Pioneering photographers 1850-1900”** British Library & Asia House. Developed and coordinated schools education projects.

Victoria & Albert Museum

- **July 2006: “Arts of the Book Craftsmen's Seminar”** A 4- day practical seminar for craftspeople and conservators at the V&A/RCA research department.
- **2004 – 2006: “Illuminations of the East”** A series of Indo-Persian Painting Courses organized in collaboration with the V&A /Royal College Research Department.
- **2003: “The Adventures of Hamza”**- Exhibition of early Mughal painting - consultation and contacts for demonstrations by an Indian craftsman.
- **The British Museum**
- **May 2007: Indo-Persian painting workshop** in the department of paper conservation.

- **2005: “Forgotten Empire, The World of Ancient Persia”** Education project with London schools and Iranian community to create 30 metres of friezes based on the exhibition.
- **2003: British Museum Website: www.mughalindia.co.uk** launched 30 March 2004: Educational Multi-Media Unit- consultation for section on Indo-Persian painting.
- **April-June 2001: “Treasury Of The World: Jewelled Arts of India in the Age of the Mughals”** Research and recreation of 17th century Mughal costumes.

Asian Art Museum, San Francisco

- **March 2007: “Princes, Palaces and Passion: The arts of India’s Mewar Kingdom”**
Residency demonstrating Rajput painting from Mewar.

TELEVISION

- **2009 – “The Seven Ages of Britain”** David Dimbleby. Demonstration and interview about the Tudor portrait miniatures.
- **2007 “Masterpieces of the East”** BBC channel 4/Fulmar productions: Demonstration and interview about the V&A Hamza Namah.
- **2002 - “What the Tudors did for us”** Adam Hart-Davies. Demonstration and interview about the painting techniques of Nicholas Hilliard