

## Thursday, 30 March 2023

09:00 Registration and Coffee

09:20 Welcome and Introduction

by [Christian Ströbele \(Stuttgart\)](#)  
and [Erdal Toprakyan \(Tübingen/Luzern\)](#)  
Opening remarks from [Sara Kuehn \(Vienna\)](#)

10:00 Break

10:20 “*Light upon Light*”

Screening and discussion of a newly released ethnographic documentary that follows people in contemporary Egypt and Denmark between 2014–2022. Directed by Christian Suhr, produced by Hala Lotfy, Hassala Films. 78 minutes.  
[Christian Suhr \(Aarhus\)](#)

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Panel 1

*Sensory Aesthetics of the Visible and Invisible: Ritual, Mimesis, and the Chronotope of Mystical Encounters in Esoteric Traditions of Shi'a Islam*  
[Jens Kreinath \(Wichita, USA\)](#)

*Decolonizing Sufism: The Naqshbandis in Iraq*  
[Michiel Leezenberg \(Amsterdam\)](#)

15:20 Break

15:40 Panel 2

*Sufi Kathak: Approaches to a Contemporary Art Form between Pakistan and India*  
[Isabella Schwaderer \(Erfurt\)](#)

*British Rappers as Islamic Leaders: Afropolitan Aesthetics in the Global ‘Fayda Tijāniyya’ Sufi Movement*  
[Joseph Hill \(Alberta, Canada\)](#)

18:30 Dinner

20:00 “*Wajd Sufi (Sufi Ecstasy)*”

Film screening. Directed and produced by Yasmin Kamal. BBC Arabic. 27 minutes.  
[Yasmin Kamal \(London\)](#)

## Friday, 31 March 2023

09:30 Panel 3

*Mysticism and Ritual in the Calligraphic Arts Today: An Insider’s Perspective*  
[Bilal Badat \(Tübingen\)](#)

*A Whirling Brush, and a Tajalī Palette: Sufi Aesthetics in the Works of Modern and Contemporary Muslim Artists Between Earthiness and Transcendence*  
[Hala Ghoname \(Dresden\)](#)

10:50 Break

11:10 Panel 4

*The Heritagization of Sufi Music in Morocco and the Cultivation of Secular Sensibilities*  
[Nina ter Laan \(Utrecht\)](#)

*Migratory Aesthetics and the Expulsion from ‘The Garden of Africa’*  
[Sara Kuehn \(Vienna\)](#)

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Panel 5

*The Image of a Dance of Cranes: Aesthetics and the Multimediality of Alevi Ritual*  
[Mark Soileau \(Ankara\)](#)

*Poetry and Emotion: The Representation of Emotions in Alevi Poetry and Its Group-building Function*  
[Cem Kara \(Vienna\)](#)

15:20 Break

15:40 Concluding Discussion

## Chairmanship of the Conference

Sara Kuehn (Vienna)

Christian Ströbele (Stuttgart)

Erdal Toprakyan (Tübingen/Luzern)

## Art, Aesthetics and Islamic Mysticism

During the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, Islamic mysticism, or Sufism, spread extensively throughout Western society, with Sufi teachings permeating all spheres of society. The increasingly powerful and pervasive presence of Sufi popular religiosity and aesthetic traditions in the West has also engendered new cultural forms. Contemporary art has not only vastly extended the traditional boundaries of aesthetic material culture; it is also drawing upon a far more variegated range of bodily and sensory experiences. Traditionally, Sufis have often been the guardians of the arts within Islamic societies, whether it be music, poetry, painting, or calligraphy. Today's Sufis, whilst still practicing these traditional arts, also express themselves through plastic and visual arts, performing arts, architecture, music (e.g. hip hop/rap music) and other forms of artistic conceptualizations (e.g. photography, theatre performances, multimedia, new media). Drawing on recent methodological tendencies inspired by the 'aesthetic turn', this conference will focus on the aesthetic engagement of contemporary artists with Sufi practices, rituals, and discourses in a two-day international interdisciplinary conference.

In collaboration with



This conference is organised in the framework of Sara Kuehn's research project "Contemporary Art and Sufi Aesthetics in European Context" supported by the Academy for Islam in Research and Society (AIWG) at the Goethe University in Frankfurt which is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Stiftung Mercator [grant number 3309010003].

## Conference participation

### Participation online

Conference attendance

20,00 €

### Registration

Please register in writing by 29 March 2023 at:  
[http://www.akademie-rs.de/vanm\\_24732](http://www.akademie-rs.de/vanm_24732)

### Further details

are to be found on the conference website:  
<https://www.akademie-rs.de/aesthetics>

If you have any questions, please contact us at  
Academy of the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart  
Department for Interreligious Dialogue  
Hanna Momand: [Momand@akademie-rs.de](mailto:Momand@akademie-rs.de)  
Phone: +49 711 1640 740

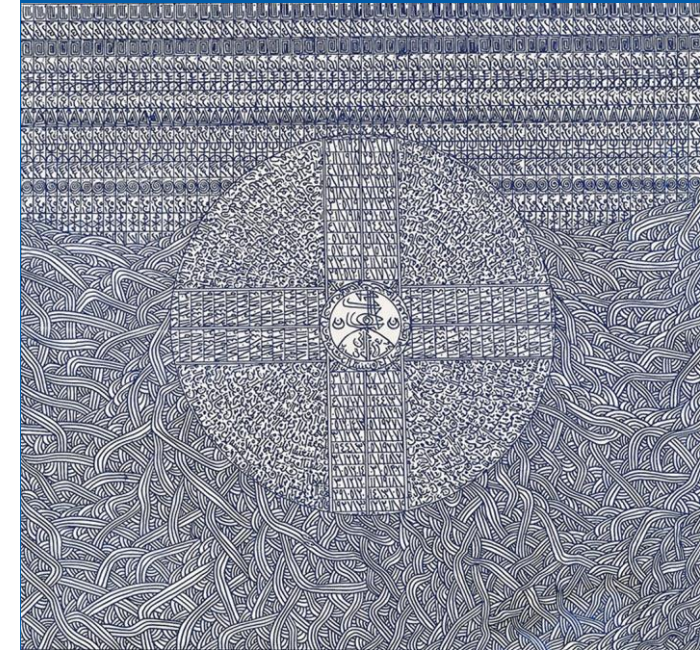
### Pictures and Video Recordings

We take documentary photos and/or videos. By registering, you agree that we may publish photos or films in which you could be recognised.


### Conference Centre Address:

Academy of the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart  
– **Conference Centre Stuttgart-Hohenheim** –  
Paracelsusstr. 91, 70599 Stuttgart  
Phone: +49 711 451034 600  
Web: <https://www.akademie-rs.de/tagungshaeuser/hohenheiminternational/>

## Art, Aesthetics and Islamic Mysticism: Contemporary Perspectives



30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2023  
Online

 Akademie der Diözese  
Rottenburg-Stuttgart

Cover Picture: Rachid Koraiichi, The Garden of Africa—Le Jardin d'Afrique. 2020. Edition of 70, Etching, 108.5 × 76 cm (RK5039), detail. © Rachid Koraiichi