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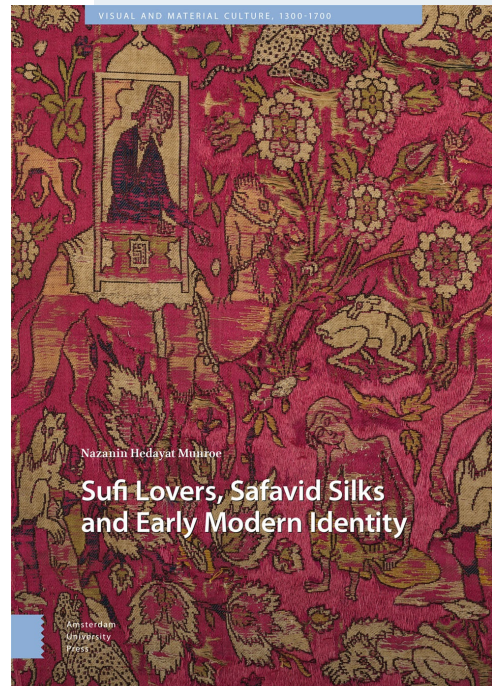
Nazanin Hedayat Munroe

Sufi Lovers, Safavid Silks and Early Modern Identity

This book examines a group of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century figural silks depicting legendary lovers from the *Khamsa* (Quintet) of epic Persian poetry. Codified by Nizami Ganjavi in the twelfth century, the *Khamsa* gained popularity in the Persian-speaking realm through illustrated manuscripts produced for the elite, creating a template for illustrating climactic scenes in the love stories of “Layla and Majnun” and “Khusrau and Shirin” that appear on early modern silks. Attributed to Safavid Iran, the publication proposes that dress fashioned from these silks represented Sufi ideals based on the characters. Migration of weavers between Safavid and Mughal courts resulted in producing goods for a sophisticated and educated elite, demonstrating shared cultural values and potential reattribution. Through an examination of primary source materials, literary analysis of the original text, and close iconographical study of figural designs, the study presents original cross-disciplinary arguments about patronage, provenance, and the socio-cultural significance of wearing these silks.

BIOGRAPHY

Nazanin Hedayat Munroe is a textile and fashion historian specializing in luxury silks from the early modern Persianate world. She is currently Director of Textile Technology and Assistant Professor in Business and Technology of Fashion, NYC College of Technology - City University of New York.



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