

## LARGE MEDAILLON SUZANIS EMBROIDERIES OF CENTRAL ASIA

**Exhibition:** Museum of Islamic Art, Berlin  
28.9. - 1.11.2009

Suzani are large embroidered fabrics used as hangings and covers in the living areas of the people of Central Asian towns and villages. The oldest surviving suzani can be dated to the 18th century. For a long time suzani were made only by women and girls in their homes. These embroideries had an important social and cultural function. In their decor, which is often close to that of carpets, we find a rich ornamental world, inspired by local traditions and the courtly Islamic art of mainly Iran and Mughal India.

The suzani from the Museum of Islamic Art presented in this exhibition come from different places and show various designs.

A very special group is the so-called Large Medaillon Suzani Group. Their powerful traditional decor fills the main part of the fabric or even the whole area. They are the focus of this exhibition. For the first time a group of these particular embroideries can be seen in Germany, nearly all of them on loan from private collections.

It will also be interesting to see suzani inspired modern works of textile artists.

The exhibition is connected with this year's **Volkman-Meeting**, which will be held **from October 23rd to October 25th** in the Pergamon Museum. During that meeting a number of lectures about the theme "Suzani" will be given, and connoisseurs and lovers of Oriental textiles will present cherished pieces and discuss them.

