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The Hand of Fatima

The Khamsa in the Arab-Islamic World

Author: Eva-Maria von Kemnitz Volume Editor: Amina Inloes

The Hand of Fatima traces the development and symbolism ascribed to the hand motif in the Arab and Islamic world, and beyond. Richly illustrated, it details the many types of *khamsas* produced historically and today – such as *khamsas* with swords, and *khamsas* with eagles – and the many objects on which *khamsas* appear, such as on amulets and flags. It traces the journey of the *khamsa* into the contemporary world of social and fine art, including museum highlights. Special sections are dedicated to the *khamsa* in Algeria; cultural crossover in Spain, Portugal, and Brazil; and the symbol of the hand in Shi'ism.

Readership

Specialists in Islamic studies, Shi'ism, Muslim ethnography, Islamicate occultism, Islamic/Middle Eastern/North African art, as well as museum curators, artists, and art and jewellery sellers.



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Biographical Note

Eva-Maria von Kemnitz, PhD, was Professor of Arab and Islamic History and Civilisation at the Portuguese Catholic University. She published on Al-Andalus, cultural and diplomatic relations between Europe and the Arab-Islamic world, Arab Studies, Orientalism, and Islamic art and heritage.

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