

# Converging on the Object: The Courtauld Metal Bag

09.30 – 17.45, Saturday 10 May 2014

Kenneth Clark Lecture Theatre, The Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 0RN



Metal bag, brass, inlaid with gold and silver, Mosul, ca 1300-30, Il-Khanid dynasty in Greater Iran and Iraq. The Courtauld Gallery, London.

*Converging on the Object: The Courtauld Metal Bag* symposium is part of the Research Forum programming at The Courtauld Institute of Art and takes place towards the closing of The Courtauld Gallery's exhibition *Court and Craft: A Masterpiece from Northern Iraq*, 20 February - 18 May 2014.

The Courtauld metal bag directs our attention to its materiality, the way it was made and the manner in which it connects a historical past to a vibrant visual present. It directs our attention to broad cultural geographies asking us to consider it through diverse scholarly and artistic disciplinary fields. The symposium *Converging on the Object: The Courtauld Metal Bag* brings together speakers who will reflect on their close study of the object itself and who will consider the evidence of

transcultural thinking in the time and place of the bag's making: the post-Mongol period of the Il-Khanid court culture in the early 14<sup>th</sup>-century Iran and Iraq. Papers on trade, material culture, food, fashions, art and social habits, belief systems, cultural and political circumstances of patronage are lenses through which we come to reflect on aspects of the cultural lives of the people of Damascus, Mosul, Baghdad and Tabriz — major urban centres during the reign of the Il-khanids and their neighbours in the Eastern Mediterranean — as well as on the links with their Yuan-Mongol contemporaries in China.

**Ticket/Entry Details:** £16 (£11 students, Courtauld staff/students, concessions). BOOK ONLINE: <http://ci.tesseras.com/internet/shop> or send a cheque made payable to 'The Courtauld Institute of Art' to: Research Forum Events Co-ordinator, Research Forum, The Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 0RN, stating your full name and 'Converging on the Object'.

Organised by Dr Sussan Babaie (The Courtauld Institute of Art).

## PROGRAMME

### Saturday 10 May

- 09.30 – 10.00 Registration
- 10.00 – 10.15 Welcome remarks – Professor Deborah Swallow (Director, The Courtauld Institute of Art)
- 10.15 – 10.45 Dr Sussan Babaie (The Courtauld Institute of Art), *Converging on the Object: The Courtauld Metal Bag*
- 10.45 – 11.15 Dr Alexandra Gerstein (The Courtauld Gallery), *From Northern Italy to Gloucestershire to London: How The Courtauld acquired its Metal Bag*
- 11.15 – 11.45 **Tea/Coffee break** (seminar rooms 1 & 2)
- 11.45 – 12.20 Dr Judith Pfeiffer (University of Oxford), *Opening the Medieval Mind: Rashīd al-Dīn and His World*
- 12.20 – 12.55 Dr Ruba Kana'an (The Aga Khan Museum, Toronto), *Traders and Craftsmen in the Medieval Marketplace: Damascus, Mosul, and Tabriz*
- 13.00 – 14.30 **Lunch Break**
- 14.30 – 15.05 Professor Paul D. Buell (Max Plank Institute, Berlin), *Partying with the Mongols: Enjoying the Best that Eurasia Had to Offer*
- 15.05 – 15.40 Dr Ladan Akbarnia (The British Museum), *A Cathayan Cousin to The Courtauld Bag: East-West Cultural Connections Under the Mongols*
- 15.40 – 16.10 **Tea/Coffee break** (seminar rooms 1 & 2)
- 16.10 – 16.45 Mrs Diana Heath (Independent Conservator), *Conservation and Investigation: Learning from The Courtauld Metal Bag*
- 16.45 – 17.20 Ms Jananna Al-Ani (Visual Artist, London), *Micro-topographies*
- 17.20 – 17.45 Final Discussion
- 17.45 – 19.00 Drinks reception (Front Hall)