



ARIT LECTURE

in honor of the 100th anniversary of Republic of Türkiye

***Ottoman Art in America: A Century Long Artistic Relations
Between Türkiye and the United States***

by Zeynep Simavi

**at ANAMED Auditorium and on ZOOM
Monday, November 13, 2023 at 6:00 pm İstanbul**

In person lecture at Anamed Auditorium, İstiklal Caddesi, 181, Merkez Han, Beyoğlu
For livestreaming on ZOOM, register in advance for this meeting:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpdemqrzMsHdw_IDnqMSeF4Gw0yaCzUMiP

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The past two decades saw an increased interest in the historiography of Islamic art. Despite the increasing number of studies addressing the formation of public and private collections, significant exhibitions and people such as collectors, curators, dealers and scholars that shaped this young academic field in the West, important exhibitions and figures of Ottoman art have not been studied in depth. This talk aims to give an overview of the developments in the scholarship and representation of Ottoman art in the United States throughout the 20th century. To understand how the perception of Ottoman art evolved over time, this talk will present the figures, events and exhibitions that contributed to our understanding of Ottoman art history. Starting with a discussion on the contributions of Mehmet Aga-Oglu in the formation of Islamic art history discipline in the United States, the talk will continue with the first large scale travelling art exhibition from Türkiye to the United States, Art Treasures of Turkey in the 1960s, followed by the new beginnings in the 1970s when the emerging scholarship and formation of a private collection in the United States planted the seeds for the major transformations witnessed in the 1980s with the trailblazing Age of Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent exhibition. The talk will end with a brief overview of the post-Süleyman exhibitions, after 1987 to our times.

Zeynep Simavi is the İstanbul branch director of American Research Institute in Turkey. She received her Ph.D. in Art History from the İstanbul Technical University with a dissertation entitled “Contextualizing the Age of Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent: Perceptions of Ottoman Art in the United States, 1929-1987,” which investigates the formation of Islamic art as an academic field in the United States along with the perception of Ottoman art, focusing on scholars, curators, exhibitions and publications. Prior to ARIT İstanbul, she worked as a scholarly programs and publications specialist at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Asian Art.