The Ottomans | Art outside the Capital

‘The farther from the capital, the more local colours you find despite the dominance of the palace ateliers.’

Like other empires, the Ottomans took their artistic taste to newly captured lands alongside their administrative and political systems. Through the ateliers established in the palace, the Ottomans dominated the artistic approach in the provinces over a vast geographical area. But another reality is that the farther you go from the capital, the more local colours you find despite the dominance of the palace ateliers. Imitating the refined taste of the capital was what the Ottomans did with art in the provinces as well. Ottoman taste was reflected in works commissioned either directly by the palace or by the governors ruling the provinces in the name of the sultan. The work of local benefactors was in reasonable competition with the capital, but still distinguished works of art were accomplished.



Name:
Çak#ra#a Mansion

Dynasty:
Hegira 13th century / AD 19th century Ottoman

Details:
Birgi-Ödemi#, #zmir, Turkey

Justification:
The wall paintings at Çak#ra#a exemplify those that spread out from the capital in the 18th century.



Name:
Cushion cover

Dynasty:
Hegira 11th century / AD 17th century Ottoman

Details:
Burrell Collection, Glasgow Museums
Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom

Justification:
Silk was a luxury textile and a symbol of power; it was used both in the palaces and by the local authorities.



Name:
Kütahya ceramics

Dynasty:
Hegira 12th–13th century / AD 18th–19th century Ottoman

Details:
Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts
Sultanahmet, Istanbul, Turkey

Justification:
Kütahya became the major ceramic- and tile-production centre following the decline of the industry in Iznik.



Name:
Prayer rug

Dynasty:
Hegira 1217 / AD 1802 Ottoman

Details:
Burrell Collection, Glasgow Museums
Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom

Justification:
A central Anatolian example of a Turkish carpet, a tradition originating in Central Asia. Such carpets were also bought by pilgrims on their way to Mecca and given as donations.



Name:
Qasr al-Azm

Dynasty:
Hegira 1163 / AD 1749–50 Ottoman

Details:
Damascus, Syria

Justification:
A magnificent palace with local characteristics, it was built for the Ottoman official, Asad Pasha.
