

# The Ottomans | Turkish-Islamic Art in Pre-Ottoman Anatolia

'This world of human, animal and talismanic-mystic creatures is the result of good observation and vivid imagination.'

Anatolian Seljuq architectural decoration uses mainly tile, stone, wood and plaster. Due to the influence of Islam, floral and geometric decoration and inscriptions were preferred for the decoration of religious buildings, but there is also an intensive use of the figure, especially in palaces. This world of human, animal and talismanic-mystic creatures is the result of good observation and vivid imagination; its presence challenges the belief that the representation of figures was prohibited in Islamic art.



**Name:**

Rug

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 7th century / AD 13th century Anatolian Seljuq

**Details:**

Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts  
Sultanahmet, Istanbul, Türkiye

**Justification:**

A distinctive example of an Anatolian Seljuq carpet made with the Gördes knot.

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**Name:**

Relief of a lute player

**Dynasty:**

Hegira early 7th / AD early 13th century Seljuqs of Rum (Anatolian Seljuq)

**Details:**

Museum of Islamic Art at the Pergamon Museum  
Berlin, Germany

**Justification:**

A fine example of stonework with figurative decoration from Konya.

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