

# The Normans in Sicily | Christian Sicily and Islamic Figurative Culture: Foundations and Continuity

'The influence of Islamic artistic culture was still evident in objects produced in the following century.'

The influence of Islamic artistic culture as adopted by the Normans was still evident in a series of exquisite objects produced in the following (13th) century, including several refined ivory pieces.



**Name:**

Ivory box

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 6th century / AD late 12th century Siculo-Norman (Siculo-Arab)

**Details:**

Burrell Collection, Glasgow Museums  
Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom

**Justification:**

This box combines Byzantine and Islamic elements in its style and the iconography of the painted motifs.

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**Name:**

Chest with painted scenes

**Dynasty:**

13th century Arab-Norman art

**Details:**

Palatine Chapel, Treasury  
Palermo, Italy

**Justification:**

The iconographic motifs of hunting scenes, pairs of animals facing each other and plant volutes are derived from Fatimid culture.

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**Name:**

Rectangular chest with a truncated-pyramid lid

**Dynasty:**

12th century Arab-Norman art

**Details:**

Palatine Chapel, Treasury  
Palermo, Italy

**Justification:**

An elegant chest that combines carved ivory with chased metal.

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**Name:**

Ivory casket with painted figural decoration

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 6th century / AD 12th century Normans in Sicily, southern Italy

**Details:**

Museum of Islamic Art at the Pergamon Museum

Berlin, Germany

**Justification:**

Some iconographic details, such as the woman playing an Egyptian stringed instrument, are indicative of the Fatimid influence on Norman art.

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