

Women | Muslim Women as Professionals, Artisans and Performing Artists

'Muslim women were engaged in various crafts such as pottery and rug- and carpet-weaving.'

On a more practical level, Muslim women were also engaged in various crafts. An important activity was the production of pottery for everyday domestic use. The base of a Mamluk ceramic dish from Fustat in Egypt was inscribed with 'amal Khadija' ('made by Khadija'). Rug- and carpet-weaving was another traditional female activity, with knowledge and expertise handed down through the generations from mother to daughter. Finally, embroidery played an important part in the lives of Muslim women. Many hours were spent by the females in the family to embellish textiles for domestic and, crucially, commercial purposes.



Name:

Bowl

Dynasty:

Hegira 13th century / AD 19th century Ottoman

Details:

Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow Museums
Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom

Justification:

A dish made by Algerian village women in the 19th century and used for a variety of social occasions. Similar wares are still made today.



Name:

Stole, mirror dressing (tenchifa)

Dynasty:

Hegira 12th-13th centuries / AD 18th-19th centuries Alawid

Details:

Museum of the Udayas
Rabat, Morocco

Justification:

Stoles of this type were hung around mirror frames during festivals to ward off the 'evil eye'.



Name:

Prayer rug

Dynasty:

Hegira 1217 / AD 1802 Ottoman

Details:

Burrell Collection, Glasgow Museums
Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom

Justification:

This is an example of the colourful carpets and prayer rugs made by women in Ladik in Anatolia, an industry for which the village is famous. Woven into the rug is the date according to the hegira calendar, '1217' (1802).



Name:
Embroidery

Dynasty:
Around Hegira 1132–42 / AD 1720–30 Ottoman

Details:
Museum of National Antiquities (Historiska Museet)
Stockholm, Sweden

Justification:
Turkish women worked on embroideries like this for both personal and commercial purposes.
