The University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA) invites faculty and graduate students to a Preview and Curriculum Development Workshop that looks forward to UMMA’s exhibition of Doris Duke’s Shangri La: Architecture, Landscape, and Islamic Art (January 25 – May 4, 2014). The first exhibition to present Duke’s estate and its collection of Islamicate arts to audiences throughout the continental United States, Doris Duke’s Shangri La features ceramics, textiles, paintings, tile panels, and full-scale architectural elements, juxtaposed with historic photographs and drawings that dramatically demonstrate the symbiotic relationship between the house and its collections. The exhibition also includes new works by contemporary artists who participated in the Shangri La Artists-in-Residence program and produced art in response to Doris Duke’s collections.

Led by Professor Christiane Gruber (History of Art) and doctoral student Ashley Dimmig, this event will introduce participants to the objects in the show. It will explore the many themes through which university instructors can integrate visits and projects with the exhibition into their teaching plans for Winter 2014. Major themes include the varieties and histories of Islamic visual cultures, the influence of Duke’s collection on modern design, Orientalism and the history of the discipline of Islamic Art, the culture of collecting and display, women’s artistic patronage in the twentieth century, and the intersections between traditionalism, revivalism, and modernism in Duke’s Shangri-La. Instructors and researchers from all disciplines are invited to bring their own ideas and contribute to what should be a fascinating and productive workshop.

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