



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Archaeology of the Iranian Medieval Wall Painting Corpus (10-14th centuries): Wall Painting Technology Knowledge Exchange and Transfer

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## Abstract

This paper examines the corpus of some twenty-four wall paintings (10th-14th centuries) in Iran and the neighbouring lands. Instead of traditional art historical approach (iconographic, stylistic and visual analysis), this contribution applies archaeological methodology to tackle research questions of art historians' and archaeologists' interest. The proposed hypotheses are going to be illustrated based on the examination of the entire corpus, and more specifically, by debating relations between wall paintings at Turbat-i Jam (north-eastern Iran) and Mihna (Turkmenistan), and between Sultaniyya (north-western Iran), Isfahan (central Iran) and Yazd (central Iran).

Limited geographical spread of existing wall paintings points towards a high level of craftsmen's workshops specialization for production of these essential parts of built environments, which reflect their contingent function and meaning. A revised production chronology, combined with a close look at wall painting production technologies and craftsmen's signatures, enables us to propose mobility routes of wall painting craftsmen's workshops pointing at routes of transfer and exchange of specific technological and artistic skills. Hence, we can chronologically pinpoint specific technological advancements of the wall painting art (e. g. gilding, stencils, colouring). In sum, the paper sheds new light on Persianate medieval wall paintings, and it increases our understanding of Islamic architecture.

## Keywords

Wall Painting, Medieval Iran, Craftsmen's Mobility, Production Technology, Knowledge Transfer

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