

A Carpet Ride to Khiva

Date: Thursday 19 Sept. 2019, 8.00 pm

Lecturer: Chris Alexander

Location: DESY "Flash" Room



The Teke design Turkmen carpet. This pattern is often referred to as the Bukhara print design.

LECTURE SUMMARY

The lecture will examine the traditional role of carpet weaving and embroidery in the social lives of Central Asian women and how social and political influences led to the decline of textile production. It will focus on the attempt to revive the rich textile heritage of Khiva, Bukhara and Samarkand, using 15th Century designs sourced from illuminated manuscripts of the time and will highlight the challenges involved such as the sourcing of natural dyes from neighbouring Afghanistan.

BIOGRAPHY OF LECTURER

Chris was born in Turkey and spent his childhood there and in war-torn Beirut. After school, Chris spent two years at sea before studying Media and journalism at Leicester University. He then moved to Khiva, a desert oasis in Uzbekistan, establishing a UNESCO workshop reviving fifteenth century carpet designs and embroideries, creating income for women. After a year in the UK writing A Carpet Ride to Khiva, he moved to the Pamirs in Tajikistan, training yak herders to comb their yaks for their cashmere-like down, spending three years there. Next came two years in Kyrgyzstan living in the world's largest natural walnut forest and establishing a wood-carving workshop. Chris has recently finished studying at Oxford and is now a curate at St. Barnabas, North Finchley, and author of Alabaster and Manacle. He returns to Central Asia whenever he can and conducts tours there.

For further information on The Arts Society or the lectures please see our website below or send an E-Mail to: hamburg@theartsociety.org or contact the following:

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