

THE VEIL IN CONTEMPORARY ART: A RETURN TO ORIENTALISM? MARCH 16 • 2:30PM-4:30PM • DUNNING 12

This lecture examines the veil's prevalence and transformation in contemporary art and museum exhibitions since the late 1990s up to the present-day. With a focus on images of the veil and veiling practices in the art of a range of contemporary artists including Shadi Ghadirian, Jananne Al-Ani, Shirin Neshat, Princess Hijab, Shepard Fairey and Banksy, the lecture asks questions about the extent to which the veil in art practices is re-orientalising Islam and Muslims, and Muslim women in particular.

Zulfikar Hirji is Associate Professor at York University. As anthropologist and social historian he is interested in how human societies articulate, represent and perform understandings of self, community and other. His research focuses on Muslim societies in a range of historical and contemporary contexts. He is particularly concerned with the diverse ways in which Muslims express and articulate issues of deep human concern as well as matters of daily life and interrogates knowledge produced about Muslims, by academics and others.