

British museum and IAMM to hold exhibition



Valuable information: Dr Mahathir at a special preview of the exhibition which is a major new collaboration between the IAMM and the British Museum. IAMM's Syed Mohamad is on his right.

PETALING JAYA: An exhibition called "Inspired by the East: How the Islamic world influenced Western art" will be the first collaboration between Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia (IAMM) and the British Museum.

Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad visited the British Museum in London on Sunday to preview the joint exhibition.

Opening on Oct 10, the exhibition examines how Western artists have been inspired by the Islamic world, with emphasis on highlights from IAMM's collection of mainly 19th-century paintings depicting the Islamic world.

"The interaction was not always happy, but as this exhibition shows, there was

always a yearning to learn more about the Islamic faith and culture," wrote Dr Mahathir in his foreword in the exhibition catalogue.

The exhibits in this event are mostly from the collections of IAMM and the British Museum.

The exhibition also demonstrates the full range of "Orientalist" art, a genre that peaked during the 19th century, with Western artists visiting the Middle East and North Africa in larger numbers.

Other objects exhibited include metalwork, jewellery, ceramics, photographs, glass and clothing.

The directors of the two collaborating

museums, Hartwig Fischer and Syed Mohamad Albukhary, said that the story of Inspired by the East had rarely been told before with such a diverse selection of artefacts.

"It is appropriate that both the British Museum and the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia are trans-national institutions that actively bring the world together through their collections.

"London and Kuala Lumpur are two distinct locations, on this occasion with a shared mission," they said in a statement.

After the British Museum, the exhibition will travel to the Islamic Arts Museum in Malaysia from June 20 to Oct 22, 2020.