

MEDIA IMAGES

The Prince and the Shah: Royal Portraits from Qajar Iran

On view February 24–August 5, 2018, Arthur M. Sackler Gallery

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In our age of social media and selfies, it may be difficult to grasp the importance of painted portraits and studio photographs in nineteenth-century Iran. During this time, known as the Qajar era, rulers such as Fath-Ali Shah (reigned 1797–1834), a contemporary of Napoleon, and Nasir al-Din Shah (reigned 1848–96), a contemporary of Queen Victoria, used portraiture to convey monarchical power and dynastic grandeur. Through a selection of about thirty works from the Freer and Sackler collections, which include recent major gifts and acquisitions, this exhibition explores how Persian artists transformed modes of representing royalty and nobility. Paintings on canvas, lacquerwares, and photographs also highlight Iran's complex artistic and cultural interactions with the West as European conventions and new technologies were being introduced.

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Ahmad Shah (r. 1909–25) and his cabinet

Signed by Assadullah al-Husayni *naqqash-bashi* (chief painter)
Iran, Tehran, probably 1914; originally undated and re-dated AH 1328 (1910)
Oil on canvas
Gift of the Farough and Jean Farman-Farmaian Family; Lehla Farman-Farmaian Dowlatshahi, Susan Farman-Farmaian Gharib, Valli Farman-Farmaian, and Marjan Farman-Farmaian Hosseinpour
Arthur M. Sackler Gallery S2013.4



Portrait of Jalal al-Din Mirza (ca. 1827–1872), son of Fath-Ali Shah

Attributed to Abu'l-Hasan Ghaffari, Sani' al-Mulk (ca. 1814–1866)
Iran, probably Tehran, dated Shawwal AH 1275 (May 1859)
Oil on canvas
Purchase—Friends of the Freer and Sackler Galleries
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