

Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture Opens with Exhibition of Berber Jewelry from the Moroccan Royal Palace Collection at the Museum of Islamic Art

DOHA, 20 February 2024 — Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture was officially inaugurated with the opening of the *Berber Jewelry Collection from the Royal Palace* exhibition at the Museum of Islamic Art.

Berber Jewelry Collection from the Royal Palace features more than 200 historical and culturally significant pieces from Morocco's Oudayas, National Museum of Adornment in Rabat. The Royal Palace Collection represents the diverse regions of Morocco, from the Atlas Mountains to the southern provinces.

The exhibition marks the first time the collection will be exhibited outside of Morocco, offering a unique window into the nation's culture.

On view through 20 May 2024, the exhibition of Berber silver jewelry from the Oudayas, National Museum of Adornment, pays homage to the artisans who meticulously crafted these treasures and honors, in particular, the women who have safeguarded these traditions.

These artifacts, showcasing various techniques, forms, and materials, reveal the regional traits of key jewelry production centers in Morocco and reflect Morocco's rich heritage, demonstrating artistry in wirework, inlaying, and the use of coral, amber, glass, beads, and coins.

Common motifs, including geometric patterns and stylized depictions of nature, connect to the Berber people's nomadic lifestyle, echoing their deep bond with nature and the environment.

Berber Jewelry Collection from the Royal Palace is organized by the National Foundation of Museums of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Museum of Islamic Art. It was coordinated by Adel El Fakir, General Commissioner of the Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture.

The exhibition is the inaugural program for the Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture, which spearheads long-lasting cultural partnerships between Qatar and other nations. It exists to promote respect and understanding among diverse cultures by developing programs related to all aspects of culture, recognizing it as the fabric of our daily lives. More than 80 events, including exhibitions, exchanges, and other programs, are planned throughout the year in both countries.

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About Years of Culture

The Years of Culture initiative, chaired by Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, spearheads long-lasting cultural partnerships between Qatar and other nations. It exists to promote respect and understanding among diverse cultures and serves as a catalyst for bringing people together, nurturing connections, encouraging dialogue, and deepening understanding. Though formal programming spans one year, the lasting impact continues through legacy projects.

The Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture is developed in collaboration with leading organizations in Qatar with counterparts in Morocco and with assistance from the Moroccan Ministry of Youth, Culture, and Communication, Qatar's Embassy in Morocco, and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in Qatar.

Previous Years of Culture have included: Qatar-Japan 2012, Qatar-UK 2013, Qatar-Brazil 2014, Qatar-Türkiye 2015, Qatar-China 2016, Qatar-Germany 2017, Qatar-Russia 2018, Qatar-India 2019, Qatar-France 2020, Qatar-USA 2021, Qatar-MENASA 2022, and Qatar-Indonesia 2023.

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