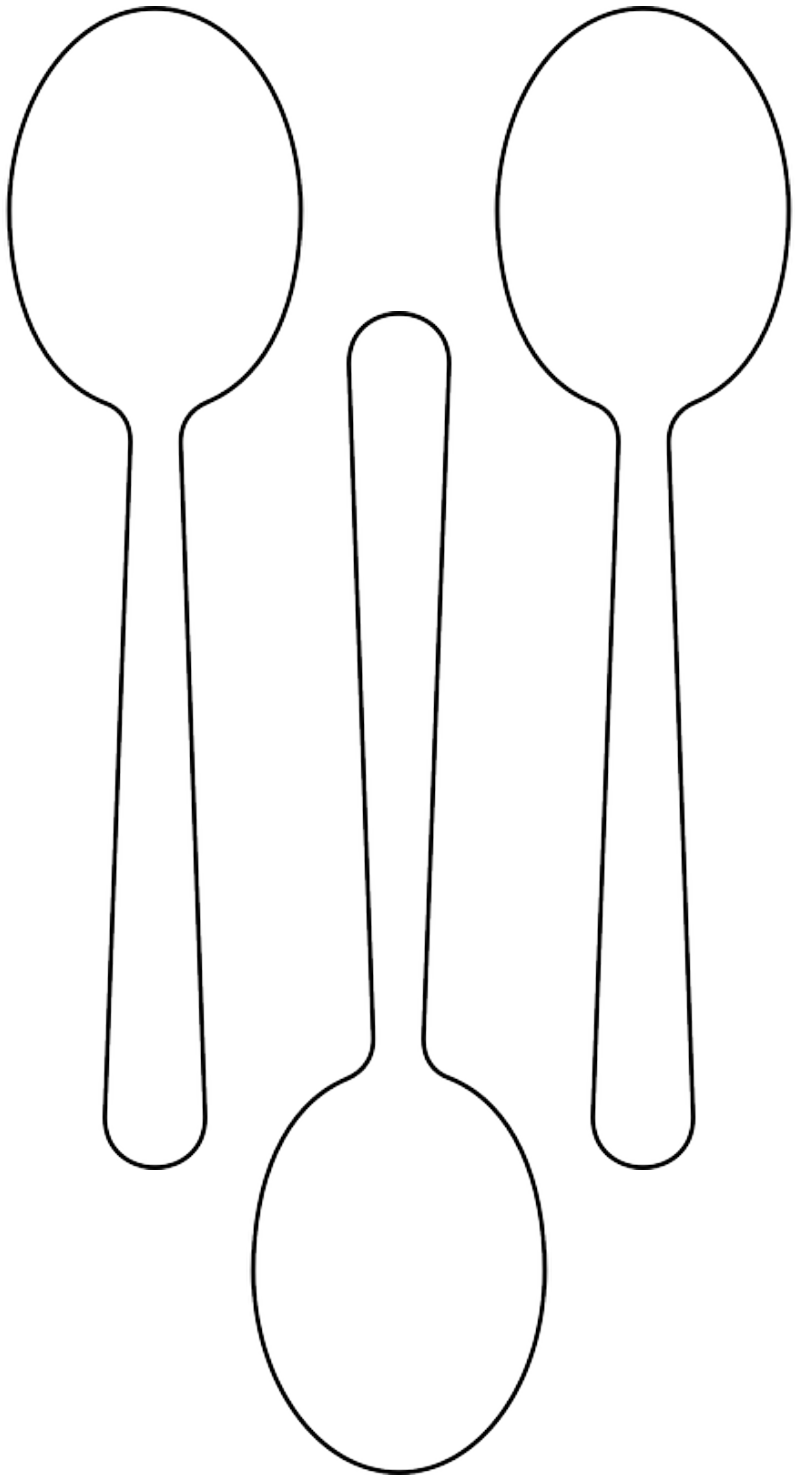




LNS 102 W a – j, 10 luxurious spoons, Turkey, late 18th century CE

Another common motif in Islamic art is **Repeating Geometric Patterns**. These are shape combinations that seem like they could go on forever. You can see them everywhere – on buildings, on books, on posters and, yes, on spoons.

Look at the handles of these spoons and see how many different designs there are, and they all use shapes! So the spoons in the picture were decorated by artists a long time ago. Your job is to decorate the spoons below with repeating geometric patterns you create!



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دار الفنون الإسلامية

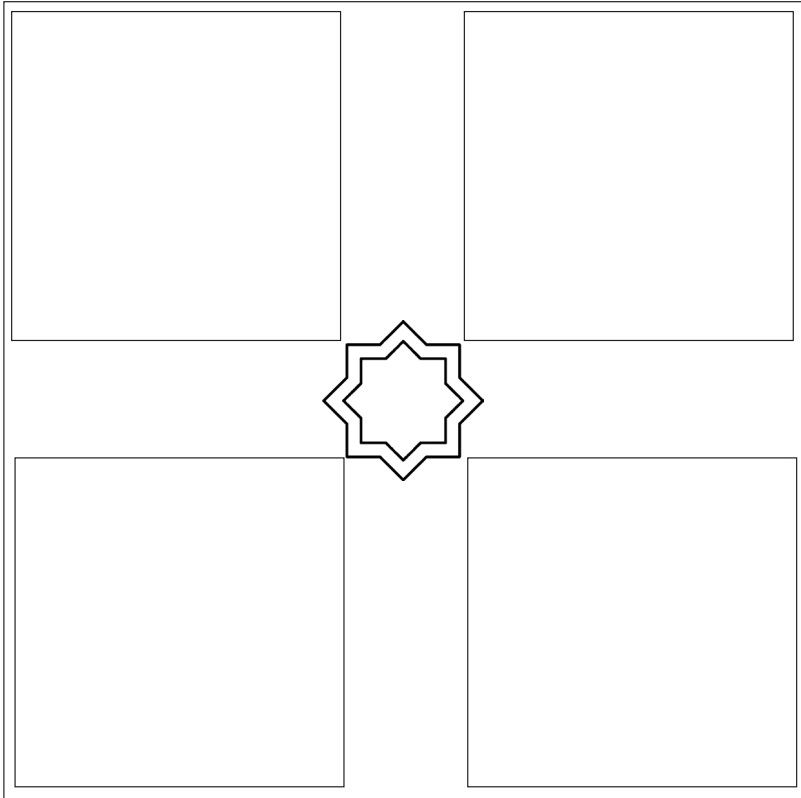
Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah

## MOTIFS IN ISLAMIC ART

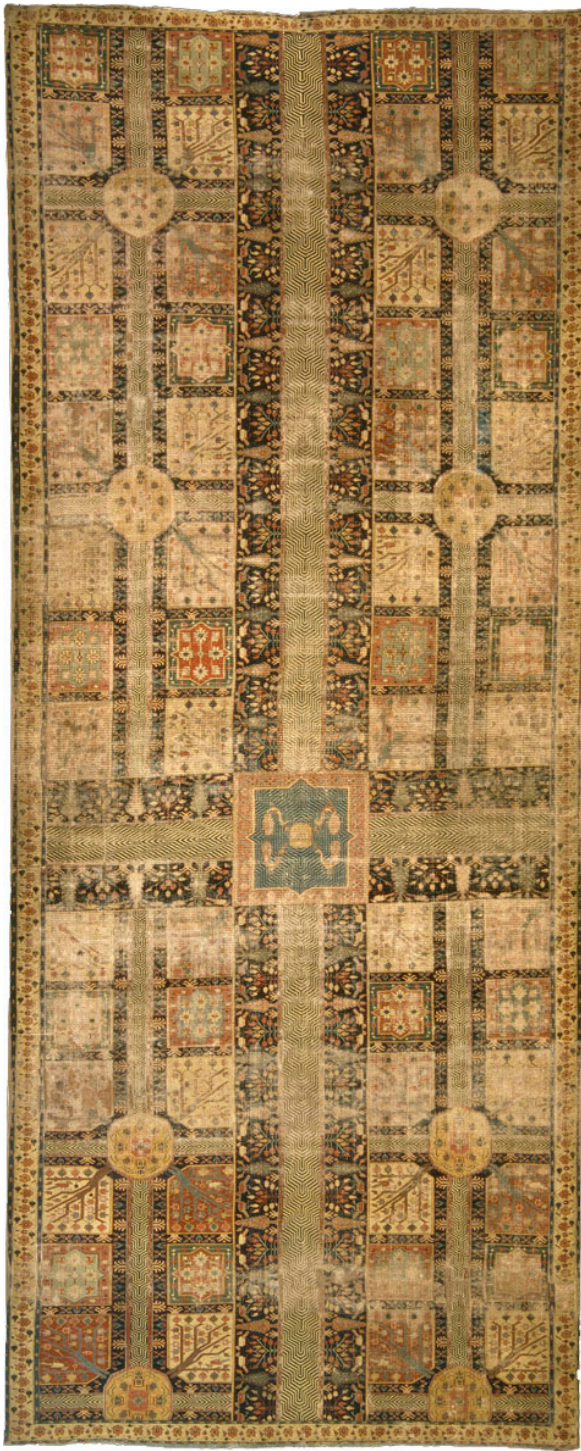
One of the most common motifs in Islamic art is “**Vegetal**”. Vegetal patterns are patterns that relate to plants. Sometimes the plants are imaginary in how they look and how they ‘grow’.

This carpet presents a very special vegetal pattern. It is based on a real garden style called *chahar baghs*, which means ‘four gardens’. Most people think this represents the four gardens of Paradise that are mentioned in the Qur’an. One of the hallmarks of *chahar baghs* is that the four-part garden is laid out with paths that intersect at the garden’s centre, frequently with a water feature.

Take a close look at this carpet (either here or in the exhibition). Can you find the fish? How about the birds? Look at the leaves, do you think this is the garden in winter, spring, summer or autumn? After you’ve had a good look at this carpet, create your very own *chahar baghs* carpet in the outline below.



الفنون  
al-Fann



LNS 10 R, Pile *chahar baghs* Carpet, North-west or Central Iran, early 18th century CE





Use the grid below to write your name in Square Kufic. If you don't know how to write your name in Arabic, you can write *Salaam*, which means "peace". The letters required are numbered, but you have to decide where in the word the letters appear. Also, don't forget the word is written right to left. For example, Seen is the first letter in Salaam. That means it would be written like this:

