

October 12–14, 2026



Государственный

МУЗЕЙ
ВОСТОКА



**FOURTH INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC CONFERENCE
ART OF THE EAST AND EAST IN ARTS: BETWEEN RENAISSANCE
AND DECADENCE**

Dear colleagues!

Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IOS RAS)

The State Museum of Oriental Art (SMOA)

The Faculty of Oriental Studies of the State Academic University for the
Humanities (GAUGN)

invite you to participate in the Fourth International Academic Conference

ART of the EAST and EAST in ARTS

Between Renaissance and Decadence

(AEEA IV)



AEEA IV

October 12–14, 2026

The fourth conference, *AEEA IV: Between Renaissance and Decadence*, will, as before, bring together specialists from museums holding collections of Asian and African art, researchers from academic institutions, and academic and educational institutions working on a wide range of topics and periods in the history of Eastern art and culture. The overarching theme of this year's conference will be an attempt to reconstruct the concept of the Golden Age of Culture, examining artistic expressions of sadness and nostalgia for its loss, the phenomenon of the Renaissance of ancient aesthetics in Eastern countries, and the natural processes of shifting the vectors of prosperity and the zenith of culture and craftsmanship toward the 'Autumn of the Middle Ages' (*Herfsttij der Middeleeuwen*) and the aesthetics of decay and decadence. This latter theme also evokes an interest in the reflection of calendrical themes in art in all their diversity—from the symbolism of the zodiac constellations to elegiac landscapes.

The 2026 conference is not limited by chronological boundaries: We invite speakers to reflect on the formulas of development, zenith, and decline that have governed art and material culture from the ancient world to the 21st century.



The main themes of the conference are as follows:

- Ideals of beauty and The Beautiful as indicators of historical periods
- Declines of civilizations and empires: Art at the crossroads
- Golden Age and Renaissance in the East — the history of debates, formulas, and the search for prototypes
- The language of classical tradition and the difficulties of translation into modern times
- The transformation of beauty in the context of decline/decline
- From 'Renaissance' to 'Decadence': Stages of rethinking images (Renaissance — Mannerism — Decadence)
- Symbols of decay and iconography as markers of an era of change
- The aesthetics of sadness, nostalgia, and longing for a lost 'Golden age'
- Traditional Art of Asia and Africa through the European lenses

**THE FOLLOWING ROUND TABLES ARE PLANNED TO BE HELD
DURING THE CONFERENCE:**

WEAPONS AS AN OBJECT OF ART — decorative and artistic aspects of weaponry in Eastern cultures.

ORIENTALISM / OXIDENTALISM / AFRICANISM — mutual representations, borrowings, stereotypes, and their dismantling in culture and art.

‘CALENDARS ARE ALL LIARS’ (Alexander S. Griboedov) — a discussion of calendar symbolism, seasonal cycles, and their artistic embodiment.

CULTURAL PROGRAMME

During AEEA IV, the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences will host solo exhibitions of works by Orientalist artists and artists-Orientalists.

The conference will also feature a presentation of new book and journal publications of IOS RAS.

**The conference program will be compiled based on the selected
applications by October 1, 2026**



CONFERENCE INFORMATION AND PUBLICATIONS

The fourth AEEA will be held in person and online on October 12–14, 2026, at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, located at: 12 Rozhdestvenka st., Moscow, Russia.

Applications for participation and abstracts (5,000 to 10,000 characters) are to be sent to aeea.conference@ivran.ru until September 1, 2026 (see **Template**).

For any questions, please contact the official conference Organizing committee email: aeea.conference@ivran.ru.

Following the conference, selected papers will be published in the collective monograph '*Beauty and Usus in the East*' (Book 3) and in the *Oriental Courier* journal (for which completed papers must be sent to the conference address for consideration by the Organizing Committee by November 1, 2026). Registration rules can be found here: <https://oriental-courier.ru/pravila-oformleniya-statey-ru-4.html?sl=ru>

Accommodation and travel expenses are covered by the sending party.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee of AEEA IV

Dinara V. Dubrovskaya, *Dr. Habil. (History), Professor at the State Academic University of Humanities, Leading Researcher, Head of the Department of Art and Material Culture, IOS RAS*

Sofya A. Zinchenko, *PhD (Art History), Associate Professor, Senior Researcher at the Department of Art and Material Culture, IOS RAS*

Nataliya V. Safonova, *PhD (History), Researcher, Department of Art and Material Culture, IOS RAS, Executive Secretary of AEEA IV*

Maksim M. Bochkov, *Research Assistant at the Department of Art and Material Culture, IOS RAS, AEEA IV Secretary*

Polina V. Morgunova, *Research Assistant at the Department of Art and Material Culture, IOS RAS, AEEA IV Secretary*

