

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Joanna Vos **Humanities Discipline:** Art Appreciation ARTH110

Date: June 14, 2016

World Religion: Islam

Teaching Module Title: Muslim History in the United States and Indianapolis

Teaching Module Goals:

To understand the artwork of contemporary Moroccan-born Muslim artist Lalla Essaydi, now living in the United States by exploring her response to Western Orientalism and specifically by comparing her *Les Femmes du Maroc: Grand Odalisque 2* to Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres' *La Grande Odalisque*.

Assigned Viewings:

Interview with Lalla Essaydi during exhibition of *Les Femmes due Maroc* at the National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yg_T0e-Y9hU

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

Lalla Essaydi webpage, particularly Artist's Statement, Biography, and Exhibition Reviews.

<http://lallaessaydi.com/1.html>

Lalla Essaydi, Revisions, an exhibition at the National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution

<http://africa.si.edu/exhibits/revisions/>

Cheers, Imami. (May 9, 2012). Q & A: *Lalla Essaydi Challenges Muslim, Gender Stereotypes at Museum of African Art*. PBS Newshour

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/art/revisions/>

Reclaiming Identity: Dismantling Arab Stereotypes, What is Orientalism

<http://www.arabstereotypes.org/why-stereotypes/what-orientalism>

Dermdash, Nancy. *Orientalism. The Origins of Orientalism. The Politics of Orientalism. Representing the "Orient". Orientalism: Fact or Fiction? Global Imperialism and Consumerism.*

<https://khanacademy.org/humanities/becoming-modern/intro-becoming-modern/orientalism>

Dr. Beth Harris and Dr. Steven Zucker. *Painting Colonial Culture: Ingres' La Grande Odalisque*.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/becoming-modern/romanticism/romanticism-in-france/v/ingres-la-grande-odalisque-1814>

Meagher, Jennifer. "Orientalism in Nineteenth-Century Art". In *Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2000-.

[http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/euor/hd_euor.htm\(October2004\)](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/euor/hd_euor.htm(October2004))

Arabic Calligraphy. Arabic Calligraphy: Civilisation of the Word.

http://www.discoverislamicart.org/exhibitions/ISL/arabic_calligraphy/?Ing=ent

Croutier, Alev Lytle. (2014) *Harem: The World Behind the Veil*. "Henna Night" pp. 148-149 25th Anniversary Edition. Abbeville Press.

News Releases. *National Museum of African Art Presents "Lalla Essaydi: Revisions"*. (April 10, 2012) Newsdesk Press Room of the Smithsonian Institution

<http://newsdesk.si.edu/releases/national-museum-african-art-presents-lalla-essaydi-revisions>

Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. Review Essaydi's biography.
2. How are aspects of her experience as a Muslim woman, for instance living in a private space designated for women as a child, and the use of henna as personal decoration reflected in her art?
3. What is the importance of calligraphy in Islamic art and how does she incorporate it in her work?
4. What is Orientalism? How does Essaydi respond to Orientalism in her art? How does she appropriate it and transform it in her work?
5. What is the influence of her education at the Ecoles de Beaux Art and her MFA earned from the School of the Museum of Fine arts/Tufts University in Boston?

Written Assignments and/or Other Assessment Instruments:

Write a one page narrative comparing Essaydi's *Les Femmes du Maroc: Grand Odalisque 2* to Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres' *La Grande Odalisque*, incorporating the answers to the study questions. Primarily, discuss how her art reacts to Orientalism.

Instructor Resources:

Edwards, Holly. (2000). *Noble dreams, wicked pleasures: Orientalism in America, 1870-1930*. Pp. 11, 14, 18, 21, 81, 82. Princeton University Press.

Bernstein, Richard. (2009) *The East, the West, and sex: A history of erotic encounters. Chapter four: The harem of the mind of the West*. Pp. 74-88. Alfred A. Knopf, New York.

Croutier, Alev Lytle. (2014) *Harem: The world behind the veil*. "West meets East" pp. 173-180. 25th Anniversary Edition. Abbeville Press.