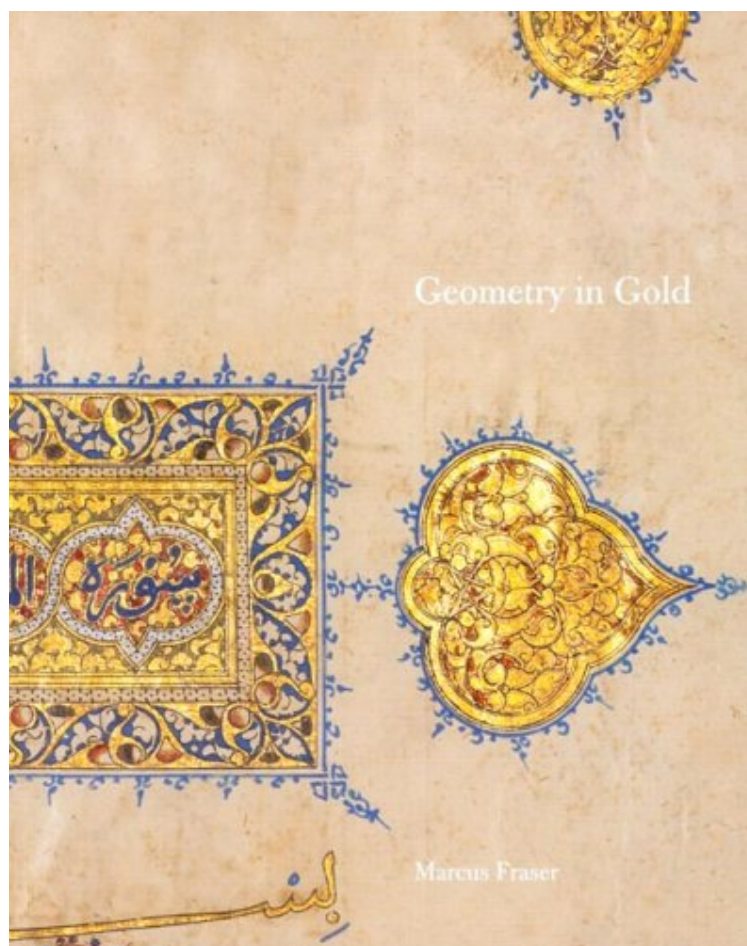


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Marcus Fraser

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## Geometry in Gold: An Illuminated Mamluk Qur'an Section

**Marcus Fraser : Geometry in Gold: An Illuminated Mamluk Qur'an Section** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Geometry in Gold: An Illuminated Mamluk Qur'an Section:

This book is devoted to a monumental and superbly illuminated very large early fourteenth-century Mamluk Qur'an in muhaqqaq script. It constitutes the final part (Juz 30) of a superb two-volume Quran of which the first volume is preserved in the National Museum in Damascus while the second volume, from which the present section originates, is widely dispersed. Remarkably, here the final part of the Quran is reunited with its magnificent and richly decorated double finispieces, thus reassembling what must have been among the most striking and lavishly illuminated sections of the entire manuscript. The high degree of inventiveness along with the overall quality of the manuscript point to the work of a master artist. Especially the geometric proficiency suggests the work of Muhammad ibn Mubadir, one of the leading illuminators in Mamluk Cairo at the turn of the thirteenth century. Although little is known of the life of this

artist, his illumination in the Baybars al-Jashnagir Quran, now in the British Library, and a Quran copied in 1306-10 for an unknown patron, now in the Chester Beatty Library, constitute some of the most celebrated achievements of Mamluk Quran illumination.