Greek Temples and Flying Human-Headed Horses:
A Critical Investigation of a 16th-Century Persian Painting through Image and Word

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Room 157
Everson Hall

What do the “Greek” or “Roman” temples devoted to financial and political powers in the post-enlightenment West have in common with a Middle Eastern painting showing Prophet Mohammad’s Ascension to heaven on a human-headed horse? This lecture proposes that the foundations of Western philosophy have much in common with the Middle East’s politically dominant thoughts, that these commonalities can be seen in the hybridized art produced to legitimize political powers in the past, and that the same philosophical foundations continue to inform the political structures in the Middle East in ways that might not seem apparent at first.