

Pictures and Symbols: an Islamic Perspective

Abstract

The produce and use of representational arts containing living creatures are taken forbidden acts in Islamic traditions and judicial rulings. Those arts include painting, drawing, sketching, engraving, photography and sculpture. In spite of this viewpoint among jurists during the history of jurisprudence, one can find more or less the development of those arts, especially in modern time, in Islamic countries. The main question here is that why those arts were prevented in early and middle Islamic centuries, and then what grounds justify the application of those arts in modern time. This paper focusing on Islamic Shiite view and Iranian community explains firstly the justification of prevention offered by jurists and then analyzes some critics and terms applied in legal sources concerning the issue. Through analyzing, the paper explains the reason of application those arts especially the art of moves in modern time, and refers to the main theoretical difficulties which Iranian artists encounter in producing.