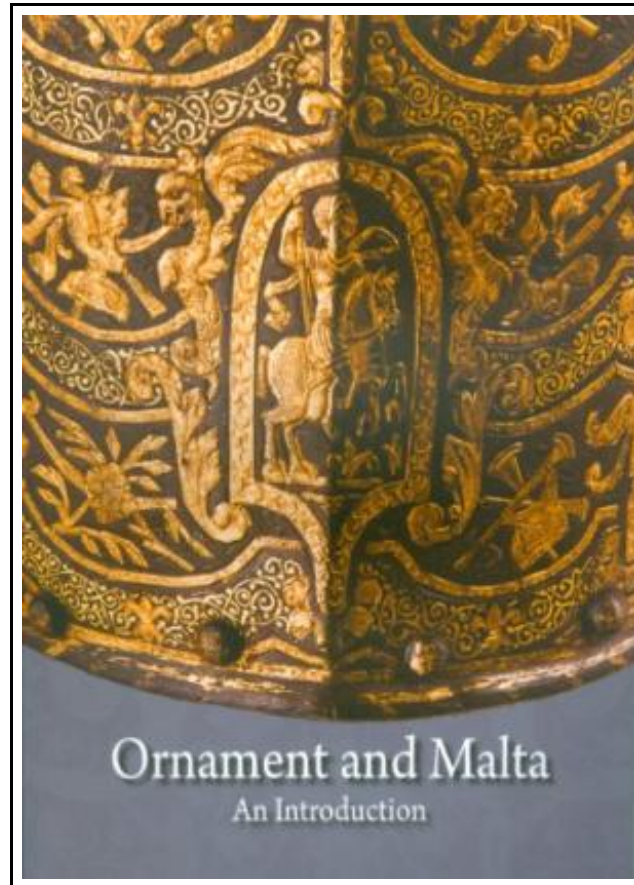


## Ornament and Malta: An Introduction



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## ORNAMENT AND MALTA: AN INTRODUCTION



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Midsea Books Ltd, Malta. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Ornament and Malta: An Introduction, Alexander Debono, This catalogue covers the latest of a series of international exhibitions staged by Heritage Malta. The exhibition in Malta includes over one hundred pieces from the Khalili Collection. Most were made by, or at the workshop of, Placido Zuloaga in the small town of Eibar in northern Spain. Different metals were fused together, hammered and chiselled to create precious treasures of fine metal craftsmanship including chests, vases, jewellery and objects from everyday life. Some of the pieces were commissioned by the Spanish Royal Family and contemporary collectors. The collection has been painstakingly brought together by Prof. Nasser David Khalili and is considered to be the best Spanish nineteenth-century damascene collection both in quality and extent. The art of damascening in precious metals on iron is of great antiquity, and was the decoration of choice on arms and armour from prehistory through to modern times. Both Eastern and Western tradition have placed its origin in what are now Islamic lands—a tradition as current in the Mongolia of Kublai Khan as it was in the Castile of El Cid. Damascened arms proclaimed the status of their bearer and this function was no less important than the efficacy of the weapons in combat. In assembling this collection of Islamic art, a variety of beautifully damascened objects were acquired, including many Islamic arms, some from as late as the nineteenth century, on which the gold and silver ornament was still as beautifully and delicately applied as it had been hundreds of years earlier. The catalogue of that collection, *The Arts of War*, has already presented an impressive array of Islamic damascening applied to arms, especially of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Other areas of the Khalili Collection are...



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