

ORIENTAL RUG SOCIETY OF NSW

25A Creek St, Forest Lodge NSW 2037

www.rugsociety.org.au



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NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 15 October 2025

**National Trust Centre,
Observatory Hill**

7.00 PM: Refreshments

7.30: Presentation:

Uzbek artistry--Lakai & Kungrat



Former senior curator at the Powerhouse Museum, Christina Sumner, will discuss the exceptional textile arts of the *Lakai* and *Kungrat* Uzbeks of Central Asia.

Their silk-embroidered dowry pieces and trappings display flamboyant abstract and geometric designs in brilliant colours, evoking these peoples' nomadic origins and the tribal culture of the Steppes.

Members are welcome to bring their own examples.

Entry, **\$20 members, \$30 guests**. Pay by cash or card on the night, or pre-pay by transfer to: **Oriental Rug Soc. of NSW BSB: 062 217 Acct no: 10491173.**

NOTE: 15 Oct is a Wednesday. If you haven't registered, please do so ASAP to info@rugsociety.org.au



Inflation, inflation!

While the ORS has resisted raising entry fees for meetings to cover steep increases in the cost of room hire and refreshments, we have to advise members that from January next year, we have no choice but to lift entry fees to \$25 for members and \$35 for guests, an increase of \$5.

However, we believe this still represents excellent value—and happily, membership fees will remain unchanged!

Join us at the AAADA Fair

We're calling for volunteers to staff an ORS stand for a few hours at the annual Fair of the Australian Arts & Antique Dealers Association (AAADA) from November 7-9 at Paddington Town Hall.

Volunteers receive a special invitation to opening night, Nov 6, and while representing the ORS they can explore the fascinating antiques, jewellery and art on the dealers' stands. If you're interested, please reply ASAP to info@rugsociety.org.au



Central Asian specialist **Chris Aslan** attracted a huge audience for his presentation, **May the Evil Eye Not Strike**, about symbols in Islamic textiles, costume and jewellery that are believed to protect the wearer from the malevolent gaze of someone envious of them or their possessions.

Popular examples of protective images include triangles, botehs, mirrorwork, eye-shapes, rams' horns, shiny metal tassels, birds—even chilli peppers and replicas of the male and female sexual organs.

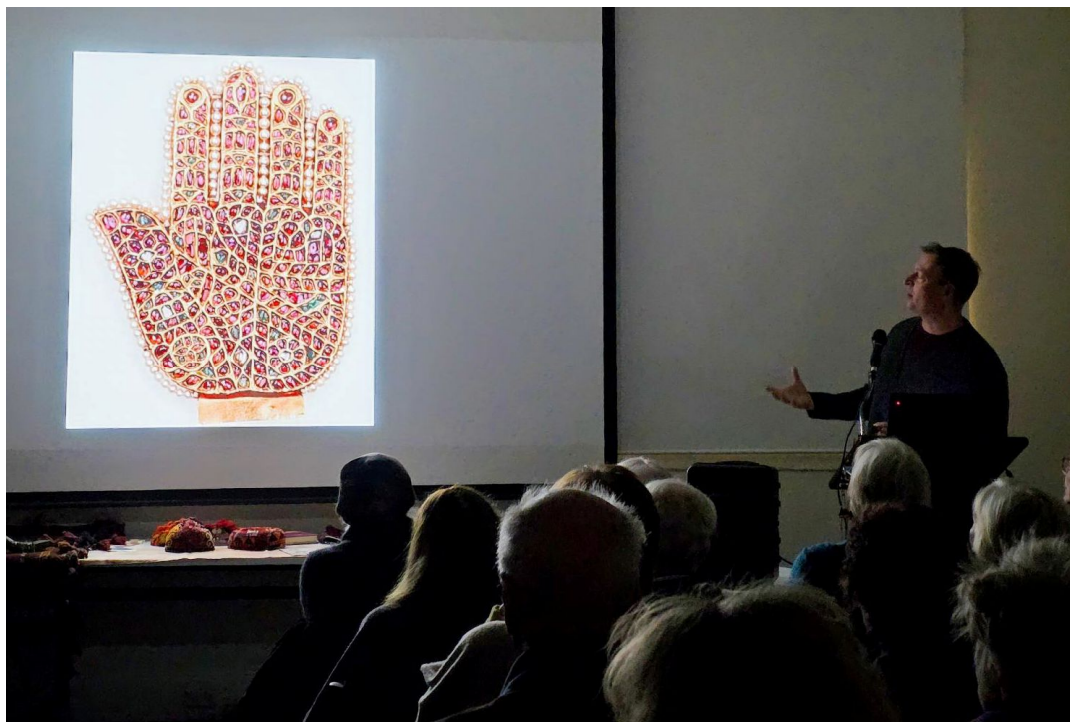
In this stimulating talk, Chris shared his rewarding--and difficult--experiences while living and working in Central Asia and outlined the challenging textile projects he undertook. He recounts much of this in his most recent book, **Unravelling the Silk Road: Travels and Textiles in Central Asia** (Icon Books).

Below are some typical protective motifs from Chris's presentation and various Central Asian items that ORS members helpfully brought along.





Chris Aslan (right) & Ian Perryman display a rare double-sided Suzani with boteh pattern.



Protective amulet: the *Hamsa* (Arabic for five), also called *Hand Of Fatima* by Muslims, *Hand of Miriam* by Jews.

Three Central Asian caps with protective motifs: left, triangles with pendants; centre, stylised chilli peppers; right, tassels with miniature Evil Eye beads.



Uzbek child's tunic with tin 'coins', miniature beads, vertical strips of triangles, hems left unfinished to ensure the child's growth.



'Rams horns' in quadrants and surrounds (Baluch bag face).



Stylized 'eyes': 19th C. 'Medallion Suzani (Uzbekistan).

