

# World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

**Teacher Name:** Amy Guess

**Humanities Discipline:** Art History

**Date:** 5-13-16

**World Religion:** Islam

**Teaching Module Title:** Questioning Modernity vs. Tradition in Feminist Islamic Art

## Teaching Module Goals:

1. Understand how Muslim female artists are expressing their views of feminism alongside their ideas of traditional values.
2. Consider why this is so controversial/taboo as a topic.
3. Be able to compare and contrast feminist Muslim works with those from other cultures and art history.

## Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

### Princess Hijab and Niqabitch

<http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2010/nov/11/princess-hijab-paris-graffiti-artist>

<http://mozzified.com/2015/04/21/6-muslim-streets-artists-you-need-to-know/>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/art/features/rare-interview-with-urban-artist-princess-hijab-2297761.html#gallery>

[http://unsavoryagents.com/?page\\_id=1840](http://unsavoryagents.com/?page_id=1840)

<http://www.muslimahmediawatch.org/2010/10/05/do-the-niqabitches-enrich-the-burqa-ban-debate/>

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2010/oct/07/niqabitch-niqab-debate>

[http://scholar.colorado.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1830&context=honr\\_theses](http://scholar.colorado.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1830&context=honr_theses)

<http://mediacritiques.net/special-issue-2/gordonalleyyoung.pdf>

### Sarah Maple

<http://www.sarahmaple.com>

<http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2015/jul/14/sarah-maple-feminist-artist-photography>

<https://news.artnet.com/people/sarah-maple-death-threats-feminism-islam-317116>

<http://artthreat.net/2008/11/sarah-maple-interview-islam-new-black/>

### Female Muslim Art Associations and Articles

<http://muslima.globalfundforwomen.org>

<http://www.dazeddigital.com/artsandculture/article/25755/1/how-to-be-a-badass-muslim-female-artist>

<http://fusion.net/story/4167/this-artist-will-break-all-your-stereotypes-of-muslim-women/>

<http://www.artbysaba.com/#lan-noor-the-light--2012-2014/c1zzl>

#### Female Muslim Fashion Design

<http://www.npr.org/2015/10/02/445291163/breaking-the-mold-artists-modern-miniatures-remix-islamic-art>

<http://nzingaknight.com>

<http://articles.latimes.com/2010/oct/07/local/la-me-hijab-20101007>

#### “Wadjda” and Haifaa al-Mansour

<http://nymag.com/thecut/2013/09/meet-saudi-arabias-groundbreaking-filmmaker.html>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wadjda>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76mKwS3mAZ4>

#### **Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:**

1. Based on our discussion, do you believe it is possible to be both a Muslim and a feminist? Are these a contradiction in terms? Why or why not?
2. Princess Hijab has never claimed or denied that she is of Muslim decent; do you believe this matters? Should her work still be considered feminist?
3. Princess Hijab was featured in Banksy’s “Antics Roadshow.” Do you believe Banksy was making a feminist statement by including her when he could have mentioned many other female street artists?
4. Do you find the Niqabitch performance pieces to be offensive toward Muslims and/or Islamic religion?
5. How are contemporary Muslim fashion designers integrating feminism and tradition into fashion?
6. Do you find Sarah Maples’ striking pieces to be offensive? Why or why not?
7. Why is “Wadjda” such a groundbreaking film for Muslim females?

#### **Written Assignments and/or Other Assessment Instruments:**

We have discussed several other female artists throughout the course of art history. Compare the works of other female or feminist artists to those who are identified with a Muslim cultural background. Do you believe it is necessary for Muslim women to continue to strive for feminism through art? Do you believe that it can make a change? Please explain your thoughts regarding Muslim feminist culture in a two-page essay using examples of works discussed in this module.