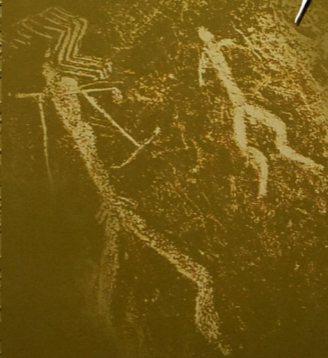


FINE ART  
DECORATIVE APPLIED ART  
ARCHITECTURE



# The Art of Azerbaijan





ENCYCLOPAEDIA FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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THE ART OF  
AZERBAIJAN

*FINE ART*  
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M.F.Axundov adına  
Azərbaycan Milli  
Kitabxanası



'Khurshud Banu Natavan',  
Oqtay Sadiqzade. 1983. Rustam Mustafayev  
Azerbaijan State Art Museum

*Natavan Xurşudbanu Mehdiqulu xan qızı*

**KHURSHUDBANU,  
NATAVAN MEHDIQULU KHAN QIZI  
(1832-1897)**

The prominent Azerbaijani poetess Natavan, known as the khan's daughter and deeply respected for her good deeds, was the daughter of the last Qarabagh ruler Mehdiqulu khan and the granddaughter of Ibrahimkhalil khan. From childhood she was interested in music, art and classical Eastern poetry and she learnt a number of languages. Natavan was also an artist with delicate taste and she produced wonderfully artistic embroidery. The few of her artworks that have survived have enriched Azerbaijani art with their hues. History records that she presented her embroidery to the entranced French writer Alexandre Dumas, who was on a trip to Baku. The poetess's paintings are also of artistic interest. The beauty of Khurshudbanu Natavan's artistry may be seen in the 227-page album that she created in 1886 (now held in the Muhammad Fuzuli Institute of Manuscripts). Paintings of different flowers – roses, violets, carnations, jasmines, poppies and irises – in watercolour and pencil are collected here. In the images of nightingale and moths the artist's knowledge of the artistic traditions of realist art can be sensed. Her desire to follow in the traditions of 19th century Azerbaijani art, reflecting a combination of traditional and realist art, are seen in her images of birds, horses, houses, mountain roads, bridges and others. The album also contains Shusha landscapes and images of Shamil palace.



'Flower', Khurshud Banu Natavan, 1880.  
Jafar Jabbarli State Theatre Museum



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