

# UAE

## Falconry Research Project: database by UAE researchers shows ubiquity of predatory bird

► Researchers at New York University Abu Dhabi are compiling a database of falconry imagery through history



Emperor Akbar - Los Angeles County Museum of Art. 'Royal figure with falcon' by an unknown artist. The painting dates between 1600 and 1605.

**Anna Zacharias**  
Dec 09, 2017

From whimsical 19th century Japanese drawings to 4,000-year-old Mongolian rock art, Dutch chess pieces and Qajar tableware from Iran, the history of man's relation to the falcon is one of the oldest recorded love stories.

It is even carried in your pocket, on the country's currency.

A research project by New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD) aims to bring the ubiquity of falconry imagery and its globalism to the fore with the Falconry Research Project, a database of global falconry imagery through the centuries.

Falconry is ubiquitous in art through the centuries and the keen-eyed will find traces of it everywhere, from raptors prominently painted on the arm of kings but to a hunting scene embroidered on dresses. This database presents a different narrative, reframing the narrative with the falcon at the centre.

"If we analyze this work of art through the lens of art," said Anne-Lise Tropato, the project's r

Ms Tropato is the architect behind the data visualization. She chose to focus on key terms and themes that relate to falconry collection at the Louvre Abu Dhabi, the data visualization is organized by theme instead of geography or chronology.

For instance, users can search by the type of falcon or the moment of the hunt or even disease.

Now in its first stage, researchers are scanning the digital collection of falconry museums and inviting private collectors to step forward.

...ges all the meaning of the entire work of

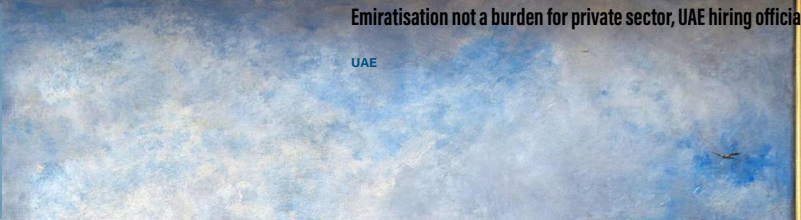
...on its interface design. That is, she must be aware of their background. Like the importance of humanity by grouping art by

...e moment of the hunt or even disease.

**EDWARDS PICKS** already emerging, such as the falcon's symbolism for youth, love and death. Centre to this is man's relationship with the majestic predator. Falcons can be tamed but never owned. They are known to disappear on hunts, **Flights to Saudi Arabia's Neom to launch in June**



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...century tale, the Three Living and the Three Dead, youth on a falconry trip are likely to meet the fate of three skeletons before them. "It's kind of a criticism of worldly glories," says Tropato. The falcon is a symbol of the worldly high status and everything that can be considered vain.



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...nce provost for intellectual and cultural outreach, Reindert Falkenburg and was the series hosted by NYU-AD the fourth International Festival of Falconry. Ms Tropato is the speaker, wrapping up talks by art historians, falconers, archaeologists and historians. The falcon is a symbol of the worldly high status and everything that can be considered vain.

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Prof Baudouin Van den Abeele, a historian from Belgium's Université Catholique de Louvain, shared the challenges faced by medieval Italian artists who had to illustrate a Latin book on falconry. Directions in Italian are scribbled on the edges for the illustrators unsure on how to draw the proscribed cure for a bird's indigestion.

Yannis Hadjinicolaou, a research fellow in the humanities at NYUAD, brought it closer to home with the Dh100 note, which depicts a falcon peering towards the World Trade centre.

"The traditional falcon merges with the technological innovation high rise as a living and symbolic capital of the country since the falcon is looking in the direction of the modern building," he told the audience. "These functional buildings were emerging in the late 70s and 80s and underlying on the one hand the modernity of the country without neglecting the cultivation of falconry on the other.

"Images do not simply illustrate linguistic issues and meanings. They are complex entities and help us think about or even motivate our perception of the world."

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