

# ABSTRACT

## How Do You Store a 450-lbs Tapestry Covered In Pins?

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*Independent*

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In 2015, the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto acquired a 450-lbs tapestry by artist Aisha Khalid. The large-scale work, titled “Your Way Begins on the Other Side”, is 215” long by 70” wide. It is composed of layers of silk and velvet, and is studded with 1.2 million unsecured gold-plated pins forming an intricate pattern.

Though the piece was shipped from Pakistan to Canada, the shipping crate was unsuitable for long-term storage and a new storage mount had to be engineered. As the pins can easily fall out, the object cannot be folded or rolled for storage, which along with its size and weight, made for a considerable challenge in mounting and storing it.

Our custom mount allows for the tapestry to be stored compactly and safely, and is accessible enough to have allowed us to put the object on display three times since its acquisition. The proposed 10-minute talk will walk attendees through the project challenges, mount design concept, dismantle of the object and subsequent installation in its storage mount.

# BIO

## Simon Barron

Simon has almost twenty years of experience in project management in museums and the cultural sector. He recently joined Holman Exhibits as a Senior Project Manager. Previously he was the Installation Project Manager at the Aga Khan Museum, where he had the privilege of working on a variety of exhibitions, from installing Tanavoli's 10-foot stainless steel "Big Heech" sculpture in the museum's gardens to mounting a thousand year old, 1 tonne decorative granite relief from the Fatimid empire. He currently resides in Toronto's west end where he can be found building custom frames in his spare time.