

JOIN US

WEDNESDAY

**April
5**

**Columbia
Museum of Art**

1515 Main St,
Columbia, SC 29201

Reception and galleries
at 6:00 p.m. |

Lecture 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Click [here](#) to register

Walker Institute of International and Area Studies presents
PALMETTO FORUM

Dr. James Bezjian presents: Forecasting Cultural Heritage Protection



Walker Institute and Columbia Museum of Art welcomes Dr. James Bezjian for a lecture inspired by the historic artwork in *Reverent Ornament: Art from the Islamic World*. Bezjian illustrates how initiatives like the Army Monuments Officers program — whose members are considered modern-day “Monuments Men,” a reference to the special task force that protected art and artifacts during World War II — can forecast problems related to cultural heritage before they happen and create contingency plans for those circumstances. In 2021, the Pentagon revived the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives program in collaboration with the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative. The mission: “to protect cultural heritage threatened or impacted by disasters and to help U.S. and international communities preserve their identities and history.”

CPT James Bezjian, Ph.D., is assistant professor of strategy & entrepreneurship and director of the Business Innovation Lab at The Citadel. As an army officer candidate for the newly established monuments officers team, Bezjian will continue working with other academics and military officers to help communities around the world preserve cultural heritage.



Walker Institute

College of Arts and Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

the **Columbia**
Museum of **ART**