

Erotic Koran painting is removed

An erotic painting plastered with verses from the Muslim holy book, the Koran, has been removed from a museum after Muslims said it was obscene.

Louzla Darabi's painting was removed from an exhibition on Aids at Sweden's Museum of World Culture in Gothenburg.



The Museum of World Culture opened in Gothenburg in January

Director Jette Sandahl said hundreds of protest letters and e-mails were largely "respectful and polite but some were more aggressive".

The artist said her painting stressed "the link between love and God".

'Problematic' combination

An Arab artist living in France, Ms Darabi said she did not intend to offend anyone with her painting.

Ms Sandahl said the art was removed to prevent public attention shifting away from the exhibition's main message about AIDS and globalisation.

"It was the combination of the image and text from the Koran which was problematic," she said.

The Museum of World Culture opened in January in Sweden, which is home to 400,000 Muslims.

Last Updated: Thursday, 3 February, 2005, 14:47 GMT