iabc
Islamic Art of British Columbia

Muslim Art House

Information Package

Celebrating 5 ISLAMIC ART EXPERIENCE YEARS



We respectfully acknowledge on being on the unceded ancestral and traditional territories of the
ʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Səl̓ilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh), q̓ic̓əy̓ (Katzie), and kʷikʷəƛəm (Kwikwetlem) Nations.

Islamic Art Experience

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- 1st Annual Islamic Art Experience
- Community Partners and Sponsors

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- Juried Islamic Art Exhibition
- 2nd Annual Islamic Art Experience
- Community Partners and Sponsors

2024 **14**

- 3rd Annual Islamic Art Experience
- Islamic Art Exhibition
- Community Partners and Sponsors

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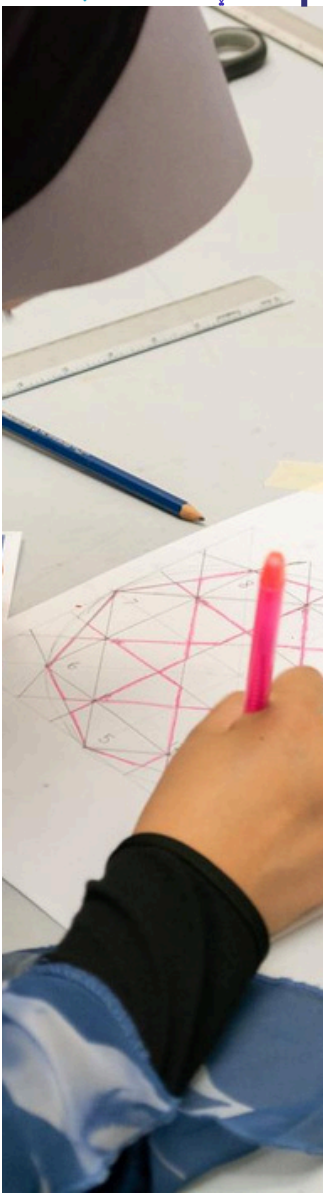
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Mosaic Exchange of Peace, Love, Happiness. 2023 IAE Mural activity by artist Nada Hamatto

Islamic Art
Experience



Art Connects Cultures and Communities

without boundaries, defining an uplifting spirit of how we learn from each other.

The Islamic Art Experience's name, structure, marketing, and promotional materials have all been developed to be easily replicated and implemented in other cities in British Columbia and across Canada. The IABC team welcomes your inquiries.

/MuslimArtHouse

www.islamicartofbritishcolumbia.com

IABC - A Story of Connection Through Art



Territorial Welcome by Musqueam elder Mary Point IAE 2023

Founded in May 2019, the Islamic Art of British Columbia (IABC), with the vision of using art as a powerful medium to build bridges of understanding, promote cultural diversity, and celebrate the rich artistic traditions of the Islamic world. IABC's mission is to provide inclusive and accessible platforms that empower Muslim artists, engage diverse audiences, and foster dialogue through creativity and shared experiences.

Core Programming

At the heart of IABC's work is its signature annual event, the Islamic Art Experience (IAE). This initiative showcases the arts, crafts, and heritage of the Islamic world while welcoming artists of all backgrounds inspired by its traditions. The Islamic Art Experience offers a dynamic platform for individuals of all ages to explore various art forms, including calligraphy, visual arts, performance, and digital media. In addition to exhibitions and community events, IABC takes a multidimensional approach to art, offering Islamic art and calligraphy classes, creative workshops, public art initiatives, and art-for-social-justice projects. These programs provide opportunities for learning, dialogue, and self-expression, encouraging participants to engage with art as a means of connection and transformation.

Community Engagement

Under the umbrella of IABC, founder Nikhat Izhar Qureshi leads several initiatives that blend art, healing, and community building. Through the BC Muslim Art House, a collective of Muslim artists across British Columbia, the initiative highlights Muslim presence in the arts and promotes intercultural collaboration. Another key program, The Artful Peace Practice (TAPP), provides a creative and therapeutic platform that encourages participants to "speak through colors" — using art as a tool for mindfulness, emotional well-being, and conflict transformation. Together, these initiatives embody IABC's vision of art as a bridge for understanding, resilience, and peacebuilding.

Cultural Impact

Through its continuous programming and outreach, IABC contributes meaningfully to Canada's cultural landscape by promoting inclusivity, mutual respect, and artistic diversity. By celebrating Islamic art as an integral part of Canada's multicultural identity, IABC remains dedicated to advancing cultural understanding, peacebuilding, and community connection through the universal language of art.

Program Overview

Islamic Art Experience activities bring awareness and exposure to the rich diversity and the wide range of Islamic art.

MISSION

The Islamic Art Experience (IAE) showcases the rich arts, crafts, and heritage of the Islamic world, welcoming artists of all backgrounds inspired by its traditions. The event offers an engaging platform for all ages to celebrate diversity, foster cross-cultural exchange, and appreciate the artistic contributions of the Muslim community in BC and across Canada.



2023 IAE Islamic Geometric pattern puzzle activity by artist Farah Kalaff

CONNECTING CULTURES AND GENERATIONS

The Islamic Art Experience event is designed to build bridges of understanding between cultures and communities. At Islamic Art of British Columbia (IABC), the focus is to host and organize events throughout the year, including film screenings, festivals, art exhibits, and art workshops, which serve as a vehicle for people of all ages and backgrounds to interact in an enjoyable, educational environment.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The Islamic Art of British Columbia (IABC) is recognized for fostering partnerships and building meaningful relationships with galleries, organizations, and institutions. Our signature annual program, the Islamic Art Experience, has been delivered in collaboration with the Community Arts Council of Richmond and the Richmond Public Library. The event has also been supported by respected organizations, including the BC Muslim Association (BCMA), Aflak Media, ShariaPortfolio Inc., Islamic Relief Canada, the International Development and Relief Foundation (IDRF), the Muslim Association of Canada (MAC), and Vancity. We are also grateful for grant funding received from the City of Richmond every year, which has been instrumental in sustaining this initiative and directly aligns with the City's cultural goals of fostering diversity, equity, and community engagement.

In addition, we continue to receive valuable contributions from local businesses such as AlBasha, Naasir Travel, and Richmond Halal Meat, to name a few. These partnerships not only strengthen community connections but also ensure that the Islamic Art Experience remains accessible to diverse audiences, including youth, families, and newcomers. By working closely with civic institutions, community organizations, and local businesses, IABC is building a sustainable foundation for long-term cultural programming that reflects Canada's commitment to inclusivity, intercultural understanding, and the celebration of artistic diversity.

Islamic Art Experience

IAE SEASONS in numbers

2022 - 2023 - 2024 - 2025

Richmond Public Library

From its inaugural year in 2022 through 2024, the annual Islamic Art Experience, held each November at the Richmond Public Library and Cultural Centre in Richmond, British Columbia, Canada, welcomed between 700 and 900 attendees to a day filled with multi-sensory experiences in the visual and performing Islamic arts.

1000 ATTENDEES

61+ VOLUNTEERS

67 PERFORMERS

18 HANDS-ON-ARTISTS

LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

4 FILM SCREENINGS

38 VISUAL ART EXHIBITIONISTS

الفنون البصرية

7 HANDS-ON ART ACTIVITIES

HENNA ART - ISLAMIC GEOMETRIC PATTERN - TATREEZ ART - TAPESTRY
EBRU ART - ARABIC CALLIGRAPHY - COMMUNITY ART MURAL

2022 SEASON





1st Juried Exhibition of Islamic Art

In 2022, the Islamic Art of British Columbia (IABC) proudly hosted Richmond's very first juried exhibition of Islamic Art, displayed on community art walls at the Richmond Public Library from November 1 to December 31. This landmark exhibition showcased 14 outstanding works created by both Muslim artists and artists inspired by Islamic art traditions, representing the diverse talent of Metro Vancouver and Toronto. By highlighting the beauty, symbolism, and cultural richness of Islamic art in a public setting, the exhibition provided an inclusive space for dialogue, learning, and appreciation. It not only gave emerging and established artists a professional platform to share their work, but also engaged the broader community in exploring the ways Islamic art contributes to Canada's multicultural fabric. The success of this inaugural exhibition demonstrated the growing interest in cultural arts programming and underscored the importance of creating opportunities where creativity and diversity can be celebrated together.

1ST ANNUAL ISLAMIC ART EXPERIENCE

On Sunday, November 20, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., over 700 British Columbians participated in a multisensory experience at the Islamic Art Experience at Richmond Public Library in Richmond, BC. The event was opened with the City of Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie.

The event included an Islamic Art talk, hands-on art activities for adults and children; nasheed choir, instrumental, flute, and oud with vocal singing, storytelling, sema: poetry and movement, calligraphy, henna, ebru, and tatreez art all focused on the unique contributions that Islamic art and heritage have made to civilization.









2022 SPONSORS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The IABC would like to thank its 2022 sponsors and community partners: Community Arts Council of Richmond (CACR), Richmond Public Library (RPL), Welcome Ramadan and Celebrate Eid Committee, BC Muslims Association (BCMA), Shariaportfolio, and Muslim Association of Canada (MAC). We also like to thank Seemi Ghazi, lecturer at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and researcher of Islamic languages and cultures.

ISLAMIC ART EXPERIENCE 2022 TEAM

The Islamic Art Experience (IAE) is made possible through the dedication of the volunteer team at IABC - The Islamic Art of British Columbia. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our community partner, the Community Arts Council of Richmond (CACR), and the Richmond Public Library staff and team, for collaborating with us to bring this event to the wider community.



From left to right: Dalila Bekkaoui, Kelly Thoreson, Nikhat Qureshi, Jimmy Ho, Duaa Abuhaish, Susan Ness, Sherine Merhi, Sahar Abuaisha, and Dethe Elza

"It was my pleasure to attend the event. I'm really happy that I was able to show and introduce Ebru Art to those who didn't know about it or hadn't seen it before. Thank you for hosting and organizing the event. I would love to support your future events, and I am looking forward to it! Please thank all the volunteers who did amazing work. And once again, may Allah accept everything you are doing for the community. JazakAllah Khair"

Rukiye Ozman - Ebru Artist



Islamic Art Experience

Sunday, November 20, 2022 - 12 pm to 4 pm

A celebration of the International Day of Islamic Art

Art connects cultures and communities

without boundaries defining an uplifting spirit of how we learn from each other

Nikhat Izhar Qureshi

Islamic Art first-hand:

Performances

12:00 - 12:03 **Opening -** Susan Ness, the president of the Community Arts Council of Richmond
12:03 - 12:08 **Qur'an Recitation -** Taha Hawari, Youth from Richmond Muslim Community
12:09 - 12:15 **Mayor Malcolm Brodie -** the City of Richmond
12:15 - 12:18 **Library Trustee** - Sherine Merhi, the Richmond Public Library
12:20 - 12:30 **Art of the Islamic World -** Seemi Ghazi, a lecturer at the University of British Columbia and researcher of Islamic languages, literature, and cultures
12:45 - 01:15 **Nasheed Choir** - Iqra Islamic School, Surrey, two groups of students presentation
01:30 - 2:00 **Sema sacred Music and Turning -** Seemi Ghazi, Ali Razmi, Wahid Gul, Shauheen Etminan, and Farhad Attar Jafari
2:15 - 2:40 **"ney" Reed Flute -** Mehmet Mutlu Bahar, Instrumental traditional music from Turkish culture like Hijaz improvisation & old folk songs from different regions of Turkey
2:45 - 3:15 **Partners in Light - Art of Connecting -** Eda Ertan & Masa Kateb Storytelling
3:20 - 3:45 **Oud -** The middle eastern Instrument by Ibrahim Saker
3:50 - 4:00 **Closing Comments -** Nikhat Qureshi, the founder of Islamic Art of British Columbia, co-founder of BC Muslim Art House, board member of the Community Arts Council of Richmond

Hands-on-art Activities

- **Islamic geometric Pattern** - Farah Kalaff
- **Palestinian Stich Embroidery** - Sherine Merhi and Duaa Abuhaish
- **Arabic Calligraphy** - Shahin Ali
- **Tapestry** - Qudsiyya Zalgaonker
- **Ebru Turkish Art** - Rukiye Ozmen

Juried Islamic Art Exhibition

The first juried exhibition of Islamic Art presents the talents of Muslim artists and artists inspired by Islamic art on the community art walls at the Richmond Public Library, Brighouse Branch till December 31, 2022

Community Arts Council of Richmond | iabc | Richmond Public Library

A special thanks to our sponsors

BCMA | MAC Vancouver | Sharia Portfolio – The Halal Way to Invest





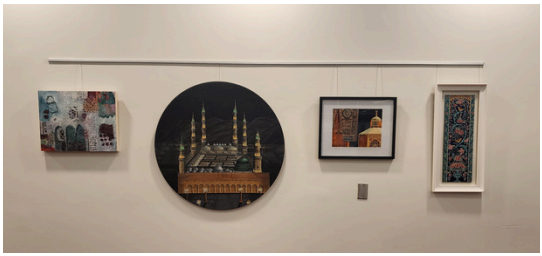






Islamic Art Experience 2022 Flyer

2023 SEASON





Exhibition of Art and Artist Reception

The 2nd Annual Exhibition of Islamic Art was displayed on the Community Art Walls at the Richmond Public Library from October 13 to December 3, 2023. The exhibition featured 12 works highlighting the diverse talents of Muslim artists across Metro Vancouver, offering both emerging and established artists a professional platform to share their work while engaging the broader community. In partnership with RPL, the Islamic Art of British Columbia also hosted an artist reception, honoring participants and creating space to exchange ideas, share artistic practices, and foster mutual learning



2ND ANNUAL ISLAMIC ART EXPERIENCE







On Sunday, November 26, 2023, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., the 2nd annual Islamic Art Experience held at Richmond Public Library in Richmond, BC. The performances took place inside the cultural center's performance hall. The event was opened by the territorial welcome by the Mosquem elder, Mary Point, followed by the opening remarks by the City of Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie. The event included a presentation and panel discussion on designing Muslim Spaces in Canada, RATOH JAROE - Youth Tarian Dance (Traditional Acehnese Dance from Indonesia, and Turkish Musiki Trio. The hands-on art activities for adults and children included calligraphy, Henna, ebru, and tatreez art, and a community mural of peace, love, and happiness. All focused on the unique contributions that Islamic art and heritage have made to civilization.



2023 SPONSORS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The IABC would like to thank its 2023 sponsors and community partners: Community Arts Council of Richmond (CACR), Richmond Public Library (RPL), Welcome Ramadan and Celebrate Eid Committee, Shariaportfolio, Naasir Travel, Vancity, and AlBasha Express. We also like to thank Sharif Senbel, Principal, Studio Senbel, architecture + design inc.

ISLAMIC ART EXPERIENCE 2023 TEAM

The Islamic Art Experience (IAE) is made possible through the dedication of the volunteer team at IABC - The Islamic Art of British Columbia. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our community partner, the Community Arts Council of Richmond (CACR), and the Richmond Public Library staff and team, for collaborating with us to bring this event to the wider community.



From left to right: Farah Kalaff, Duaa Abuhaish, Sherine Merhi, Nikhat Qureshi, Susan Ness, Jimmy Ho, Kelly Thoreson, Rafael Abramoff, Dalila Bekkaoui, Iram Naeem



District of Richmond South Center, MLA Henry Yao, with Fadi Kanafani, General Secretary of BCMA, enjoying the name written in Arabic Calligraphy
by Shahin Ali - Calligraphy Artist

Islamic Art Experience

Sunday November 26, 2023 - 12 pm - 4 pm

A celebration of the International Day of Islamic Art

Art connects cultures and communities

without boundaries defining an uplifting spirit of how we learn from each other

Nikhat Izhar Qureshi - The Islamic Art of British Columbia





Islamic Art First-hand Program Schedule

Performances

Inside the Cultural Center Performance Hall



12:05 - 12:07 **Opening -** Susan Ness, member of the Community Arts Council of Richmond
12:07 - 12:17 **Territorial Welcome** - Mary Point, Musqueam elder will lead us in a welcome
12:20 - 12:25 **Qur'an recitation -** Zaid Omer, youth from Richmond Muslim Community
12:25 - 12:30 **Welcome Remarks -** Nikhat Qureshi, the founder of Islamic Art of British Columbia and BC Muslim Art House
12:30 - 12:35 **Acknowledgement -** Jimmy Ho, immediate past President of the Community Arts Council of Richmond
12:36 - 12:39 **Library Trustee** - Sherine Merhi, the Richmond Public Library
12:45 - 2:15 **Designing Muslim Spaces in Canada** - Sharif Senbel, architect - An Intergenerational Dialogue
2:30 - 2:55 **Musiki trio** - Mutlu Bahar (Ney), Sefik Calimli (Bendir/Daf Drum), and Esmaeil Hosseini (Tar)
3:15 - 3:22 **Ratoh Jaro dance** - Aceh Cultural Centre,1st performance
3:30 - 3:37 **Ratoh Jaro dance** - Aceh Cultural Centre, 2nd performance
3:39 - 4-00 **Closing Remarks** - Nikhat Qureshi, the founder of Islamic Art of British Columbia and BC Muslim Art House



Hands-on-Art Activities

Inside the Library launchpad area - 12 pm to 4 pm



- **Mehndi Or Henna: Timeless Artistry** - Alishay Awan
- **Ebru: Turkish Water Painting Exploration** - Suheda Sahin
- **Threads of Tradition: Palestinian Tatreez Embroidery** - Duaa Abuhaish
- **Inscribed Beauty: The Art of Islamic Calligraphy** - Shahin Ali
- **Symmetry in Harmony: Exploring Islamic Geometric Patterns** - Farah Kalaff
- **Mosaic Exchange of Peace, Love, Happiness** - Nada Hamatto





Annual Islamic Art Exhibition

The 2nd annual exhibition of Islamic Art presents the talents of Muslim artists and artists inspired by Islamic art on the community art walls at the Richmond Public Library, Brighouse Branch till December 03, 2023



A special thanks to our community partners and sponsors

Richmond Public Library · iabc · Community Arts Council of Richmond · Vancity · Richmond · NAASIR TRAVEL · Supported through funding from the City of Richmond Grants Program · SHARIA PORTFOLIO

Islamic Art Experience 2023 program schcedule

2024 SEASON



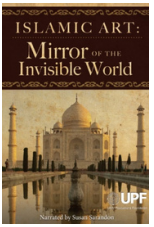


Exhibition of Art and Artist Reception

The 3rd Annual Exhibition of Islamic Art was displayed on the Community Art Walls at the Richmond Public Library from November 3 to December 31, 2024. The exhibition featured 10 works highlighting the diverse talents of Muslim artists across Metro Vancouver, offering both emerging and established artists a professional platform to share their work while engaging the broader community. In partnership with RPL, the Islamic Art of British Columbia also hosted an artist reception, honoring participants and creating space to exchange ideas, share artistic practices, and foster mutual learning

3RD ANNUAL ISLAMIC ART EXPERIENCE







On Sunday, November 24, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., the 3rd annual Islamic Art Experience held at Richmond Public Library in Richmond, BC. The performances took place inside the cultural center's performance hall. The event was opened with a territorial welcome by the Musqueam elder, Mary Point, followed by the opening remarks by the City of Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie. The event included a presentation by an international artist on the art of calligraphy in paper cutting from Australia. RATOH JAROE - Youth Tarian Dance (Traditional Acehnese Dance) and Turkish Musiki Trio, followed by "The Islamic Art: The Mirror of the Invisible World," a film documentary by Unity Production Foundation (UPF). The hands-on art activities for adults and children included calligraphy, Henna, ebru, and tatreez art, all focused on the unique contributions that Islamic art and heritage have made to civilization.





2024 SPONSORS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The IABC would like to thank its 2023 sponsors and community partners: Richmond Public Library (RPL), Naasir Travel, Islamic Relief Canada, Richmond Halal Meat, Unity Production Foundation, International Development and Relief Foundation (IDRF), and our media partner Aflak. We also like to thank Tusif Ahmed, an Arabic Calligraphy in Paper cutting artist from Australia.

ISLAMIC ART EXPERIENCE 2024 TEAM



From left to right: Sherine Merhi, Iram Naeem, Farah Kalaff, Duaa Abuhaish, Dalila Bekkaoui, Nikhat Qureshi, Scott Marsden

It has been such a wonderful experience working with you and the rest of the team. I feel so blessed that our lives were touched, and through that, so many doors opened. When I left London in April of 2022, I was extremely sad as I felt I was walking away from a huge community of Islamic Artists and teachers. I never dreamt that I would be part of Vancouver's first-ever Islamic Art Experience Exhibition. To be part of this beautiful community and journey brings me great joy. Once again, thank you for organizing the reception with the artists. It was a lovely gathering. My gratitude for the honorarium.

Farah Kalaff - Islamic Geometric Pattern Artist





Islamic Art Experience 2024 Flyer

Islamic Art Experience

Sunday November 24, 2024 - 12 pm - 4 pm

A celebration of the International Day of Islamic Art

Art connects cultures and communities

without boundaries defining an uplifting spirit of how we learn from each other

Nikhat Izhar Qureshi - The Islamic Art of British Columbia





Islamic Art First-hand Program Schedule

Performances

Inside the Cultural Center Performance Hall

Noon **Opening - Sara Kanafani -** Steveston London Muslim Student's Association (MSA) BC Muslim Association for Inaugural Youth
12:03 pm **Territorial Welcome - Mary Point**, Musqueam representative will lead us in a welcome
12:15 pm **Mayor Malcolm Brodie -** City of Richmond BC
12:20 pm **Library Trustee - Sherine Merhi -** the Richmond Public Library
12:25 pm **Qur'an recitation - Omar Imrani**, youth from Richmond Muslim Community
12:30 pm **Welcome Remarks & Acknowledgement - Nikhat Qureshi**, the founder of Islamic Art of British Columbia, and the BC Muslim Art House
12:45 pm **Break**
01:00 pm **Musiki trio** - Mutlu Bahar (Ney), Sefik Calimli (Bendir/Daf Drum)
01:30 pm **Ratoh Jaro dance** - Aceh Cultural Centre,1st performance
02:15 pm **Art of Paper Cutting - Tusif Ahmed** Live from Australia
02:45 pm **Closing Remarks - Nikhat Izhar Qureshi**
03:00 pm **Islamic Art: Mirror of the Invisible World,** documentary film - Unity Productions Foundation



Hands-on-Art Activities

Inside the Library launchpad area - 12 pm to 4 pm



- **Henna Haven - Mehndi or Henna -** Artist Alishay Awan
- **Dancing Colors - Ebru Turkish Water Painting -** Artist Suheda Sahin
- **Stitches of Heritage: Palestinian Tatreez Embroidery -** Duaa Abuhaish
- **Letters of Beauty - Calligraphy -** Artist Shahin Ali and Artist Tauheed Faheem
- **Shapes & Symmetry: Islamic Geometric Patterns** - Artist Farah Kalaff
- **Threads of Tradition - Weaving -** Artist Qudsiyya Zalgaonker



Annual Islamic Art Exhibition

The 3rd annual exhibition of Islamic Art presents the talents of Muslim artists and artists inspired by Islamic art on the community art walls at the Richmond Public Library, Brighouse Branch till December 31, 2024



A special thanks to our community partners, sponsors, and supporters

Islamic Art Experience 2024 program schcedule

2025 SEASON





Exhibition of Art and Artist Reception

The 4th Annual Exhibition of Art was displayed on the Community Art Walls at the Richmond Public Library from November 2 to December 30, 2025. Featuring 17 works by Muslim artists from across Metro Vancouver, the exhibition celebrates a diversity of artistic voices and expressions. It provided both emerging and established artists with a professional platform to showcase their creativity while engaging the broader community through art and dialogue.

In partnership with the Richmond Public Library, the Islamic Art of British Columbia also hosted a public Artist Reception, honoring the participating artists and creating a welcoming space for idea exchange, shared artistic practices, and mutual learning. The event invites the public to meet the artists and connect through the universal language of art.

4th ANNUAL ISLAMIC ART EXPERIENCE



The 4th Annual Islamic Art Experience was held at the Richmond Public Library in Richmond, BC, on Sunday, November 24, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Performances were held inside the Cultural Centre's theater, located under the stairs. The event opened with a Qur'an recitation, followed by a territorial welcome from a Musqueam Elder and opening remarks by City of Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie. The program featured international artists Sharmeen Uqail (USA) and Marzieh Kaviani (UK). The Dabke Dance Group performed a lively traditional dance that symbolizes unity and strength. Returned by popular demand, the Turkish Musiki Trio shared a selection of beloved pieces; an Oud player presented a captivating musical set. The hands-on art activities led by talented local Muslim artists took place at the launch pad area for adults and children, which included weaving, calligraphy, henna, geometric puzzles, and tatreez art, celebrating the rich beauty and timeless contributions of Islamic art and heritage.

2025 SPONSORS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS



ISLAMIC ART EXPERIENCE 2025 TEAM



The IABC Team with our Richmond Public Library staff liaison and the wonderful Aflak Media Team, our media partner of the year 2024 and 2025

From left to right: Nikhat Qureshi, Iram Naeem, Dalila Bekkaoui, Farah Kalaff, Rumeysa Beket, Marium Siddiqui, Scott Marsden, Asad Ilyas, Bara Adiarto, Mert Alagoz, PJ Jivavattanasak, Daniya Hussain, Shaheen Hirji, and Roneel Vedd



Islamic Art Experience 2025 Flyer

Islamic Art Experience

Sunday, November 30, 2025 - 12 pm - 4 pm

A celebration of the International Day of Islamic Art

Art connects cultures and communities

without boundaries defining an uplifting spirit of how we learn from each other

Nikhat Izhar Qureshi - The Islamic Art of British Columbia

iabc



Islamic Art First-hand

Program Schedule



Performances

Inside the Theater Under The Stairs Cultural Center - 12 pm to 4 pm



Noon **Opening - Marium Siddiqui,** a high school senior and president of the Muslim Students Asciation at Richmond High

12:03 pm **Territorial Welcome - Quelemia Sparrow,** Musqueam representative

12:15 pm **Mayor Malcolm Brodie -** the City of Richmond BC

12:20 pm **Library Trustee - Sherine Merhi -** the Richmond Public Library

12:25 pm **Qur'an recitation - Ziyad Alhumaimidi**, a youth from the local Muslim community

12:30 pm **Welcome Remarks & Acknowledgement - Nikhat Izhar Qureshi,** The founder of the Islamic Art of British Columbia and the BC Muslim Art House



12:45 pm **Marzieh Kaviani – Intricate Geometries - Journeys in Multi-dimensional Pattern,** Visual Artist Live from London, UK



01:20 pm **Musiki trio** - Mutlu Bahar (Ney), Sefik Calimli (Bendir/Daf Drum)

01:55 pm **Sharmeen Uqaili – Dhāhir and Bāṭin: Painting the Inner and Outer Worlds,** Visual Artist Live from Texas, USA



02:30 pm **Mouhannad Lotfi El E'ek -** Oud player, soulful melodies, world of Arabic music

03:00 pm **The Canvas Belongs to Everyone,** a short film by Aflak Media

03:30 pm **Thurat Troupe - Echoes of Arab Heritage**, Dabkeh Dance

04:00 pm **Closing**





Hands-on-Art Activities

Inside the Library launchpad area - 12 pm to 4 pm

- **Mehndi Artistry - Mehndi or Henna -** Artist Alishay Awan
- **Stitches of Heritage: Palestinian Tatreez Embroidery -** Duaa Abuhaish
- **Art of Letters - Calligraphy -** Artist Shahin Ali and Artist Tauheed Faheem
- **Geometry of Wonder - Islamic Geometric Patterns -** Artist Farah Kalaff
- **Looms of Heritage - Weaving -** Artist Qudsiyya Zalgaonker



Annual Visual Art Exhibition

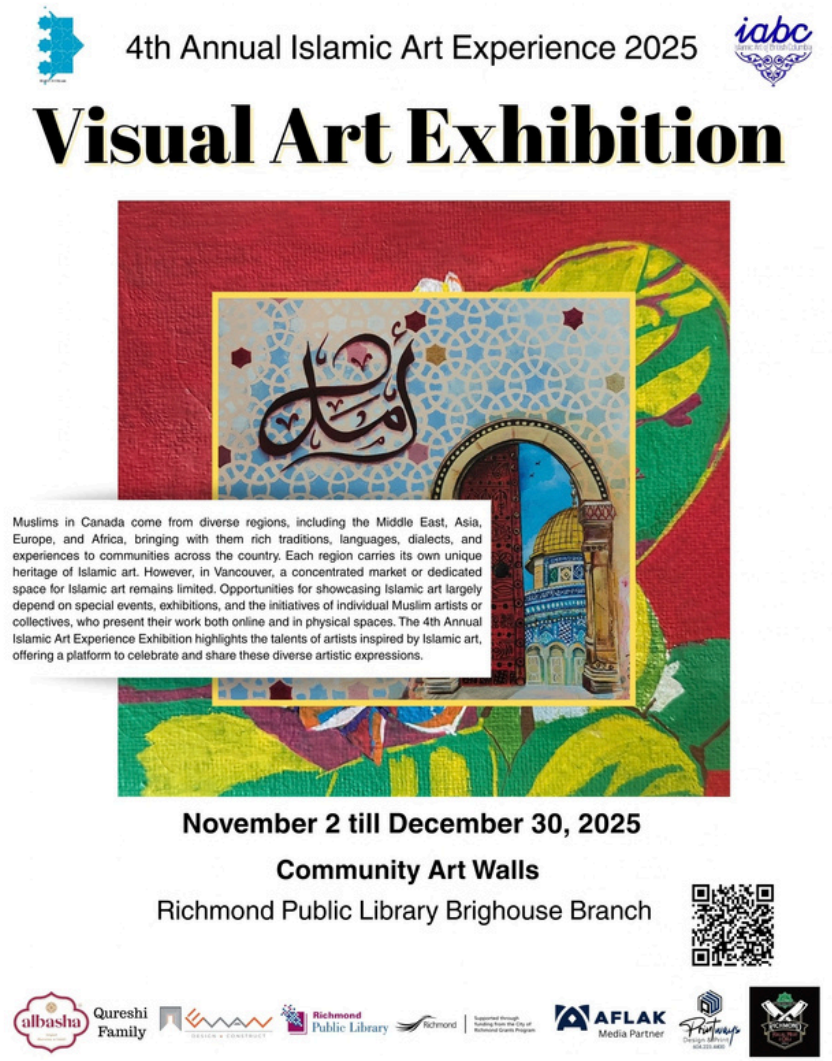
View the 4th Annual Islamic Art Exhibition, showcasing the creativity of Muslim artists and artists inspired by Islamic artistic traditions. The display is featured on the community art walls at the Richmond Public Library, Brighouse Branch until December 30, 2025.



Richmond Public Library | albasha | Qureshi Family | AFLAK media partner

A special thanks to our community partners, sponsors,and supporters

Islamic Art Experience 2025 Program Schedule



Islamic Art Experience 2025 Visual Art Exhibition poster



Islamic Art Experience 2025 Visual Art Exhibition poster

The Canvas Belongs to Everyone – A Journey of Faith & Creativity

A Short Film by Aflak Media





The Canvas Belongs to Everyone is a short documentary by Aflak Media that traces the inspiring journey of the Islamic Art of British Columbia, a movement rooted in faith, creativity, and community. Born from the quiet conviction and vision of Nikhat Izhar Qureshi, what began as a deeply personal expression has blossomed into a vibrant cultural bridge, connecting people across generations, disciplines, and diverse backgrounds.

Through art, storytelling, and shared spaces, this initiative has nurtured a sense of belonging, giving voice to artists and community members whose stories are often left untold. It is a testament to how faith and creativity can come together to build not just art, but connection, healing, and collective identity.

This film premiered on November 30, 2025, at the 4th Annual Islamic Art Experience, marking a meaningful milestone that not only celebrates an initiative but also honors an entire creative ecosystem shaped by resilience, devotion, and artistic expression. The film is available to watch on the website: www.islamicartofbritishcolumbia.com

An Aflak Inspire Original.





The dedicated team memebers of Alflak Media documenting visitors' reflections on the day of the event IAE 2025

Ramadan and Eid Community Arts Programming

Islamic Art of British Columbia (IABC) is dedicated to providing year-round programming that promotes artistic expression, builds a vibrant arts community, empowers Muslim artists, and strengthens intercultural understanding through the arts. Each year during the holy month of Ramadan, IABC collaborates with the Welcome Ramadan and Celebrate Eid Committee to organize a series of public programs at the Richmond Public Library, inviting the wider community to experience the spirit of fasting and the joy of Eid-ul-Fitr, a celebration observed by Muslims worldwide. These initiatives include, but are not limited to, a month-long window display, film screenings, art exhibitions, and a community celebration festival. Through these efforts, IABC aims to foster inclusivity, cultural appreciation, and dialogue across diverse communities..

Eid-al-Fitr Joy: celebration of Eid - Photo Gallery









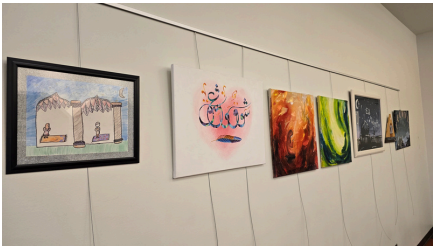


Fasting for Faith - Ramadan in art exhibition

The art exhibition, held from March 10 to April 30, 2024, at the community art wall space inside the Richmond Public Library, explores the significance of Ramadan as expressed by local artists of all ages who shared their profound journeys of fasting and faith through art. Each artwork reflected personal experience from the joys of breaking fast to the discipline and self-reflection that define the holy month. The exhibition highlighted fasting as a transformative journey of self-discovery, heightened spirituality, and communal solidarity. Visitors were invited to contemplate the spirit of Ramadan in art, celebrating diversity, unity, and the rich experiences that shape this sacred month within our local Muslim community.







Ramadan Window Display

As part of its annual programming, the Islamic Art of British Columbia (IABC) presents the Ramadan Window Display at the Richmond Public Library, exhibited throughout the thirty days of Ramadan. This initiative serves as an educational and cultural engagement opportunity, inviting the broader community to learn about the spiritual and social significance of the month of fasting in Islam. Ramadan is a time devoted to self-reflection, compassion, and community service, culminating in the celebration of Eid al-Fitr, a festival that symbolizes gratitude, renewal, and unity. Through this initiative, IABC fosters intercultural understanding and promotes dialogue by sharing the artistic and spiritual traditions of the Muslim community in an accessible public space.





Film Screenings

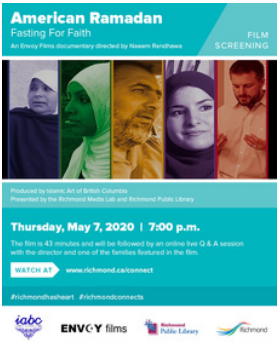


Islamic Art of British Columbia (IABC) brings a variety of creative expressions of Islamic art to communities, including film screenings and digital media presentations that highlight Islamic art and Muslims' contributions to filmmaking. Through these initiatives, IABC aims to share the untold stories of the Muslim world and the beauty of Islamic art, fostering understanding and dialogue across cultures. As part of its regular programming, IABC hosts curated film screenings featuring films by the Unity Productions Foundation (UPF). This non-profit organization promotes peace, understanding, and pluralism through media. To date, IABC has presented several acclaimed UPF films, including Islamic Art: Mirror of the Invisible World, Lamya's Poem, Inside Islam: What a Billion Muslims Really Think, and Islam's Greatest Stories of Love. IABC also hosted a special screening of American Ramadan, a documentary by Envoy Films, followed by a panel discussion with the director and cast members, in collaboration with the City of Richmond Cultural Centre and the Richmond Public Library. Through these ongoing efforts, IABC continues to use the power of art and film to connect communities and celebrate the diversity of Muslim experiences

Photo Gallery of the film screenings











Master Artist Arabic Calligraphy Workshop

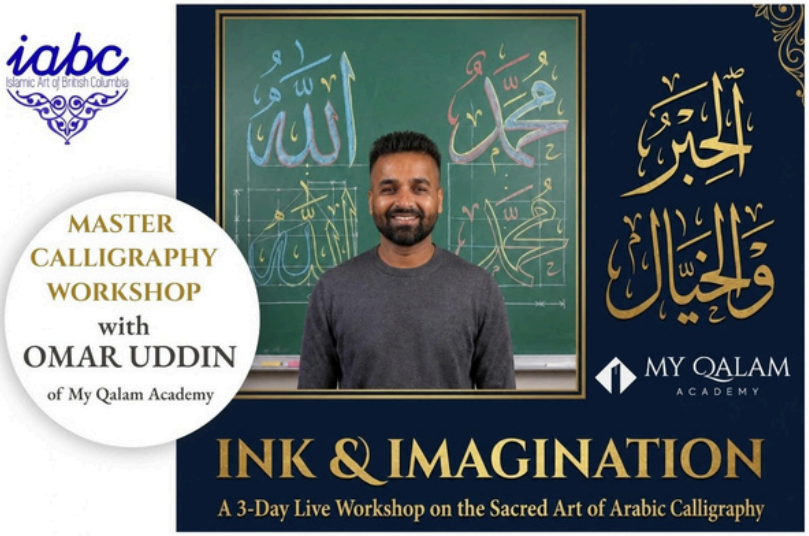




As part of IABC's growing vision for Islamic arts education, 2026 marked an exciting milestone with our first-ever three-day Master Calligrapher Workshop, led by Toronto-based master calligrapher Omar Uddin, Founder of My Qalam Academy. Over three inspiring days, participants immersed themselves in the beauty and discipline of classical Arabic calligraphy, learning directly from Omar through demonstrations, personalized guidance, and hands-on practice. The workshop offered much more than technical instruction; it created a space to appreciate the patience, precision, tradition, and spiritual depth behind this centuries-old art form. Participants left with strengthened skills, deeper knowledge, and renewed inspiration to continue their calligraphy journey. The success of this workshop brought IABC's vision to life: connecting our community with accomplished Canadian and international artists and creating meaningful opportunities to learn, preserve, and celebrate the living traditions of Islamic art.

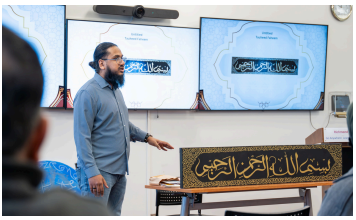






The Master Calligraphy Workshop 2026 Flyer

2026 SEASON





Exhibition of Art and Artist Reception

The 5th Annual Exhibition of Art will be displayed on the Community Art Walls at the Richmond Public Library from November 2 to December 30, 2026. Featuring works by Muslim artists from across Metro Vancouver, the exhibition celebrates a diversity of artistic voices and expressions. It provides both emerging and established artists with a professional platform to showcase their creativity while engaging the broader community through art and dialogue.

In partnership with the Richmond Public Library, the Islamic Art of British Columbia will also host a public Artist Reception, honoring the participating artists and creating a welcoming space for idea exchange, shared artistic practices, and mutual learning. The event invites the public to meet the artists and connect through the universal language of art.

5th ANNUAL ISLAMIC ART EXPERIENCE









The 5th Annual Islamic Art Experience will take place at the Richmond Public Library in Richmond, BC, on Sunday, November 29, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Performances will be held inside the Theater Under the Stairs in the Cultural Center. The event will open with a Qur'an recitation, followed by a territorial welcome from a Musqueam Elder and opening remarks by the City of Richmond Mayor. This year's program features international, national, and local artists and performers. Returning by popular demand, the Turkish Musiki Trio will share a selection of beloved pieces; an Oud player will present a captivating musical set. The hands-on art activities led by talented local Muslim artists taking place at the launch pad area for adults and children will include weaving, calligraphy, henna, geometric puzzles, and tatreez art, celebrating the rich beauty and timeless contributions of Islamic art and heritage.



Islamic Art Experience 2026 Flyer



Islamic Art Experience 2026 Flyer

Future Events – Islamic Art of British Columbia

The Islamic Art of British Columbia (IABC) continues its mission to celebrate creativity, faith, and cultural expression through a series of community-based art events and programs. Our initiatives bring together artists, families, and the wider public to experience the beauty, diversity, and richness of Islamic art traditions in contemporary forms. In 2025, IABC partnered with the Academy of Modern Art (AOMA) in Vancouver for the Global Muslim Youth Canada Youth Visual Art Contest, fostering young talent and encouraging artistic engagement within the community. In 2026, IABC successfully fulfilled its commitment to bring meaningful arts and cultural programming to our communities, achieving the goals we set for the year through exhibitions, workshops, community gatherings, and collaborative events that created opportunities to learn, create, connect, and celebrate together.

Workshops with Master Artists

Building on the success of our Master Workshop initiative, Islamic Art of British Columbia (IABC) will continue to host workshops featuring accomplished Canadian and international artists across a range of traditional and contemporary Islamic art practices. These immersive learning experiences will provide participants with unique opportunities to learn directly from master artists, explore diverse techniques and traditions, and deepen their creative practice. Through this ongoing programming, IABC aims to foster artistic excellence, cultural exchange, and the preservation and evolution of Islamic art traditions for future generations.

Islamic Art Experience Event

The Islamic Art of BC celebrates the International Day of Islamic Art each year on November 18, as proclaimed by UNESCO in 2019. Similar to the 5 annual signature events, this multisensory experience will continue to bring together local and international artists, musicians, and performers in a day of interactive creativity. Families and visitors will enjoy live performances, hands-on art activities, and cultural displays, including films, storytelling, traditional dances, folk music and instruments, the art of weaving, calligraphy, geometric design, henna, and tatreez embroidery, fostering appreciation for Islamic heritage and its contributions to world art while creating a vibrant space for learning and community connection.

Annual Art Exhibition

Held each fall, IABC will continue this exhibition as part of the Islamic Art Experience event. Showcasing original works by Muslim artists from across Metro Vancouver and beyond. Featuring a range of mediums such as calligraphy, painting, textiles, and mixed media, the exhibition offers both emerging and established artists a professional platform to share their work and engage with the broader community.

Film Screenings

As part of its ongoing programming, IABC will continue to host film screenings and visual storytelling experiences that explore Islamic art, culture, heritage, faith, and diverse lived experiences. Through thoughtfully selected documentaries and films, these screenings will create opportunities for learning, reflection, and meaningful dialogue while highlighting stories and perspectives from Muslim communities around the world. This programming will further IABC's commitment to fostering cultural understanding, connection, and community engagement through the arts.

Ramadan Programming

Each year during Ramadan, IABC will continue to partner with the Richmond Public Library to present a Ramadan Window Display and other educational activities that invite the public to learn about the spiritual, cultural, and communal traditions of the holy month and celebrate Eid al-Fitr.

About The IABC Team

Founded in May 2019, the Islamic Art of British Columbia (IABC) brings programs driven by a dedicated all-volunteer core team who are passionate about promoting Islamic art and its cultural significance. This core team brings together individuals from diverse backgrounds, united by a shared vision to foster appreciation for Islamic art and create opportunities for cross-cultural understanding.





From top left to right, core Team: Duaa Abuhaish, Taskeen Fatema, Sherine Merhi, Nikhat Qureshi, Farah Kalaff, Iram Naeem, Dalila Bekkaoui, Jimmy Ho, and Susan Ness

Beyond the core team, IAE is supported by volunteers who contribute their time and skills during events, ensuring smooth operations and enriching visitor experiences. Together, the team and volunteers engage the community through exhibitions, workshops, performances, and educational programs, helping to build awareness of Islamic heritage and inspiring people of all ages and backgrounds to explore, connect, and celebrate this rich artistic tradition.



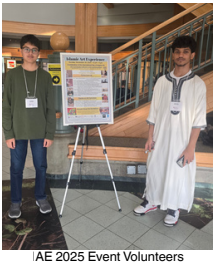




IAE events volunteers

Get Involved

The Islamic Art Experience would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors and community partners. Join us in promoting art education, cultural exchange, and community connection through this exciting annual celebration.


IAE 2025 Event Volunteers

Become a Sponsor

You can support the event by joining as a:

- Presenting Sponsor
- Performance Sponsor
- Hands-on Art Sponsor
- Art Exhibition Sponsor
- Special Contributor with any amount.

Payments can be made by cheque or online at www.islamicartofbritishcolumbia.com

Community Partnerships

IABC welcomes community partnerships to present this event in other cities. Interested partners and contributors can learn more at www.islamicartofbritishcolumbia.com or contact us via email at artbynikhat@gmail.com.





Guests enjoy a variety of activities at IABC's Seven Continents–themed event, celebrating the diversity and global influence of Islamic art.



Thank you, Nikhat, and the entire team for organizing such a thoughtfully curated and well-organized event. It was truly a pleasure meeting you all. Although I couldn't interact with everyone (as I had a ferry to catch), it was wonderful to see the wide range of artists and artworks. It was especially refreshing to see some beautiful calligraphy alongside many other forms of Islamic art, showcasing a rich diversity of mediums, styles, and creative expressions. This was a much-needed event, and I wonder if something similar could be set up in Victoria in the future, In Sha Allah.
~Heebatullah Beg~

Thank you so much for organizing this, Nikhat. It was wonderfully paced, and you thought of everything. So glad you got Omar Uddin to come out here. Looking forward to more events with you. ~Suzy~



Thank you for organizing the artists' appreciation event last weekend. You all were very kind and gracious and made us all feel very much appreciated and valued. You and your team hold very high professional standards and make us all very proud.
~Dr Anisha Lakhani Pharm D~





Cover Artwork: “Welcome Greetings in Multiple Languages”
Artwork and Event Prospectus Designed by: Nikhat Izhar Qureshi
Visual Artist & Founder, Islamic Art of British Columbia

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