

Islamic Art Experience

Information Package





Islamic Art Experience

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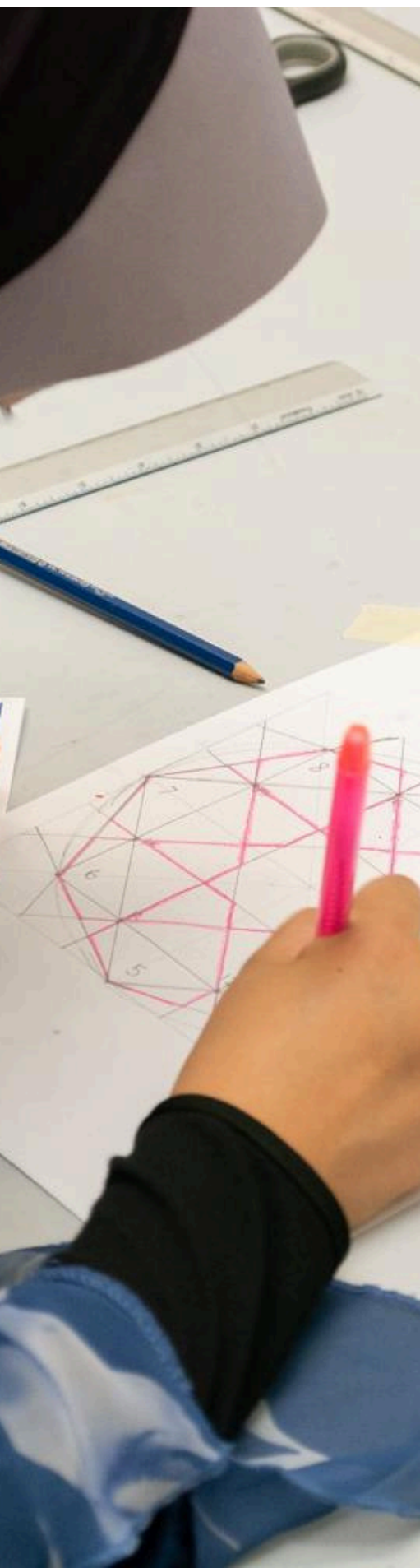
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Mosaic Exchange of Peace, Love, Happiness.
2023 IAE Mural activity by artist Nada Hamatto



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

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.



Territorial Welcome by Musqueam elder Mary Point IAE 2023

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

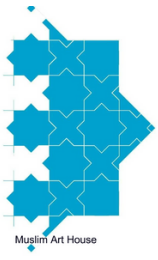
CONNECTING CULTURES AND GENERATIONS

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



2022 - 2023 - 2024



Richmond
Public Library

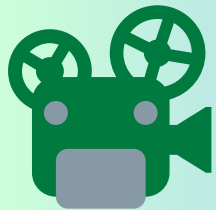
From its inaugural year in 2022 through 2024, the annual Islamic Art Experience, held each November at the Richmond Public Library and Cultural Centre in Richmond, British Columbia, Canada, welcomed between 700 and 900 attendees to a day filled with multi-sensory experiences in the visual and performing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

900
ATTENDEES

61+
VOLUNTEERS

58 PERFORMERS
18 HANDS-ON-ARTISTS

LOCAL, NATIONAL
AND
INTERNATIONAL



3 FILM
SCREENINGS

30 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 Zalgancker
- **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, Brighthouse Branch till December 31, 2022



Richmond
Public Library



A special thanks to our sponsors



Islamic Art Experience 2022 Flyer

2023 SEASON



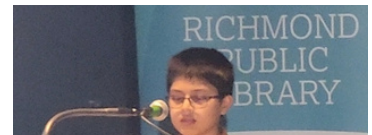
Exhibition of Art and Artist Reception

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, RATO H JAROE - Youth Tarian Dance (Traditional Acehese 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 **Rato Jaro dance** - Aceh Cultural Centre, 1st performance
- 3:30 - 3:37 **Rato 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, Brighthouse Branch till December 03, 2023

A special thanks to our community partners and sponsors



**Richmond
Public Library**



**COMMUNITY
ARTS
COUNCIL OF
RICHMOND**
est. 1970



Vancity



**NAASIR
TRAVEL**

Supported through
funding from the City of
Richmond Grants Program



Islamic Art Experience 2023 program schedule

2024 SEASON

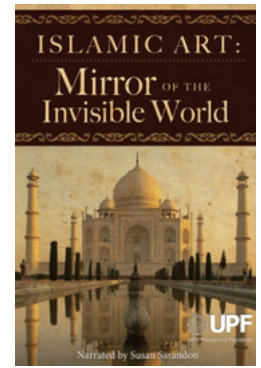


Exhibition of Art and Artist Reception

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. RATOJ 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





International Day of Islamic Art Experience

Sunday, November 24, 2024 - 12 pm to 4 pm
Richmond Public Library, Brighthouse Branch
 100-7700 Minoru gate , Richmond, BC V6Y 1R9






**Enjoy a variety of
Cultural Performances &
Experience hands-on Art Activities**













3rd Annual Islamic Art Exhibition

November 03 - December 31
 AT
Community Art Wall
 Richmond Public Library, Brighthouse Branch
www.islamicartofbritishcolumbia.com








Supported through
funding from the City of
Richmond Grants Program



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 **Rato 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 Zalganoker



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, Brighthouse Branch till December 31, 2024



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



Supported through funding from the City of Richmond Grants Program



Islamic Art Experience 2024 program schedule



Ramadan and Eid Community Arts Programming

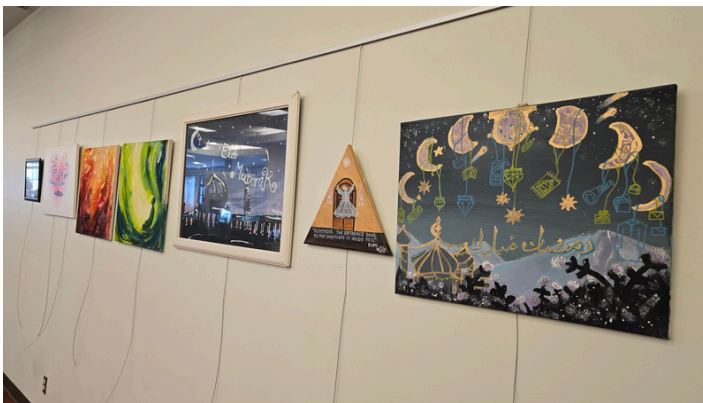
Islamic Art of British Columbia (IABC) is dedicated to providing year-round programming that promotes artistic expression, builds a vibrant arts community, empowers Muslim artists, and strengthens intercultural understanding through the arts. Each year during the holy month of Ramadan, IABC collaborates 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) is dedicated to bringing a variety of creative expressions of Islamic art to communities, including film screenings and digital media presentations that highlight Islamic art and the contributions of Muslims in 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*, and *Inside Islam: What a Billion Muslims Really Think*. In addition, IABC 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



American Ramadan
Fasting For Faith
An Envoy Films documentary directed by Naeem Randhawa

FILM SCREENING



Produced by Islamic Art of British Columbia
Presented by the Richmond Media Lab and Richmond Public Library

Thursday, May 7, 2020 | 7:00 p.m.

The film is 43 minutes and will be followed by an online live Q & A session with the director and one of the families featured in the film.

WATCH AT www.richmond.ca/connect

#richmondhasheart #richmondconnects



ENVY films



Events > **Inside Islam:**
What a Billion
Muslims Really Think



Inside Islam: What a Billion Muslims Really Think


Tuesday, March 25, 2020

Add to Calendar

4:00PM - 6:00PM
Brighthouse

Lamya's Poem
Ramadan Film Screening

ADULTS





SUNDAY, MARCH 24 | 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Brighthouse Branch, Launchpad Lecture Area

Welcome Ramadan, the holy month of fasting in the Islamic calendar! As part of our celebrations for Ramadan, and in collaboration with The Islamic Art of British Columbia, we are proud to show *Lamya's Poem* in our Kids' Launchpad Lecture space. About the Film:

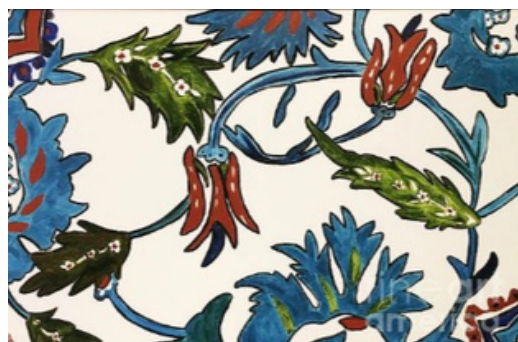
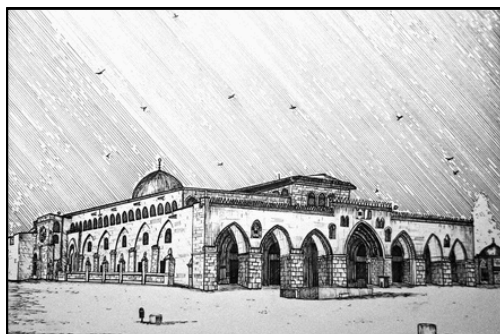
The film centres on Lamya, a young Syrian girl who has left her hometown of Aleppo as a refugee during the Syrian civil war, who finds solace in her inner fantasy life as she reads and is inspired by the poetry of Rumi.

This is a drop in program—please feel free to come by after our regular programs!

For more details, visit yourlibrary.ca/events, call 604.231.6413 or talk to a staff member.

2025 SEASON



Exhibition of Art and Artist Reception

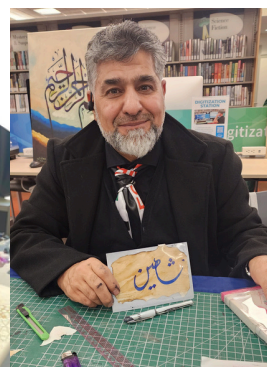
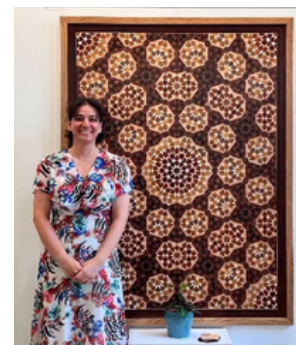
The 4th Annual Exhibition of Art will be displayed on the Community Art Walls at the Richmond Public Library from November 2 to December 30, 2025. Featuring 17 works by Muslim artists from across Metro Vancouver, the exhibition celebrates a diversity of artistic voices and expressions. It provides both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

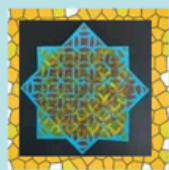
In partnership with the Richmond Public Library, the Islamic Art of British Columbia will also host a public Artist Reception, honoring the participating artists and creating a welcoming space for idea exchange, shared artistic practices, and mutual learning. The event invites the public to meet the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

4th ANNUAL ISLAMIC ART EXPERIENCE

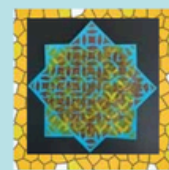
The 4th Annual Islamic Art Experience will take place at the Richmond Public Library in Richmond, BC, on Sunday, November 24, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Performances will be held inside the Cultural Centre's theater, located under the stairs. The event will open with a Qur'an recitation, followed by a territorial welcome from a Musqueam Elder and opening remarks by City of Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie. This year's program features international artists Sharmeen Uqail (USA) and Marzieh Kaviani (UK). The Dabke Dance Group will perform a lively traditional dance that symbolizes unity and strength.

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.





International Day of Islamic Art Experience



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

Richmond Public Library Brighthouse Branch

100-7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond, BC V6Y 1R8

Enjoy a variety of
cultural performances &
experience hands-on
art activities,
a free event for all ages



November 02 - December 30, 2025

View the 4th Annual Islamic Art Exhibition

Community Art Wall
space inside the library



www.islamicartofbritishcolumbia.com



Supported through
funding from the City of
Richmond Grants Program



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 unite artists, families, and the 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 promoting artistic engagement within the community.

Workshops with Master Artists

In the coming year, the Islamic Art of BC will host a series of master workshops featuring Canadian and international artists. Among them is Omar Uddin, a Toronto-based master calligrapher and Founder of My Qalam Academy. Renowned for his contemporary approach to classical Arabic calligraphy, Omar has taught over 6,000 students from 102 countries and designed calligraphic works for landmark mosques across North America. These workshops will offer participants a rare opportunity to learn from master artists, blending tradition, spirituality, and creativity.

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 4 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, 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 Screening – Islam's Greatest Stories of Love

IABC will host a screening of "Islam's Greatest Stories of Love," a new documentary by Unity Productions Foundation. The film follows Gayotto Hohl, a young woman navigating grief after the loss of her father. Her journey takes her across the world as she meets members of the Muslim community who share their perspectives on love, loss, and healing. This thought-provoking documentary offers a heartfelt exploration of how faith and culture shape our understanding of love and resilience.

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, 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.

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.

Donations can be made by check. A receipt can be issued for your tax-deductible donation.

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.



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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