

The background features a photograph of a mosque courtyard with intricate Islamic architecture, including arches and a mosaic-tiled wall. A large, dark blue banner is superimposed over the upper portion of the image.

ISLAMIC
ART GALA
2023

CATALOGUE

& PROGRAM



PROGRAM

THE EXHIBITION & ART SALES

11:00 am - 4:00 pm

The artworks showcased during the gala will be available for purchase. Ask details at Information desk.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY RED CARPET

11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Get photos taken at the red carpet, play games and share your thoughts and feedback.

SILENT AUCTION

11:00 am - 3:45 pm

Ask for more information from our team on the floor or information desk.

LIVE ART SESSION BY OMAR UDDIN

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Grab a drink, snack and a seat; watch Omar Uddin create a masterpiece live.

NETWORKING AND Q&A W/ OMAR UDDIN

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Feel free to hang around to talk to Omar or us!

FOOD MENU

BREADS & SPREADS

Chick Pea Hummus, Spinach +
Artichoke Dip, Tangy
Romesco, Lavash, Herbed
Roman Flatbread + Baguette

ASSORTED HOUSE BAKED COOKIES



CASH BAR

LAVENDER LEMONADE

House Made Lemonade + Lavender Syrup,
Lemon to Garnish

PINEAPPLE + MINT MOJO

Pineapple Juice, Lime Juice, Mint Syrup,
Topped with Soda Water + Garnished with
Lime

SOFT DRINKS

JUICE

SPARKLING WATER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Esteemed Guests,

It is with great pleasure and profound gratitude that I welcome you to our Healthy Muslim Families' 3rd Annual Islamic Art Gala, where we celebrate the beauty, richness, and spiritual depth of Islamic art. This year, we are embarking on a particularly enchanting journey as we explore the theme: "Doorway: An Islamic Perspective" along with the launch of our new social enterprise 'AlHamra Art & Creations' aimed at supporting Islamic artists in our community.

As the Executive Director of Healthy Muslim Families, I am immensely proud of the artists, curators, event organizers, and the entire team that has worked tirelessly to curate this extraordinary collection of art that you are about to experience.

I encourage you to take your time as you explore the artworks on display. Let each piece guide you through a different "Doorway" into the heart of Islamic art and culture. These doorways represent both the past and the present, and they offer us a glimpse into the future of artistic expression within the Islamic world.

I extend my deepest gratitude to all our artists, sponsors, and partners for making this Gala possible. Your support is invaluable in fostering cultural understanding and appreciation.

I hope that this Gala not only inspires you but also deepens your connection to the cultural richness and spiritual wisdom that Islamic art conveys. May it remind us that, like a beautifully adorned doorway, our world is more beautiful when we embrace and celebrate our diversity.

Thank you for gracing this event with your presence. I hope you have a truly enriching and inspiring experience.

With warm regards,

Humaira Jaleel

Executive Director - Healthy Muslim Families

THE EXHIBIT

THE CURATOR

Welcome to our Islamic Art Gala, which we have put together in celebration of Canadian Islamic Heritage and History Month at WAG-Qaumajuq. This year, we proudly present a theme that is not only visually compelling but deeply symbolic - "Doorway."

Islamic art has a profound connection to doorways, both literal and symbolic. They serve as portals to sacred spaces, the boundaries between the known and the unknown, the mundane and the divine. As we embark on this artistic voyage, we invite you to explore the rich tapestry of Islamic culture and the profound symbolism behind these doorways.

Our talented artists have masterfully captured the essence of "Doorway" through a myriad of mediums, from traditional calligraphy to contemporary digital art. They've delved into the intricate designs of mosque entrances, the ornate gates of ancient palaces, and the symbolism of the threshold. Each piece tells a story!

The patterns, colors, and motifs that adorn these doorways are not just aesthetic choices but carry profound cultural and spiritual meanings. They are an homage to the legacy of Islamic art, where beauty and symbolism are interwoven seamlessly. You will also find art by renowned artists like Omar Uddin, Jamelie Hassan, and Faisa Omar along with our Islamic Art Competition winners.

Today, as we embark on this journey into the treasures of Islamic heritage, and art I encourage you to engage, to ask questions, to listen, and to share. Thank you for joining us on this journey, and we hope you find inspiration as you experience Islamic art today.

Rubab Fatima



ABOUT OMAR UDDIN



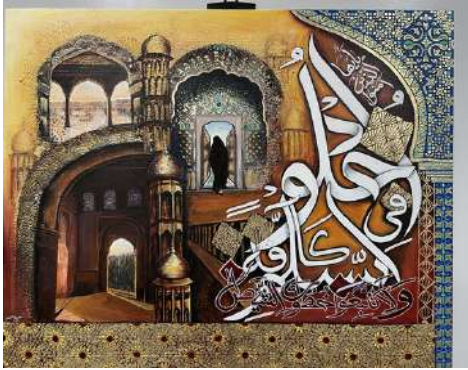
Omar is the author of two calligraphy skill teaching books and the founder of My Qalam Academy.

Omar is a Pakistani-born Canadian artist and an Arabic calligraphy expert who began learning the traditional art as a young child.

Today, Omar is the author of two books that teaches the prestigious art of calligraphy in the English language. He is also the founder of My Qalam Academy, with more than six thousand students from 102 different countries.

Omar's art portfolio includes structural calligraphic designs for numerous landmark mosques in North America. His goal when creating any of his artwork is to emphasize the mystical nature and sheer beauty of the calligraphic scripts.





CHOICE

Nazia Amer

First prize winner: Islamic Art Competition 2023

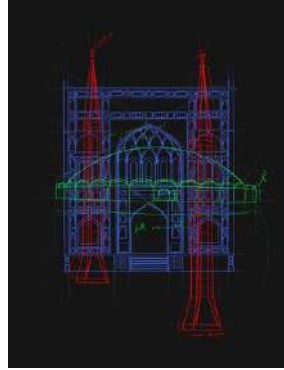
In our worldly life, we come across choices every day. As a Muslim, our choices should be guided by Allah's decree.

Artist has presented different doorways as these choices.

As the Ayat 208 from Surah Al-Baqarah directs, we will be choosing the doorway which Allah desires us to follow, not the doorway which will take us astray.

Artist has shown a female figure, dressed modestly and entering the door of heaven.

Satan's traps are invisible, so the artist has painted the relative portion of Ayah, in non-conspicuous calligraphic writing. Removing the white border will make us vulnerable to Satan's attacks.



BLUEPRINT

Aisha Sipra

Second prize winner: Islamic Art Competition 2023

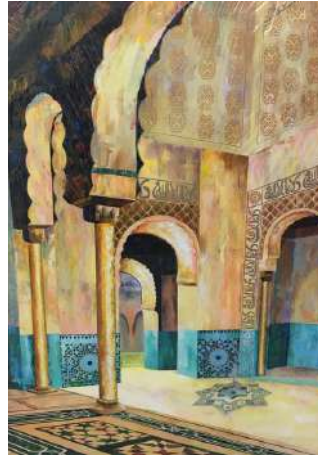
In the captivating artwork "BluePrint," the profound essence of Islam unfurls through the lens of architectural representation. It echoes the belief that when Allah fashioned the universe, every line and curve bore a purposeful stroke—a divine blueprint meticulously crafted. This artistic rendition delves into the delicate symbiosis of architectural grace and spiritual symbolism within Islamic edifices. As the artist's hands meticulously trace the outlines, they channel the essence of God's intricate design, mirroring the sacred geometry intrinsic to mosques. It's a testament to the artistic endeavor of humanity, striving to capture and honor the profound beauty of God's abode. The blueprint transcends mere technicalities; it encapsulates the fervent yearning of believers to step beyond the physical thresholds and immerse themselves in the spiritual sanctity of Islamic teachings—an invitation to transcend the earthly and dwell in the presence of the divine.



DOOR OF KAA'BAH

Omar Uddin

48x96" Kaa'bah door on a plexiglass/vinyl



ARCHWAYS OF ALHAMBRA PALACE

Midhat Alam

To depict doorways of Islamic art through architecture, motifs, and calligraphy. I took inspiration from Alhambra Palace, Spain built under the rule of Muslims. The visuals of that era were exquisite. Rooms are decorated from top to bottom with wooden ceilings, scalloped stucco, patterned ceramic tiles, filigree windows, color galore, and water bodies. In Islamic tradition, water is considered the purest symbol of life. My painting is a fusion of various architectural elements, such as the Mumtaz Mahal, the Umayyad Masjid in Damascus, Syria, and the Alhambra Palace in Spain.



BATTLE OF HEARTS

Faisa Omer

The photograph captures a powerful moment in which a resolute man is depicted walking away from malevolent hands that appear to be clawing and grasping at him. He clutches the holy Quran in his hands, engrossed in reading it, his face showing a determined and focused expression. This image poignantly illustrates the inner struggle against temptations and the pull towards sin. The evil hands represent the allure of wrongful choices and destructive behaviors, symbolizing the potential doors to sin that may be open to anyone. The man's decision to turn away from these hands and immerse himself in the sacred text underscores the personal choices we make in resisting temptation and maintaining our moral compass. It signifies that through spirituality, faith, and inner strength, one can close the doors to the negative influences that may lead to sin and open the doors to a virtuous path of righteousness and self-control.



HOLD ON

Faisa Omer

The photographs feature a striking composition of diverse hands tightly grasping a sturdy rope, creating a human chain. The hands belong to individuals of varying ages, genders, and backgrounds, emphasizing the power of community and unity. The majority of hands are firmly clasped onto the rope, symbolizing the strength and support that comes from a connected, inclusive community. In stark contrast, the other image shows one hand hanging loose and disconnected, signifying isolation and exclusion. This lone hand represents the consequences of not being a part of a community, highlighting how it can lead to missed opportunities and closed doors. The photograph serves as a poignant reminder of the pivotal role that community plays in both opening doors to support, collaboration, and shared progress, and in closing doors when individuals are left isolated or marginalized.



DOOR TO MY ROOTS

Rida Rahman, Shifa Shahid, Maria Islam, and the youth of Healthy Muslim Families

The piece is a captivating multi-panel painting, with seven distinct panels intricately assembled to manifest a door. The design of the door, with its vector patterns and geometric intricacies, is heavily influenced by traditional Islamic architectural elements, often seen in the elaborately designed doors of mosques and Islamic monuments. The color palette employed serves as a vibrant narrative of the artists' diverse cultural heritages. The shades of turquoise and blue echo their Islamic heritage, creating a serene and mystical ambiance reminiscent of Islamic art and architecture. On the other hand, the lively green and orange colors imbue the artwork with the warmth and vibrancy characteristic of South Asian heritage. This amalgamation of colors not only lends a visually stunning aesthetic but also tells a story of cultural amalgamation and dialogue.



ARCHWAYS

Umm Rayyan

This painting depicts multiple arches utilized in Islamic structures. Arches are a significant component of Islamic architecture used in mosques, public buildings, schools, and other important structures. The artist uses geometric designs and arches to depict spirituality. This is in keeping with the traditional Islamic art which does not utilize figurative images, rather geometric designs, motifs, and calligraphy are used to adorn and enhance.



PALMYRA/ZENOBIA HOTEL, SYRIA

Jamelie Hassan



NUR

Jamelie Hassan

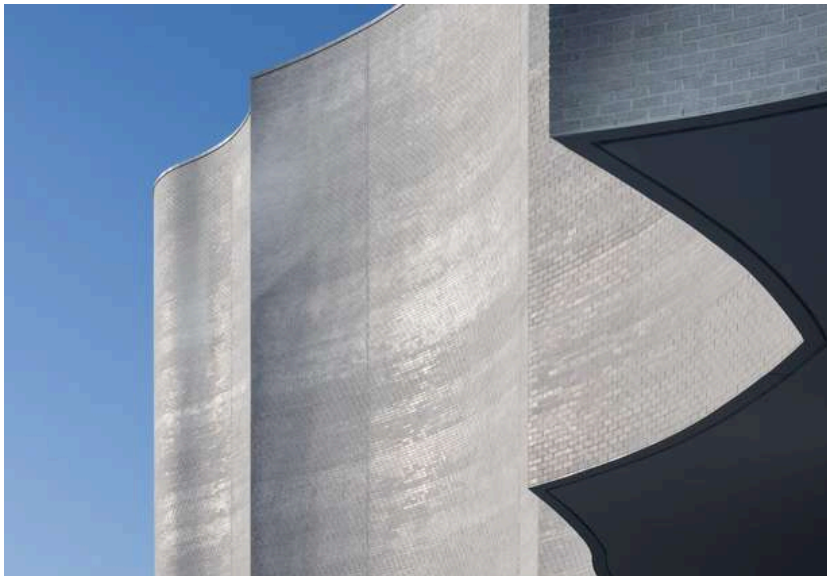


Image: Winnipeg Art Gallery-Qaumajuq

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& PEOPLE INVOLVED





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