

Calligraphy: The Art and Legacy of Islamic Calligraphy

The goal of the Art Competition is to celebrate the achievements, heritage, and creativity of Muslims, especially within the Canadian context. The 2026 theme, “Calligraphy: The Art and Legacy of Islamic Calligraphy,” highlights the profound influence of calligraphy as both an artistic and spiritual expression in Islamic culture. This theme invites participants to explore how written art has served as a bridge between faith, creativity, and innovation throughout history.

Artists are encouraged to reflect on the legacy of Islamic calligraphy — from the intricate scripts adorning mosques and manuscripts to its modern interpretations in design and visual arts. The competition emphasizes how calligraphy embodies beauty, precision, and devotion, representing the harmony between word and meaning.

- Notable Figures and Inspirations
- Participants may draw inspiration from historical and contemporary figures who have contributed to the evolution of Islamic art and calligraphy, including but not limited to:
 - Ibn Muqla (founder of classical Arabic script styles)
 - Ibn al-Bawwab (master calligrapher and manuscript illuminator)
 - Osman Taha (modern Qur’anic calligrapher)
 - Zaha Hadid (architectural design inspired by Arabic geometry and form)
 - Contemporary Muslim artists integrating calligraphy into digital and visual media

Creative Elements:

Muslim innovation can be reflected through symbols, figures, or interpretations such as:

- Geometric and mathematical patterns
- Scientific tools and manuscripts
- Architectural innovations
- Diagrams and inventions
- Educational spaces and libraries
- Poetic tributes to Muslim inventors
- Visual metaphors for discovery, light, and growth
- Spiritual symbolism representing knowledge and creation

Artwork Ideas:

- “Echoes of Faith” — calligraphic art inspired by Qur’anic verses or spiritual reflections.
- “Legacy in Lines” — modern reinterpretations of classical scripts.
- “Voices of Heritage” — blending traditional calligraphy with contemporary Canadian identity.
- “Geometry of the Divine” — exploring symmetry and balance through calligraphic design.
- “Illuminated Wisdom” — inspired by classical manuscript illumination and gold-leaf detailing.
- “Sacred Geometry of Letters” — merging mathematical precision with artistic expression in calligraphic design.
- “Legacy in Motion” — dynamic calligraphy expressing movement, progress, and continuity of tradition.
- “Light Upon Letters” — visualizing the spiritual symbolism of nur (light) through calligraphic composition.
- “Beyond Words” — abstract exploration of emotion and meaning through deconstructed script forms.
- “Bridges of Culture” — combining Arabic calligraphy with Indigenous or Western artistic influences to reflect shared identity.
- “The Pen and the Soul” — tribute to the Qur’anic verse “Nun. By the Pen and what they write.”

Example of how artwork expresses the theme of contribution: Prairie Mosque by Aisha Rahman



- This image portrays a contemporary mosque set against Manitoba's prairie landscape, symbolizing the harmony between faith, nature, and community.
- Architectural Style:
 - It features a sleek, modern structure with Islamic geometric motifs integrated into glass and steel. The design draws inspiration from local prairie architecture — open spaces, natural light, and sustainable materials — while maintaining traditional Islamic elements like domes and calligraphic patterns.
- Design Philosophy:
 - The artwork reflects how Manitoba's Muslim community contributes to cultural and architectural diversity. It merges heritage and innovation, showing how faith-based design can evolve within a Canadian context. The mosque stands as a metaphor for inclusivity, resilience, and the promise of a vibrant future rooted in rich tradition.

Additional Visual Examples:

