

---

Arabic/Islamic calligraphy master, professor of mechanical engineering, and a Fulbright scholar.

- Active in promoting Arabic and Islamic calligraphy and increasing people's awareness of its cultural and artistic values through exhibits, lectures and workshops.
- Intend to not only to attract the Arabic speaking audience, but to cross barriers and touch other languages and cultures.
- Artwork exhibited and sold in the US, Europe, Turkey, the Middle East and Japan.

### **Learning and Preparation**

- 2020 to 2024  
Deewani and Deewani Jali training with Master Calligraphy Abdul Razak Karakash.
- 2021 to 2023  
Riqaa' taining with Master Calligrapher Mahfod Thunnon
- 2013 to 2015  
Advanced training under guidance of Master Calligraphers Davud Bektaş in Jeli Sülüs style and Mustafa Parıldar in Jeli Talik style, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2006 to 2013  
Student of Master Calligrapher Mohamed Zakariay. Granted Ijazah (**Master Calligrapher Degree in Taliq Style**) in April 2013
- 1998 to 2009  
Student of Istanbul Master Calligrapher Hasan Celebi. Granted **Ijazah (Master Calligrapher Degree in Thuluth and Nasikh Styles)** in 2009.
- 1989 to Present  
Developed and polished a modern form of the art of Arabic calligraphy.
- 1970s to 1998  
Self-taught in the classical styles of Arabic calligraphy

### **Visiting/Guest Artist**

- Art and Art History, University of Michigan, Flint, April 4, 2014
- Turchin Center for the Visual Arts, Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina. May 27, 28, 2010

### **Awards**

- Modern design of Quranic verse "an olive, neither of the east nor the west," appeared in the Annual Juried Issue of Letter Arts Review (a snapshot of the best lettering art being made around the world. 75 word were selected from

500 submissions in different languages. Letter Arts Review is internationally recognized as the preeminent magazine for calligraphers and lettering artists. Vol. 73, No. 4, Spring 2024

- Modern design of the word 'Pen' appeared in the Annual Juried Issue of Letter Arts Review (a snapshot of the best lettering art being made around the world. 75 word were selected from 500 submissions in different languages. Letter Arts Review is internationally recognized as the preeminent magazine for calligraphers and lettering artists. Vol. 35, No. 1, Winter 2021
- Michigan Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program, \$2000, 2018

## **Public Lectures Delivered**

### **“Emblem of a Civilization: Prologue to the Art of Arabic/Islamic Calligraphy”**

- University of Chicago, Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, 5/21/2023

### **“Art Starts with a Line: Introduction to Arabic/Islamic Calligraphy”**

- Ann Arbor Public Library, 3/10/2022
- 2<sup>nd</sup> International Speaker, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC, September 25, 2019
- Hamilton College, Clinton, NY, April 12, 2019

### **“Blessed Among the Arts: Arabic/Islamic Calligraphy, its History and Development”**

- University of Michigan, Flint, April 4, 2014

### **“What is in the Line: History, Development and Styles of Arabic/Islamic Calligraphy”**

- Kenyon College, Gambier, OH, April 24, 2012
- Detroit Institute of Art, Detroit, Michigan, October 23, 2011.

### **“Overtures of the Reed Pen: History and Styles of Arabic Calligraphy”**

- Loyola University Museum of Art, Chicago, Illinois, October 12, 2010.

### **“Before Your Eyes: History and Styles of Arabic Calligraphy”**

- Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina, May 27, 2010.

### **“Blessed Among the Arts: History and Styles of Arabic Calligraphy”**

- The Ohio State University, The Middle East Studies Center, Columbus, Ohio, May 16, 2008.
- Florida State University, Middle East Center, Department of Modern Languages, Tallahassee, FL, February 29, 2008.
- Appalachian State University, Boone, NC, October 22, 2007.
- University of Chicago, Center for Middle Eastern Studies Lecture Series and Hassan Haddad Memorial Fund, Chicago, IL, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007.
- Grand Valley State University, Department of Modern Languages, Arab Culture Week, Grand Rapids, MI, April 3, 2007.

### **“Arabic Calligraphy Writing in the Diaspora”**

- ❑ Second Conference of Radius of Arab American Writers (RAWI), Dearborn, MI, May 17 to 19, 2007.

### **“Arabic/Islamic Calligraphy: Letters in Motion”**

- ❑ University of Michigan- Ann Arbor, Program of American Culture and Department of Women’s Studies, October 12, 2006.
- ❑ Mapping Arab Diaspora, International Conference, University of Michigan- Dearborn- Center for Arab American Studies, April 27-29, 2006.
- ❑ The Arab American National Museum, DIWAN: A Forum for the Arts, Dearborn, MI, March 30<sup>th</sup> to April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006.
- ❑ University of Michigan- Dearborn- Center for Arab American Studies, March 23, 2006.

### **“History, Development and Styles of Arabic Calligraphy”**

- ❑ University of Puerto Rico- Mayaguez- Social Science Department, May 5, 2004.
- ❑ University of Chicago- Center for Middle Eastern Studies, February 9, 2001.
- ❑ University of Chicago- Center for Middle Eastern Studies, July 7, 2000.
- ❑ Lake County College, Illinois: During the program “An Arabian Cultural Mosaic”, September 26, 1999.
- ❑ Middlebury College, Vermont, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1999.
- ❑ Muslim Community Center in south Chicago, May 22, 1999.

### **Workshops**

- ❑ Reed Society for the Sacred Arts. Bethesda, MD, Feb. 24 and 25, 2024
- ❑ Textile Museum, George Washington University, DC, sponsored by the Reed Society for the Sacred Arts, March 11, 2023
- ❑ University of Pennsylvania, Wolf Humanities Center, 1/27,2023
- ❑ Appalachian State University, Boone, NC, Sept. 25, 2019
- ❑ Hamilton College, Clinton, NY, April 12, 2019
- ❑ Al Tawheed Center of Farmington Hills, (Sponsored by Michigan Traditional Arts Program at Michigan State University Museum), Farmington Hills, MI, Sept. 9, 2018
- ❑ University of Michigan Museum of Art, MI, a Workshop for Teachers, Feb. 11, 2017
- ❑ International Women’s Birmingham-Bloomfield Newcomers Club, Arabic Culture group, Bloomfield Hills, MI, Jan. 27, 2017
- ❑ Tibbits Opera House, Coldwater, MI, September 27 and October 4, 2015.
- ❑ University of Michigan, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Ann Arbor, MI, October 17 to November 28, 2012.
- ❑ Kenyon College, Gambier, OH, April 23, 2012
- ❑ University of Michigan, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Ann Arbor, MI, February 28 to April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011.
- ❑ The Ohio State University, The Middle East Studies Center, Columbus, Ohio, May 16, 2008.
- ❑ Department of Art, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC, October 22, 2007.

- ❑ University of Chicago- Center for Middle Eastern Studies, July 8, 2000.
- ❑ Middlebury College, Vermont, June 30 to July 3, 1999.
- ❑ Muslim Community Center, Chicago, May 22, 1999.

## Demonstrations

- ❑ Ann Arbor Public Library, 3/10/2022
- ❑ International Coffee & Tea Festival- a celebration of various cultures, Detroit Institute of Art, Detroit, MI, January 21 & 22, 2017
- ❑ The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Week of Islamic Art and Culture, The Gallery of Dolan Science Center, John Carroll University, University Heights, OH, April 23, 24, 2009
- ❑ Innovation Trade Show, with the Dubai Tourism Office, Chicago, IL, September 26, 27, 2006
- ❑ Chicago Freedom Museum, May 2006

## Exhibits

- ❑ "Sculpting in Two Dimensions" University of Chicago, Logan Center for the Arts, University of Chicago, May 1<sup>st</sup> to June 14, 2023, **(Solo; Invited)**
- ❑ "Living Line: Living Legacy" with Mohamed Zakariya and few of his students as well as Davut Bektas, Qatar America Institute for Culture, Washington, DC, Apr. 10, 2022 to June 20, 2022
- ❑ "Gold, Ink, and Rose Water: Arabic and Islamic Calligraphy by Nihad Dukhan," Farmington Hills City Hall, Sept. 6 to Oct. 31, 2021, **(Solo; Invited)**
- ❑ "Islamic Arts Festival" with other artists, Huston, TX, (Virtual) Dec. 2020
- ❑ "The International Virtual Exhibition for the Arts of Arabic Calligraphy", Kuwait, Group of international artists, Started, October 25, 2020
- ❑ "Beauty in Solitude," with Mohamed Zakariya and three of his licensed students, Virtual Exhibit by the Reed Society for the Sacred Arts, May 24, 2020, on-going.
- ❑ "Islamic Arts Festival" with other artists, Huston, TX, Dec. 2019
- ❑ "Public Art Program," Farmington Hills City Hall, Dec. 12, 2018 to Dec. 12, 2020, invited.
- ❑ "Gifts of Art," University of Michigan Health System, September 17 - December 9, 2018 **(Solo)**
- ❑ "Master Hasan Celebi and His Students," Marmara Ilahiyat Mosque, Uskudar, Istanbul, Turkey, April 20 to May 7, 2018
- ❑ "Image and Meaning: Arabic Calligraphy Designs by Nihad Dukhan," University of Detroit Mercy, August 28 – October 27, 2017 **(Solo)**
- ❑ "Sculpting in Two Dimensions: Modern Calligraphy Designs by Nihad Dukhan," Süleyman Demirel Cultural Center, Istanbul Technical University (İTÜ AYZAĞA), Istanbul, Turkey, Feb. 26 to April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 **(Solo)**.
- ❑ "See No Evil: Classical Arabic/Islamic Calligraphy by Nihad Dukhan," Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304, Feb. 26 to April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 **(Solo)**
- ❑ "Spiritual Geometry: Modern and Classical Works from Michigan and Istanbul Collections," Süleyman Demirel Cultural Center, İTÜ AYZAĞA, Istanbul  
Ruhani Geometri: Modern ve Klasik Hat Sanatı Sergisi, Michigan ve İstanbul koleksiyonlarından. İTÜ AYZAĞA KAMPÜSÜ, SDKM VIP SALON, February 2 to 27, 2015 **(Solo)**

- ❑ “Contemporary Arabic Calligraphy by Nihad Dukhan,” Loyola Museum of Art, Chicago, Illinois, September 25 2010 to January 16, 2011 (**Solo**)
- ❑ Annual All Media Exhibition, Ann Arbor Art Center, Ann Arbor, MI, juried group artists, August 13 to September 26, 2010.
- ❑ “Syntax” Turchin Center for the Visual Arts, Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina, 4 invited artists, March 5 to June 5, 2010.
- ❑ “International Festival of Arabic Calligraphy,” Musée National de l'Enluminure, de la Miniature et de la Calligraphie, Algiers, Invited by Ministry of Culture, ALGERIA, May 28 to June 4, 2009
- ❑ “Exhibition of Islamic Calligraphy,” The Gallery of Dolan Science Center, John Carroll University, University Heights, OH, April 23, 24, 2009 (2-artist show).
- ❑ “Expression of Al-Nakba,” by [www.expressionsofnakaba.org](http://www.expressionsofnakaba.org). International Traveling Multi-Media Exhibit, May 15, 2008. (2 pieces among 24 selected from 300 international entries from 16 countries).
- ❑ “Arts for the Spirit,” Oakwood Hospital, Dearborn, MI, February 2008.
- ❑ “Arabic, Asian, and European Calligraphy Traditions from Ancient to Contemporary Times,” Mansfield Art Center, Mansfield, OH, June 24 to August 12, 2007.
- ❑ “An Alternative Space: Islamic Art in America,” Mizane Gallery, Reston, VA, June 29 to August 24, 2007.
- ❑ “National Islamic Art Festival,” National Islamic Arts and Culture Foundation, Reston, VA, May 19, 2007
- ❑ “Appreciating Arts,” Marvin Center, George Washington University, Washington, DC, 7 artists, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007.
- ❑ “Venus of Willendorf: Redefining the Goddess,” Duderstadt Gallery, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, group show, Feb. 9 - 27, 2007.
- ❑ “Calligraphy: The Art of Beautiful Writing,” Tresor Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA, Nov. 3- December 15, 2006.
- ❑ “Artists Among Us,” the Rotunda Gallery, organized by the Wayne County Council for the Arts, History and Humanities, Dearborn, MI, October 5-27, 2006
- ❑ “Every Curve, Every Dot,” **Solo** Exhibit, the Jerusalem Fund Art Gallery, Washington, DC, September 8 to October 27, 2006. (**Solo**)
- ❑ With “The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee,” 5<sup>th</sup> Convention, Arlington, VA, June 2002.
- ❑ Dearborn Heights City Hall: November 6 -December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000.
- ❑ University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Muslim Student Association, October 1<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, 2000.
- ❑ DePaul University- Department of Religious Studies: “Exploring Muslim Cultures”, March 31 to July 15, 2000, 2 Calligraphers.
- ❑ Lake County College- Illinois: “An Arabian Cultural Mosaic”, September 26, 1999.
- ❑ Milwaukee, Wisconsin - Arabian Festival, September 17-19, 1999.
- ❑ Chicago - Middle East Studies Association Conference. November 1998.
- ❑ Chicago- Gold Coast Art Fair, September 1999.
- ❑ Chicago- Wells Street Art Festival, June 1998, June 1999, June 2000.
- ❑ Toledo’s Botanical Gardens, Toledo, Ohio, June 1998.
- ❑ Brooklyn Museum of Art and the World Music Institute: “Fourth Festival of Arab World Culture”, New York, New York, May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 1998.
- ❑ Middle East Studies Association Conference, November 2008, Washington DC, 1997, San Francisco, California, November 1996, Providence, Rhode Island, Washington, DC, November 1995.

- Washington Square Art Festival, New York, New York, May 1997.

## Webinars

- “Conversation with Eryn Kroft, Curator of Special Collection of Islamic Manuscripts at University of Michigan”, Dec. 5, 2020.

## Podcast

- The Halal Metropolis Series featuring Muslim creatives in South East Michigan, University of Michigan, with Osman Khan, March 7, 2023.

## Permanent Collections

- The Smithsonian National Postal Museum
- The Arab American National Museum, Dearborn, MI, USA
- Istanbul Technical University, İTÜ, Ayazağa, Istanbul, Turkey

## News Coverage/Profiles

- in Findings, the magazine of the Public Health program at University of Michigan, Spring issue, June 13, 2023: <https://sph.umich.edu/findings/spring-2023/nihad-dukhan.html>
- Khalil A. Assali, “Modern Arabic Calligraphy by Nihad Dukhan,” Special Interview, Akhbar Albalad, 3/29/2023. In Arabic: <https://akhbarelbalad.net/ar/1/10/7318/>
- Ricky Lindsay, “A Stroke of the Pen: Engineering Professor Finds Beauty, Renown with Calligraphy,” Spiritus Magazine - Spring 2021 Issue | University of Detroit Mercy.
- Eleni Zaras, “Calligrapher Nihad Dukhan Respects Tradition as He Creates Modern Designs,” Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, Vol. XXXIX, No. 5, August/September 2020, pp. 49-51
- Interview with Karbala TV channel, USA, February 9, 2019
- “Arabic Calligraphy Artwork Now On Display at Taubman,” Michigan Medicine Headlines, September 20, 2018
- “Tibbits puts on different kinds of cultural experiences,” The Daily Reporter, Coldwater, MI, Oct 4, 2015
- Interview with Radio Tahrir (99.5 FM WBAI New York) with Barbara Nimri Aziz, June 20, 2006.
- “Limelite: The Inspired Pen of Nihad Dukhan,” Shems, Arab American Life Magazine, No. 4, Spring 2005, pp. 10-15.
- “Abbar: Building Bridges,” EYE, the International Review of Graphics Design, 50, Vol. 13, Winter 2003, pp.37. A design of the word ‘Allah’ was included as an example of modern Arabic calligraphy.
- “Arabic Calligraphy from Antiquity to the Contemporary,” The Art Paper, Journal of Boulder Art Commission, Vol. 3, Issue 6, Boulder, CO, January 2003.
- “After the Fall: Artists for Peace, Justice and Civil Liberties,” Special Features, [WWW.TAPArts.org](http://WWW.TAPArts.org), May-June, 2002.
- “Contemporary Calligraphy,” Islamic Reflections, Islamic Foundation of Greater St. Louis, Vol. 15, Issue 3, St. Louis, MO, September 2002.
- “The Art of Calligraphy,” Royal Wings, magazine of the Royal Jordanian Airlines, July-August 2001, pp. 28-30.

- “A Work of Inspired Art: Arabic Calligraphy and the Contemporary Designs of Nihad Dukhan,” Muslim Journal, Chicago, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2001.
- “Arabic Calligraphy: In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century—the Letter of Arab Culture,” The Arab American View, Chicago, August 2000
- “Arabic Calligraphy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century- the Letter of Arab Culture” The Arab American Journal, Detroit, Volume III, No. 51, July 21, 2000
- “Khatt Arabi Hadith ‘al Al Internet,” in Arabic, Almajalla, London, No. 1016, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 1999
- “Calligrapher Breaks All the Rules,” Planetarabia, an Internet magazine, August, 1999
- “Arabic Art Displayed,” Washington Square News- New York University newspaper, New York, Volume 26, No. 13, September 17, 1997
- “Arts in the Spotlight” News Journal, Mansfield, Ohio, July 28, 1996
- “Art Brings Thousands Together at UT Mall,” The Blade, Toledo, Ohio, July 11, 1994

## **Bibliography**

- Mohamed Zakariya, the Avant la Lettre of Islamic Calligraphy in North America, in Mohamed Zakariya – A 21st century Master Calligrapher, Editor: Nancy Micklewright, Fons Vitae, Louisville, KY, Sept. 2022
- Article in “Encyclopedia of Arab American Artists,” Series: Artists of the American Mosaic. By Faye S. Oweis, Greenwood Publishing Group, 2007. ISBN: 0-313-33730-6. Featuring about 100 Arab American Visual Artists
- Book “Contemporary Arabic Calligraphy,” in Arabic and English, The Palm Press, Cairo, Egypt, October 2002.
- Article “Comments on the Modern and the Traditional in Arabic Calligraphy,” [www.arabictypography.com](http://www.arabictypography.com) a web site in the Netherlands devoted to research and experiments in Arabic Typography for the calligraphers and the graphic designers, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2002.
- Article, “Arabic Calligraphy Spiritual Geometry” in Arab Heritage Curriculum Resource Guide,, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago, February 2001
- Article, “Arabic Calligraphy,” A Different Path, an Anthology of the Radius of Arab American Writers, Edited by D. H. Melhem & Leila Diab, Ridgeway Press, Roseville, MI, October 2000.

## **Selected Commissions**

- School of Public Health, University of Michigan, March 2023
- United States Postal Service, Washington, DC
- Composer / Virtuoso: Simon Shaheen, New York, NY
- Loyola Museum of Art, Chicago, IL
- Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University, Washington, DC.
- Khayal Consultants, Kuwait
- AYA Global Communications, Montreal, Canada
- Perto Canda, Alberta, Canada
- Florida State University, Middle East Center, Department of Modern Languages

- Injazat, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- Shefa, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- Dubai Tourism Office, New York, NY
- University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA
- Arab and Muslim American Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- Arabic Program, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- Religious Studies, DePaul University, Chicago, IL
- R. A. Quick Center for the Arts, St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, NY
- Oakwood Healthcare System, Michigan
- Effet College, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia