

Arabic Calligraphy

Calligraphy is one of the world's most ancient and respected art forms. Although calligraphic writings did exist in Arabia even before Islam, but the written word acquired unparalleled significance with the arrival of Islam and Muslims made significant developments in this practice. The Prophet (SAW) is related to have said: "The first thing Allah (SWT) created was the pen." The development of Islamic calligraphy is strongly tied to the Quran and calligraphers were among the most highly regarded artists in Islamic societies. However, Arabic calligraphy is not limited to strictly religious subjects but encompasses a wide variety of contexts.

Calligraphy has been used in the Islamic world to a much greater extent and in astonishingly varied and imaginative ways than the various types of decorative writing in other languages. The first formal calligraphic style is called the Kufic style after the city of Kufah in Iraq. It features angular letters, horizontal format and thick extended strokes.

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