



## DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

### Congratulations

The Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia was indeed proud that the Prime Minister of Malaysia celebrated the museum's 15th anniversary and launched the exhibition *Nun Wa al Qalam*; Contemporary Muslim Calligraphy. On this auspicious occasion, I would like to thank all the IAMM family, whose contributions have led to the success of not only this exhibition and celebration but to the advancement of our museum. Today IAMM is the most visited museum in Kuala Lumpur according to the world's largest travel site, the TripAdvisor, and the first to provide an android mobile application to guide visitors through the current exhibition Contemporary Muslim Calligraphy.

Syed Mohamad Albukhary

# Nun Wa al Qalam

## Contemporary Muslim Calligraphy

### The Collection of the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia



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*Top page header calligraphy by Nja Mahdaoui*

Celebrating its 15th anniversary, the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia (IAMM) launched the "*Nun Wa al Qalam: Contemporary Muslim Calligraphy*" exhibition on December 9th, 2013. The exhibition was officiated by The Prime Minister of Malaysia YAB Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, and Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

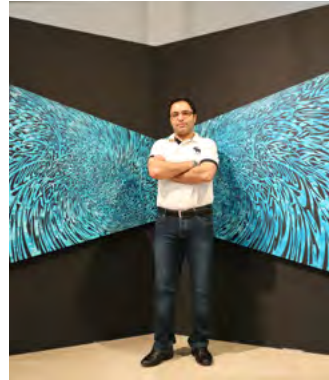
The exhibition showcases over 100 artworks from the IAMM collection, featuring the works of 36 artists from Japan, China, Malaysia, Iran, Egypt, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia and Syria. The artworks reflect the liberation of calligraphy from the boundaries of languages, allowing the letters and words to free float on the canvas surfaces. The artworks turn into symphonies of colour and shapes and spiritually inspiring compositions.





# MEET THE ARTIST

IAMM's celebration included a "meet the artist" session on the 10th of December. During these hours, Malaysia's art and calligraphy enthusiasts had the chance of meeting, the 10 artists and talk about their displayed work. The artists were also happy to be interviewed by the local press and even demonstrate their calligraphy. The event was a huge success, as it was an opportunity to learn directly from the Masters.



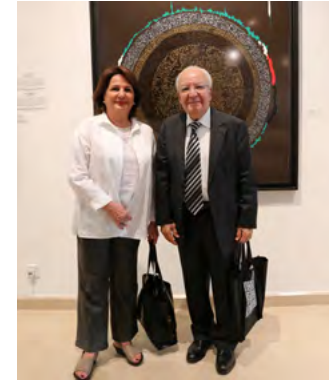
Mohammad Bozorgi  
(Iran)



Ali Reza Mohebi  
(Iran)



Sameh Ismael  
(Egypt)



Nja Mahdaoui (Tunisia) &  
Farah Hakemi



Mohsen Daeinabi  
(Iran)



Ola Hejazi  
(Saudi Arabia)



Mouneer el Shaarani  
(Syria)



Ahmad Mohammadpour  
(Iran)



Azra Aghighi Bakhshayeshi  
(Iran)



Ali Reza Saadatmand  
(Iran)



Einoddin Sadeghzadeh  
(Iran)

VISIT BY SHEIKH KHALID AL-GHAMDI, IMAM OF MASJID AL-HARAM ACCOMPANIED BY TAN SRI DATO' SHAIKH HJ. ISMAIL MUHAMMAD IMAM OF NATIONAL MOSQUE OF MALAYSIA  
Date: 6th DECEMBER 2013



VISIT BY MR. MOHAMMED WAHEED HASSAN, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE MALDIVES  
Date: 6th DECEMBER 2013



## New Acquisitions



Enamelled gold turban ornament in the form of a parrot (turra)  
North India  
19th century AD/ 13th century AH



Illuminated Qur'an copied by Ahmad al-Nayrizi,  
dedicated to Fath 'Ali Shah  
Persia, Qajar,  
1700 AD /1112 AH  
Illumination dated 1821 AD/ 1237 AH



Two folios of Shahnama (The Book of Kings) by Firdawsi  
Deccan, India  
First half of 17th century AD/ 11th century AH

## Educational activities



### Calligraphy Demonstration

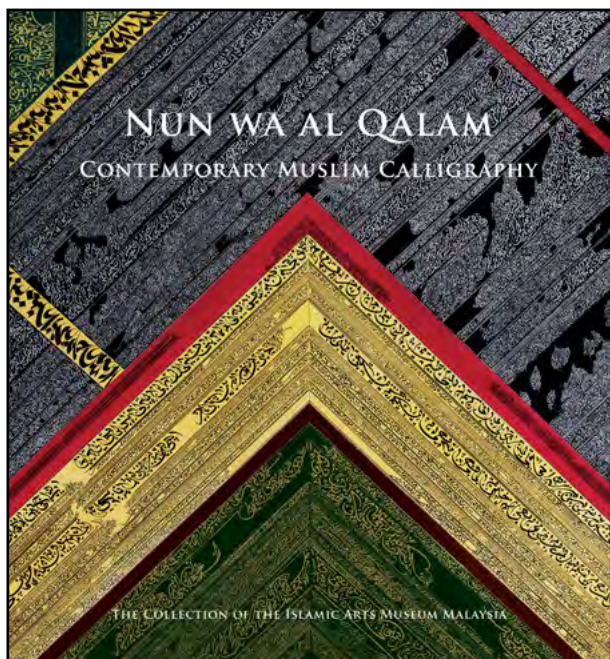
A workshop and demonstration by three creative artists took place on the 12th December 2013. Three artists who talked and demonstrated their works in front of the young Malaysian calligraphers were: Sameh Ismael (Egypt), Ola Hejazi (Saudi Arabia) and the youngest artist in the display Ahmad Dhiya' bin Abdul Ghafur (Malaysia). They not only revealed the secrets of their styles and techniques but enthusiastically shared with the public their memories and careers. Many thanks go to Sameh, Ola and Dhiya' for their contribution in making these three hours a memorable session.



### Manifestasi Perdana Seni Khat 2013

Islamic calligraphy has gained a special place in the hearts of Malaysians. The enduring beauty and subtlety of Islamic calligraphy continually encourages calligraphers to create their best work, without breaking the rules and traditions that have been set. Hence, the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia (IAMM), in cooperation with the National Calligraphy Association (Persatuan Seni Khat Kebangsaan), and with the support of Bank Muamalat Malaysia Berhad, Kumpulan Utusan, TV AlHijrah and Radio IKIM, has organising the fifth Manifestasi Perdana Seni Khat. The competition was held in Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia on 21st December 2013.





## NUN WA AL QALAM: CONTEMPORARY MUSLIM CALLIGRAPHY

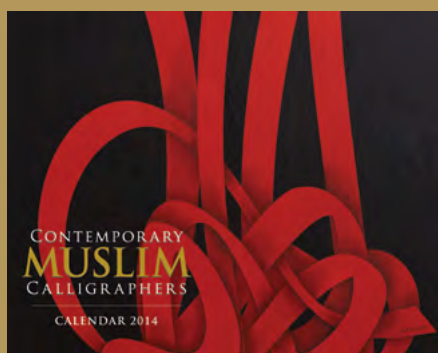
The exhibition and accompanying catalogue, entitled "Nun Wa Al Qalam: Contemporary Muslim Calligraphy" A collection of the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia presents the enigmatic and mystical artworks of 36 artists from 8 different countries. Contemporary Muslim Calligraphy or the art of beautiful writing inspires the world today as it did for 1400 years. Calligraphy unified the Arts of Islam from around the world, and contributed to the splendour of its cultural heritage. Certainly the Holy Qur'an was the main inspiration for the beautification of God's words and thus played a major role in the evolution and development of the Arabic script and its adaptation to other languages. Yet in the contemporary world, Muslim calligraphy went beyond the traditional approaches, venturing with new approaches in media, form, content and design. The letters and words start to attain new dimensions and inspirations.

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## Great selections@Museum Shop



In conjunction with the exhibition and catalogue of "Nun wa al Qalam", the IAMM Gift & Bookshop prepared some outstanding products available for purchase. A series of mugs with details of calligraphy in monochrome and polychrome effect stand out. Furthermore, plaques in ceramics and reproductions of the beautiful IAMM calligraphy collection were produced as framed wall hangings for home adornment. Furthermore, a 2014 calendar featuring 12 outstanding calligraphy works is currently available for 16 Malaysian Ringgit (MYR).



Mugs with variety designs  
Rm 15.00 each

Wall hangings (framed tiles)  
From Rm 190.00 -  
Rm 250.00

Desktop Calendar 2014  
Rm 16.00 each



## TRAVELLERS' CHOICE ATTRACTIONS AWARD

TripAdvisor, the world's largest travel site, has awarded the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia (IAMM) with the 2013 Travellers' Choice Attractions Award. In its inaugural year, the award honours 1,264 of the world's top landmarks, parks and museums, as well as amusement and water parks. The winners of the 2013 Travellers' Choice Attractions are selected based on millions of valuable feedback, reviews and opinions from TripAdvisor travellers from around the world. Currently, TripAdvisor lists more than 300,000 attractions on its website and the award was introduced to highlight the best destinations that travellers enjoyed visiting".



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