

Author's Abstract:

This lecture engages two provocative notions of Arabic/Islamic calligraphy. First it looks at the art as a continuously moving entity. The word 'motion' is applied at several levels of its meaning. The rhythm of the pen strokes and the flow of energy from right to left are considered. The motion of calligraphy as an art form from its primary function to other artistic functions, such as identifiable shapes and figures, and as a medium of visual communication, is illustrated. The common concepts of motion both in the chronological sense through history, and in space are both applied, first to the development and refinement of the Arabic script, and to the travel of the script and the Arabic/Islamic calligraphy from their early origins to different geographical regions throughout the world. The other important notion in this fresh discussion of the art of Arabic/Islamic calligraphy is its relation to Arab diasporas. Due to its reverential dimension and sacred quality, this particular art form is the most-used visual device by Arab diasporas to assert their identities, and the connection with the history and achievement of the "mother land". The effect of diasporas on the art of Arabic/Islamic calligraphy is also discussed by considering some new techniques, aesthetics and attitudes of the calligraphers in the diaspora and their production.

"Arabic/Islamic Calligraphy: Letters in Motion"

**Thursday, March 23, 12:30-2:30pm
2165 Social Science Building, UM-D**

**Center for Arab American Studies,
University of Michigan Dearborn
Mapping Arab Diasporas Colloquium Series
with:**

PROF. NIHAD DUKHAN

- **Trained in classical styles of Arabic calligraphy**
- **Calligraphic designer for wedding invitations, greeting cards, book covers, CD jackets, and company logos**
- **Calligraphic work exhibited in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Washington DC, Detroit and other US cities**
- **Professor of Mechanical Engineering, University of Detroit- Mercy**

Free and open to the public. Space is limited.
Please **RSVP** by 5pm, Wednesday, March 22, 2005 to caasumd@umd.umich.edu or call 313.583.6334.

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