

## **ПЛАТФОРМА 2:**

### ***Професійне становлення фахівців в епоху глобалізації:***

#### ***досвід, проблеми, перспективи***

**Аззаарі Алі**

Київський національний університет

технологій та дизайну(м. Київ)

**Науковий керівник – професор Михайлова Р.Д.**

### **ARABIC CALLIGRAPHY: ELEMENTS AND FEATURES**

**The results of the study.** Among various types of Islamic art, calligraphy is considered as a manifestation of the human spiritual dimension in its best forms: the height of the thought, the wealth of the inner world.

Arabic calligraphy is an important part of Islamic culture. Due to the ban on the image of Allah, the Prophet Muhammad, and living beings in general, calligraphy in Muslim countries is regarded as a special art - the beauty of the letter, the "beauty of writing." For many centuries, the writing of kufi (الكوفي) has expressed the "beauty of writing", which is characterized by straightforward geometrically verified letters. Until the XII century it had been used for writing suras of the Holy Quran. Calligraphy is rhythmically subordinated to the measured rhythm of their reading and visually expresses the content of the holy book of Muslims. The essence of the Qur'an is to transmit the prophecies of Muhammad, whose mission was to spread Islam. Calligraphy was thus a means of spreading the content of the "divine message" embodied in the Qur'an.

As a form of fine art, calligraphy embodied high artistic features and took its own place among other forms of art, becoming a separate type of art. The creativity has made it attractive to artists for centuries, and remains so nowadays: calligraphy is interesting for study and use in modern graphic styles [3].

Arabic calligraphy is characterized as “the art of beautiful writing”, “the correct formation of symbols”, “ordering of elements”, “harmony of proportions”. There are six handwritings or styles that are considered canonical, these are: naskh - correspondence style, muhakkak - expressive neat letters, rayhani - exquisite letters like "basil flower", suls – solemn letters with curved and rectilinear elements, which are correlated in proportions 1: 3, tauki (decree) - a font in the form of small letters, Rika - cursive font. All six styles are based on the Hatt Mansub system – the “statutory letter”, which determines the proportional ratios of the vertical and horizontal elements of letters in a word and line. It was invented by a calligrapher from Baghdad Ibn Mukloy in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. Calligraphy has its own rules of composition, rhythm, harmony. The writing of the elements, that is, the creation of the “beauty of form” in Arabic calligraphy is created with help of a cane pen. It is called kalam. The method of its preparation - sharpening, depended on the chosen style of calligraphy and the traditions of the school of writing.

Calligraphy also has an influence on contemporary design [1]. With the development of advertising and web design, modern designers began to use calligraphy in various fields of printing (lettering for the cover of a book, album), clothing (prints, logos), outdoor and audio advertising [2]. A new modern approach to the use of Arabic calligraphy was demonstrated, for example, by the exhibits of the graphic arts exhibition “Beyond the Letters” at the Museum of Islamic Art in Malaysia (2018). So, the Japanese artist Fuad Honda with the help of calligraphy elements reflected the philosophical understanding of natural phenomena: waves in the ocean, plants growing in the ground, arid desert, the rhythmic configuration of the dunes under the scorching sun. All this is presented in his works as an universal cosmic order, sanctified by the divine forces of nature (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Fuad Honda. Works of 2018.

In 2019 a collection of works created using calligraphy was presented by the artist Manal Dieb, who in search of a new artistic language and style, combined images and calligraphy. The plot basis of his works was the theme of the impact of war on the life and fate of children (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2. Manal Dieb. Works of 2019

**Conclusion.** The art of calligraphy in Arabic countries has a long tradition. Calligraphy, which continues to play an important role in religion, education, and art remains an important element of Arabic culture. Formed in antiquity, it was developed in the Middle Ages and demonstrated significant achievements in the following centuries. The changes that take place in the Arab countries in the XX-XXI centuries, contribute to the emergence of new ideas in art, the search for new artistic opportunities for the modern use of the traditional art of calligraphy in graphics and design. New approaches, different from traditional ones, demonstrate results that are no less significant in content and semantic meaning.

**Key words.** Design, Islamic art, Arabic calligraphy, language of art, modern style.

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