

Welcome



Introduction to the Art of Illumination

G25100104

with Behnaz Karjoo
October 6-10, 2025

Dear Participant,

Thank you for registering for the Islamic Illumination (Tazhib) workshop. I'm so glad you'll be joining us for this special opportunity to explore the rich, centuries-old tradition of manuscript decoration through gold and intricate design.

My name is Behnaz Karjoo, and I'll be guiding you through the foundational techniques of this beautiful art form. Drawing from my training in traditional Tazhib and my continued practice in classical Islamic arts, I look forward to sharing both the history and hands-on methods of illumination with you.

In our session, you'll be introduced to the tools and materials used in traditional illumination. We'll then work step by step on a small design using imitation gold and gouache. All materials will be provided, and no prior experience is necessary—just bring your patience and curiosity.

I look forward to creating with you soon!

Warmly,
Behnaz Karjoo

Welcome



Introduction to the Art of Illumination

G25100104

with Behnaz Karjoo

October 6-10, 2025

SCHEDULE:

Day 1 – October 7:

Introduction & Design Transfer (Class time: 9:00 AM - Noon; Afternoons free time)

- Welcome and introduction to the art of Islamic illumination (Tazhib)
- Overview of historical context, tools, and materials
- Demonstration of the design transfer process
- Participants trace and transfer a small traditional design onto final paper

Day 2 – October 8:

Painting Techniques & Gold Work (Class time: 9:00 AM - Noon; Afternoons free time)

- Introduction to painting techniques using fine brushes
- Demonstration and practice of painting with imitation gold
- Application of imitation gold to selected areas
- Outlining the gold with fine brushwork

Day 3 – October 9:

Color & Finishing (Class time: 9:00 AM - Noon; Afternoons free time)

- Painting the flowers
- Applying the background (ground) color
- Final detailing and finishing touches
- Group reflection and optional Q&A