



## The Art of Illumination

G26090305

with Behnaz Karjoo

September 20-25, 2026

Dear Participant,

Thank you for registering for “The Art of 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 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

**Workshop Itinerary:**

1st Evening – September 20 (7:00 PM – 8 PM): Welcome & Introduction

- Welcome and introduction to the art of illumination (Tazhib)
  - Lecture on historical context, tools, and materials
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Day 1 – September 21 (9:00 AM – 12:00 PM): Design Transfer & Brush Techniques

- Demonstration of the design transfer process
  - Participants trace and transfer a small traditional design onto final paper
  - Introduction to painting techniques using fine brushes
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Day 2 – September 22 (9:00 AM – 12:00 PM): Gold Work

- Demonstration and practice of painting with gold
  - Application of gold to selected areas
  - Burnishing the gold
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Day 3 – September 23 (9:00 AM – 12:00 PM): Outlining the Gold

- Demonstration and practice of outlining the gold with black gouache
  - Outlining the gold with fine brushwork
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Day 4 – September 24 (9:00 AM – 12:00 PM): Color & Finishing

- Painting the flowers
- Applying the background (ground) color

# GHOST RANCH



- Final detailing and finishing touches
- Group reflection and optional Q&A