

Islamic Miniature Painting between Concept and Metaphorical Expression

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Islamic miniature paintings are one of the important heritages in Islamic history, due to their philosophical, technical and conceptual value. Miniature painting is mainly defined as the small drawings found in manuscripts and represent the Islamic paintings that used in historical and scientific books. The 1235 to 1350 century is considered the golden age of miniature paintings which was categorized by using various subjects in its visual structure, while figurative drawing appeared started to appear in Arabic Manuscripts in the thirteen century and reached its highest in *Maqamat Alhariri* and *kalilah wa dumnah* manuscripts (Kuzam, 1995). The artist rich cultural, religious and ideological background helped in formulating the Islamic artistic identity in that era. Artist in Saudi Arabia have displayed visual interest in miniature painting, yet, there is a clear lack of utilizing the philosophical content in their art work. This clearly highlight the dilemma of searching for individuality Saudi Arabian facing between ideology in the new technological era. This resulted in the conflict human soul to become tangled between metaphorical wording and metaphysical thinking. The research problem is formulated in the following question; can we present new contemporary vision to miniature Islamic painting in contemporary drawing and painting practice that utilizes the philosophical content of the Islamic miniature painting. The research aims to benefit from the aesthetic historical resources of the Islamic miniature painting through the following points;

- 1- Define the philosophical assets that formulated the aesthetic vision of Islamic miniature painting.
- 2- Analysis the contemporary vision of Islamic miniature paintings.
- 3- Utilizes contemporary drawing and painting techniques.
- 4- Presents contemporary vision of Islamic miniature that depend on presenting contemporary issues and philosophical content interest.

The important of the research lays on the following points;

- 1- Identify the relationship between Islamic art and contemporary art practice

- 2- Introduce a contemporary Islamic vision to Islamic philosophy that formulated the aesthetic vision of miniature paintings
- 3- Enriching the artistic platform with tradition Islamic art
- 4- Present a contemporary artistic vision of Islamic miniature painting that is relied on the representation of contemporary artistic issues interested with philosophical content

Research theoretical framework will pivot around the Islamic miniature painting and contemporary art philosophical and technical aspects.

Research methodology is structured by both descriptive and experimental research to present contemporary visual aesthetic benefiting form Islamic miniature painting.

Research Experiments

The research experiment focuses on benefiting from the conceptual Islamic philosophical theory that is related to Islamic Art. Relying on both the spiritual state and moments of encounter, and the spiritual state and stability to present work of art that expresses the divers feeling of the soul. This is reflected in the asymmetric and the struggle of spiritual state which depends on thought, concept and technique though the metaphor and conceptual and intellectual narrative of these elements and connections to present philosophical artistic vision through artistic experiment that discusses social issues in the society.



The research experiment presented in addition, the element of research as an essential tool in the process of intellectual, ideological and spiritual art practice that helps in clearing the waste of the soul.



The research benefited from the use of the idiomatic terminology definition of Islamic miniature painting to broaden the vision aspect by introducing movement in the pictorial image through interactive with the current reality.



Research Conclusion

- 1-There is a strong relationship between the artistic structure of the Islamic Miniature painting and the contemporary art practice that we could benefit from, to present contemporary aesthetic vision
- 2-Benefiting from different element in the Islamic Miniature painting enriches the artists culturally and aesthetically
- 3- Broaden the artist intellectual and artistic vision supports and benefit the artist's artistic practice
- 4-Contemporary painting is an aesthetic reflection to the artist society, life and economical, historical and cultural conditions that reflected its production which effects the artwork of the artists
- 5-Benefiting from the philosophical concepts in Islamic art help in bridging the gap between our Islamic society and between the contemporary artistic artwork
- 6-Interdisciplinary enriches the artistic cultural outcomes of the Saudi Arabian art practice significantly