

Decorative Arts in the Middle East

Vocabulary

Arabesque – The arabesque design begins with an underlying geometric grid. This formula is used to create a repetition of vines and scrolls. Continuous stems regularly branch out to create new stems, which again split off or reintegrate back into the rhythmic whole.

Embroidery – Embroidery is the artistic technique of using a needle and thread to stitch designs onto fabric.

Illumination – Illumination is the addition of stylized letters, embellished borders and miniature art to a manuscript, or a book. It is similar to the function of graphic design today, because it was used to separate texts and make the manuscript aesthetically appealing. It is also similar to illustration in books today, because illumination includes the art of miniature.

Lale – *Lale* is the Turkish word for “Tulip,” a very common motif in the region’s decorative arts.

Marbling – Marbling, also known as *Ebru* in Turkish, is the process of creating marble-like designs on paper.

Miniature – Miniatures are small, highly detailed paintings used to portray anything from daily events to historical accounts to ancient tales. Miniatures are filled with patterns, motifs, buildings, people, animals and plantlife.

Monoprint – A monoprint is a type of print, where only one piece can be made at a time. Individual designs cannot be reproduced, so no two are exactly alike.

Motifs – Motifs are a repeated form, image or symbol used to form a pattern.

Perspective - In drawing, perspective is a technique that represents a three-dimensional environment on a two-dimensional surface, similar to how the eye sees the environment. For example, objects further away are smaller in size.

Representational – In artistic terms, representational art refers to artwork that uses imagery to represent the likeness of something through the reproduction of it.

Size – Size is the process used to treat or protect the surface of paper. In marbling, after the paper has been treated, it is placed in the tray and only picks up only the colors floating on the surface.