

University News

Appalachian State University

Program on Arabic calligraphy presented Oct. 22 at Appalachian

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BOONE— A lecture on the art and history of Arabic calligraphy will be presented by Dr. Nihad Dukhan Oct. 22 at Appalachian State University. The lecture begins at 7 p.m. in I.G. Greer Auditorium and is open to the public.

Dukhan is an artist and a scholar of the history, development, styles and philosophy of Arabic calligraphy and of its relation to Arab and Islamic identities, languages and cultures. He will discuss the history and development of Arabic calligraphy from the 7th century until today.

The lecture will be illustrated with numerous examples from different periods and many geographical regions and ends with examples of Dukhan's modern style of calligraphy.

“Arabic/Islamic calligraphy possesses a visual impact that delights and invites the viewer to meditation,” Dukhan said. “With my designs I would like to cross barriers and directly touch people who come from diverse cultures and speak different languages.”

Dukha's interest in Arabic calligraphy began when he was in the sixth grade. He started pursuing and refining his art around 1989. His work has been exhibited in major U.S. cities and sold in the United States, Europe, the Middle East and Japan. His commissioned designs include wedding invitations, book covers, CD jackets, company logos and others. To polish his training in the classical styles of Arabic/Islamic calligraphy, he became a student of the noted Istanbul master calligrapher Hasan Celibi in Thuluth and Naskh styles in 1998. In 2006, he became a student of Mohamed Zakariya in Taliq style.

Dukhan was born in 1964 in the Gaza Strip, Palestine. He immigrated to Ohio in 1983. He received his Ph.D. in 1996 in mechanical engineering from the University of Toledo. He is an



These examples of modern Arabic calligraphy were created by Nihad Dukhan, an artist and scholar of the history, development, styles and philosophy of Arabic calligraphy. Dukhan will present a program on Arabic calligraphy Oct. 22 at Appalachian State University.

associate professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Detroit Mercy.

The presentation is supported by an External Scholar Grant from the Office of Academic Affairs, as well as funding from Belk Library and Information Commons, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of Art and the Department of Philosophy and Religion.

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