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National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage -Arabic calligraphy

Number	Name of the element	The location and environment of the element	Details of the element
07/005 <input type="checkbox"/>	Arabic calligraphy	Kingdom-wide, with concentrations in the central, Hijaz and eastern regions	<p>Arabic Calligraphy is the art of writing and designing with Arabic letters.</p> <p>There are two main stage in teaching the Arabic Calligraphy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The stage of teaching calligraphy</li> <li>• The stage of enhancing calligraphy</li> </ul> <p>The first stage starts with teaching basic writing skills, once letters are learned and are written in their cursive and individual forms, the second stage starts which is the stage of enhancing what an individual has learned in the first stage.</p> <p>Arabic Calligraphy requires special tools like the Qalams (reed or bamboo stems), Qalams with beak, ink mixed with Arabic gum, and "Muqahar" or "Ahar" paper.</p> <p>Arabic Calligraphy also requires the preparation of the tools like sharpening the pens or "Qalams" used for writing and treating the paper and mixing the ink.</p> <p>The main tools used for Arabic Calligraphy:</p>





١. The Qalam is sharpened in four stages:
  - "Alfat'h" or the opening: which means opening the tip of the reed with a diagonal shape
  - "Alnaht" or the carving: which is carving the margins making them equal on both sides, so that one of the two sides does not weaken. Carving also includes the inside of the Qalam.
  - "Alshaq" or the cutting: in which the tip of the Qalam is split into two teeth for the ink to flow through
  - "Alqat" which means cutting the tip of the qalam

holding the qalam needs special care where the four fingers excluding the thumb are arranged and the Qalam rests on three fingers each has a it's own task.

٢. The ink "Almadad"
٣. Aldawat: the vessel in which the ink is put
٤. "Muqahar" or "Ahar" paper. A paper which is treated and purified and transformed into smooth paper suitable for writing

Types of Arabic Calligraphy vary, and it's distinguished by its letters that are connected and dotted, the calligraphers throughout time have shown massive creativity in shaping the calligraphy and setting the rules of this Arabic Art.







- The most prominent types of Arabic Calligraphy are:
- "Altomar" distinguished by its large scale, clear parameters and accurate ends making it suitable for big art pieces and murals.
- "Alkufi" the oldest form of the Arabic calligraphy. It consists of a modified form of the old Nabataean script. The most important formats are 1- simple Kufi 2- Square Kufi 3- Lush Kufi- 4- Flowered Kufi 5- Twined Kufi 6- Moroccan Kufi
- "Althuluth" known as "the mother of calligraphy". Its the hardest type to calligraphy in mastering its letters accurately. It is considered the most beautiful and most used artistically.
- "Alnaskh" it is the type commonly used for writing the Holy Quran
- "Aldiwani" known for the curvature of its letters that almost look like waves. The most common type of which is "Aldiwani Aljali" which means clear.
- "Alruqaa" a later style of calligraphy derived from "Althuluth" and "Alnaskh".









