

Meliha Teparić

Islamic Calligraphy and Visions

The visionary aspect of Islamic calligraphic art has most directly affected its formation, as well as the aesthetics itself. This art was often attributed a mystical dimension, as it was strictly under the influence of spirituality, the Divine message and the intensity of that message, and later through Sufism, it was immersed in deep symbolism too. Respecting holy people was one of the most important characteristics of Sufism, which reflected directly onto the art, to which they were prone, especially the Mawlawi and Bektashi Sufi orders. Sufis or mystics, as they are known in the West, were committed to cultivating this tradition of transmitting knowledge, so that many of them practiced rituals in calligraphic art. Many authors stress a characteristic Sufi meditation of "invoking God's names" (*dhikr*) as one of the important factors for reaching aesthetics, i.e. ability to 'see' its inner beauty and finally realise it. It is a little surprising that many eminent calligraphic artists were themselves Sufi teachers-mystics or their followers, disciples, who had set artistic standards that became canonical. Thus, characteristic calligraphic works were created, with unusual compositions and visual content, which became specific to Sufi calligraphic art. In this paper my aim is to present the calligraphic compositions, which possess some enigmatic quality, symbolism. It is believed that letters have a magical character, through the characteristic forms of the letters themselves, their separate meaning and symbolism, as well as their numeric value. Calligraphic art is by and large based on visions from the spiritual world, since its inception further through various forms of manifestation.