

Sixteenth Edition





The Award reinforces the key role of the UAE in supporting Islamic art through its efforts to preserve the artistic heritage of the Islamic civilisation and promote outstanding artworks to a global audience.

HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation





The UAE leads many international initiatives aimed at the preservation of Islamic arts as part of its extensive efforts to preserve the cultural heritage of humanity and to highlight the aesthetics of Islamic art and its contributions to the local and global cultural landscape.

HE Noura Al KaabiMinister of Culture and Youth



The Ministry of Culture and Youth launched the **Al Burda Award** in AH 1425 / 2004 AD to commemorate the birthday of Prophet Mohammed (God's blessing and peace be upon him). Now in its 16th edition, it positions itself as a global platform that adopts the diversity of Islamic culture and its aesthetic practices and seeks to revitalize the Islamic culture and artistic movement. As the Ministry introduces the Al Burda Festival and an Endowment in 2018, the Al Burda Award continues to position the UAE as a champion of creativity in the Islamic art field.

The award recognizes creativity and excellence in the practice of traditional Islamic disciplines and pays tribute to the complexity of the Arabic language through receiving original submissions from poets, calligraphers, and artists whose work is inspired by the Prophet Mohammed, the Holy Quran, and hadiths. As of 2018, over 300 winners have been awarded in recognition of their distinguished work.

Al Burda Award h	as traditionally	celebrated 3	disciplines:

- Poetry (Classical and Nabati)
- Calligraphy (Classical and modern)
- Ornamentation

In a bid to expand the creative facets of the Award, the 16th edition introduces a new 4th category:

Arabic Typography

Objectives

By celebrating the honorable biography and character of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) on the anniversaries of his birthday, the Al Burda Award aims to:

- Celebrate Islamic arts as a gateway to cultural communication with the world and as part of global heritage.
- Highlight values and principles of tolerance through celebrating the aesthetics of Islamic arts.
- Strengthen innovation and creativity through motivating emerging talents in their practice of traditional Islamic arts.
- Represent the Islamic world through the participation of creatives in the fields of poetry, calligraphy and ornamentation.
- Reflect the cultural and intellectual diversity of the Islamic world through traditional Islamic art disciplines.
- Support emerging and young creatives in regenerating traditional art through the use of technology.

P o e t r y Discipline

A Brief on Poetry

Al Burda Award recognizes poetry as a medium that highlights the life and character of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) through the art of language and the power of verbal expression. Receiving submissions for both classical and Nabati poetry, the award simultaneously celebrates the beauty of the Arabic language and the literary heritage of the Arab and Islamic world. In a sense, the poetry category is a literal reflection of the award's namesake, 'Al Burda', derived from Qasidat Al Burda, or Ode of the Mantle, which is an epic poem for the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH), authored by the 12th century Sufi mystic Imam Al Busiri.

Criteria and Prize

Classical Poetry

Criteria

- The poem topic is about the birth of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) or any part of his noble biography.
- The poem should be written in the style and form of either vertical or free verse (tafilah) poetry.
- The poem should be an original, newly-produced work solely by the applicant.
- If the poem is vertical, it should be between 15 to 30 verses.
- If the poem is free verse (tafilah), it should be between 20-35 sections.

Prize Money

 1st place
 2nd place
 3rd place
 4th place

 70,000
 50,000
 40,000
 20,000

 AED
 AED
 AED
 AED

Total
180,000
AED

Criteria and Prize

Nabati Poetry

Criteria

- The poem topic is about the birth of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) or any part of his noble biography.
- The poem should be written in the style and form of Nabati poetry.
- The poem should be an original, newly-produced work solely by the applicant.
- The poem should be between 15 to 30 verses.



Total
180,000
AED

Calligraphy Discipline

A Brief on Calligraphy

Calligraphy is one of the most versatile, disciplined and rich practices of Islamic art, and has rooted itself as a highly respected tradition in Islamic culture. Islamic calligraphy has paid tribute to the Arabic language, the revered language of the holy Quran; thus it is not only a form of writing but also a form of spiritual expression. Al Burda Award has long recognized masterful work of both classical and modern Islamic calligraphy, embracing both the traditional and the contemporary.

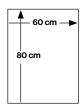
Criteria and Prize

Classical Calligraphy

One artwork containing the following texts:

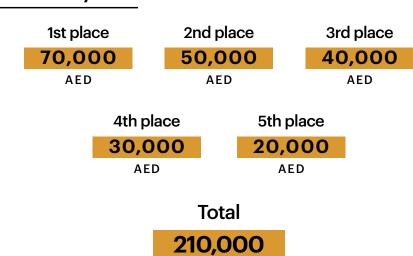
- **وَإِنِّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيم** [Surah Al-Qalam 68:4] in Thuluth Jali script.
- Hilya Sharif in Thuluth script.

Criteria



- Paper size: 80H x 60W cm.
- Paper type: Ahar paper
- Pen tip: The applicant is free to choose the most suitable pen tip.
- The artwork must adhere to linguistic and grammatical accuracy in its interpretation to avoid elimination.
- The artwork must not contain illumination and must be rolled and well-packed for shipping.

Prize Money



AED

Criteria and Prize

Modern Calligraphy

All modern calligraphy styles are accepted.

The text is from Ahmed Shawqi's "Wuleda Al Huda":

واللوحُ والقلمُ البديعُ رواءُ

والوحي يقطرُ سلسلاً من سلسلِ

Criteria



- **Paper size:** 150W x 150H cm.
- Script: The applicant may use traditional scripts within the form of original, innovative interpretations.
- Material: Canvas fabric.
- Dyes, materials, and design: The applicant is free to choose.
- The artwork must not contain illumination and must be rolled and well-packed for shipping.

Prize Money

 1st place
 2nd place
 3rd place
 4th place

 70,000
 50,000
 40,000
 20,000

 AED
 AED
 AED
 AED

Total

180,000

AED

Ornamentation Discipline

A Brief on Ornamentation

Ornamentation in Islamic art includes four forms; the three non-figural forms that are calligraphy, vegetal patterns, geometric patterns and figural representation. Al Burda Award has awarded works showcasing these forms, which depict the aesthetic range of Islamic culture. As with the other award categories, submission guidelines respect the intricate materials and approach used in classical ornamentation practices.

Criteria and Prize

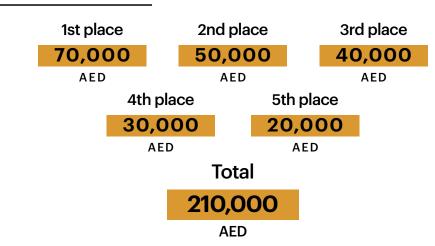
Ornamentation

Criteria



- The overall sheet size should be 35W x 50H cm or 50W x 50H cm.
- The decoration should cover 70% of the total leaf area.
- The work is executed in the original classical decorative style, allowing the artist to create designs.
- Original colors, inks, and real gold are used in the implementation, and it is not permissible to use others.
- The applicant can be guided by the classical decorative style prevailing from the 14th century AD (the Timurid era) to the 16th century AD (the Safavid era), as well as geometric ornamentation.
- There should be no space for writing, as the painting is a selfcontained decorative piece.
- Ahar (muqahar) paper should be used.
- The decoration can be pasted on the cardboard and it is not permissible to stick it on the wood.

Prize Money



Typography Discipline

A Brief on Ornamentation

The newly-established Arabic Typography category seeks to encourage experimentation and innovation in contemporary typographic design. Typography is the arrangement of letterforms and text in composition using digital lettering or fonts. It may include the design of letterforms but the focus of the competition is on the composition of the design. The concept and criteria invites the participants to explore both the creative interpretation of pre-existing typefaces and the generation of new and original letterforms.

Theme

The theme of rhythm will be the focus of this first edition of the Arabic Typography category.

Rhythm is not only important to poetry, music, and the spoken word, but it is also central to the way letterforms interact with each other, the way they are arranged in a typographic design composition (where print-based and static, or time-based and moving).

Rhythm is equally central to and should be derived from Qasidat al Burda (Ode of the Mantle), a 13th-century poem in praise of the Messenger of God, Muhammad bin Abdullah (peace be upon him), written and compiled by Sufi mystic and poet Imam al-Busiri. It is considered to be one of the most renowned literary works on the praise of the Prophet.

About Qasidat al Burda

Its legacy lives on through its recital in congregations and on special occasions like Mawlid, and its decoration on walls of public buildings across the Arab and Islamic world. The poem is also considered an eloquent Arabic poetic text and a testament to the inimitability and complexity of the Arabic language.

Qasidat al Burda is divided into 10 chapters and 160 verses all rhyming with each other. Interspersing the verses is the refrain, "My Patron, confer blessings and peace continuously and eternally on Your Beloved, the Best of All Creation" (Arabic: مولاي صل وسلم دائما أبدا على حبيبك خير الخلق). Each verse ends with the Arabic letter mīm, a style called mīmiyy. Al-Busiri's approach in composing his poem is the same approach as that of the elders. He begins with the remembrance of loved ones. He moves from chaste flirtation and warning from whims, to praising of the Messenger, may God bless him and grant him peace, and talks about specific situations from his noble biography that reflect his great morals. He then describes the Qur'an, the Night Journey (Isra' wal-Mi'raj), jihad, and concludes with supplication and communion.

Verses from Qasidat Al Burda

To get you started the jury has recommended that you select from one of the following 3 sets of verses :

First Set

أَكَرِمْ بِخَلْقِ نَبِيٍّ زاَنَهُ خُلُقٌ بالحُسْنِ مُشْتَمِلٍ بالبِشْرِ مُتَّسِمِ كالزَّهـرِ فِي تَرَفٍ وَالبَدْرِ فِي شَرَفٍ والبَحْـرِ فِي كَـرَمٍ والدَّهْـرِ فِي هِمَـمِ

Second Set

جَاَءتْ لدَعْوَتهِ الاشْجَارُ سَاجِدَةً تمْشِي اِليْهِ عَلَى سَاقٍ بلاَ قدَمِ كَأَنمَا سَطَرَتْ سَطراً لِمَا كَتَبتْ فروعُهَا مِنْ بديعِ اْخَطِّ فِي الَّلقَمِ

Third Set

فَاِّنهُ شَمسُ فضلٍ هُمْ كَوَاكِبهَا يظهِرنَ أنوارَها للَّناسِ فِي الظُّلَمِ حَتى اِذَا طَلَعَتْ فِي الكَونِ عَمَّ هُدَاهَا اْلعَالِينَ وَأَحْيتْ سَاِئرَ الْامَمِ

However, we encourage applicants to read and select verses from the full poem that they feel represent the theme of Rhythm and what they want to design.

Criteria

Formats and Submission Possibilities

Accepted formats to be presented more as submission possibilities rather than rigid categories:

- Print-based (posters)
- Time-based (interactive/motion graphics/video). Audio may be used as long as copyrights are protected.

Technical Criteria

Each applicant is allowed one submission in either format. Submissions must consist of either:

Print-based

- 1 printed poster or a series of 5 smaller posters as part of one design.
- Poster size: Minimum A5 and maximum A0.
- In PDF format with a resolution of 72 dpi and max size of 10 mb.

Time-based

Duration must be limited to a maximum of 30 seconds.

- Videos + Animations must be in mp4 format, with a max resolution of 1080p, and a max file size of 50mb.
- Interactive: Digital application or interactive webpage.

 Submissions may also consist of a hybrid of both print-based and time-based with the above specifications as long as they are a series.

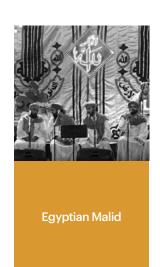
- Submissions must be in the Arabic language using the Arabic script.
- The choice of fonts and composition should highlight and interpret the meaning of the poem's verses and present them in a creative manner.
- Submissions will include the design of the composition and/or the design of letterforms used for creating the design.
- Submissions can be abstracted letterforms and not necessarily readable, as long as it is expressive. The usage of non-readable letterforms should also be justified in the written description or title of the submission and should be inspired or directly related to the poem.
- Submissions should not be a "logo" or a "logotype" unless it is part of an overall visual composition.

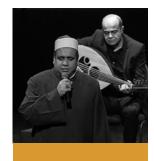
Additional Information

We encourage applicants to watch the following videos as a form of immersion into the notion of rhythm within Islamic culture:









Cairo steps (contemporary jazz + traditional Egyptian/ sufi mix) ft. Sheikh Ehab Younis



Dhafer Youssef (Sufi jazz)

Prize

Prize Money

1st place

70,000

AED

10 Finalists

10,000

AED

Total

170,000

AED

FAQ

How can I show my interest in submitting a work?

You can do so by registering a user profile and completing an application that will be open from May 17 - June 17, 2021.

What is the deadline for registering in the open call?

The registration period runs from May 17 – June 17, 2021.

What are the next steps after I register?

After you submit your application, you will receive a confirmation email from MCY outlining the timeline and steps required to submit and ship your artwork. Applicants may begin uploading their artwork on their user account anytime between June 17- October 1, 2021.

When should I be shipping my work for jury evaluation?

The Ministry will begin receiving shipments between September 15 – October 15, 2021, after which the juries will convene to evaluate.

Is there a specific criteria for each category?

Yes, every category has a set of criteria determined by its jurists. We highly encourage all applicants to carefully read through the criteria to ensure their work meets expected standards.

How many winners will be awarded in each category?

- **5 winners** will be awarded in the Ornamentation and Classical Calligraphy categories.
- 4 winners will be award in the Modern Calligraphy and Poetry categories.
- 1 winner and 10 finalists will be awarded in the Typography category.

What will be the prize money for the winner(s)?

You can refer to each category's page for a detailed breakdown of the prize money.

- Can I submit work for more than one category?

 No, the applicant can submit in one category only.
- Can I submit more than one work in a category?

 No, the applicant can submit one work in one category only.
- Can more than one applicant submit a shared work?

 No, only one applicant can be attributed to a single work.
- Can I submit works if I am a previous winner/applicant?

 Yes.
- Will I be responsible for the cost of transporting my work for jury evaluation?

Yes.

- If I don't win, will I be responsible for transporting my work back?

 Yes.
- When am I expected to receive a response on the results of the jury evaluation?

The juries will convene in November to evaluate, after which all applicants will be informed of their results.

If I am a winner, will the ministry cover my travel and accommodation expenses?

Yes.

What happens to my work if it remains uncollected after the Award ceremony? Are there any terms and conditions?

Applicants whose work did not win are asked to collect their work within (6) months after the Award ceremony. If it remains uncollected, MCY retains the right to keep it as part of its assets.





Contact Us

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www.burda.ae