

**Agreement of Cooperation
Between**

Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) & Tabriz Islamic Arts University

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**Research Centre for Islamic History,
Art and Culture (IRCICA), Istanbul,**



**Tabriz Islamic Arts University,
Tabriz, Iran,**

For Organizing the

**5th Tabriz International Festival for Arts, Crafts and Creativity
International Congress on Reviving the Traditional Handicrafts,
Tabriz International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts,
and the
International Exhibition of Artisans at Work**

Tabriz, Iran, 5-11 May 2023

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Tabriz International Festival for Arts, Crafts and Creativity International Congress on Reviving the Traditional Handicrafts, Tabriz International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts, and the International Exhibition of Artisans at Work Tabriz, Iran, May 5-11, 2023

The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), Istanbul, and Tabriz University for Islamic Arts, agreed herewith to jointly organize the “Tabriz International Festival of Arts, Crafts and Creativity” in Tabriz on 5-11 May 2023. The festival will be accompanied by an International Congress on “Reviving the Traditional Handicrafts”; and the International Exhibition of Artisans at Work.

Program of Activities

1. Live Presentations of Artisans at Work

Each participating State will select master artisans representing the most important crafts of the country. These craftspeople will display their tools, skills, and techniques in the fields of arts and handicrafts in special pavilions. Participants and visitors of the exhibition will have the opportunity to get acquainted with this rich heritage, to meet artisans and inquire about their works, and to acquire some of these pieces for those who are interested in handicrafts; as a result, this will contribute to the increasing of public awareness of this important field.

2. Arts and Crafts Market/Bazaar

This Bazaar will be organized in the form of a craft village where craft products and pieces from different countries will be offered for sale. Visitors and tourist delegations will be able to discover the diversity of handicrafts such as carpets, and kilims; embroidery and batik; metal works including jewelry and silver artifacts; pottery and ceramics; woodwork; papermaking and ebru (marbled paper); stucco colored glass; miniature; gilding; leather and binding that reflect the high level of cultural heritage which were developed through the ages.

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3. International Congress on Reviving the Traditional Handicrafts, 5-11 May 2023

Keynote speakers from selected OIC Member States will be invited to present paper in this Congress. The congress will examine, among others, arts and crafts of the past, present and future, under cultural, economic and touristic perspective and their role in the cultural dialogue between peoples, and the relationship of these arts with the habits and traditions of this region. It will also deal with the question of the size of the labor employed in this sector and its economic revenues, the perspectives of marketing, the efforts of the Government in the development and preservation of arts and crafts, and training and educational opportunities in this sector.

General Theme: Reviving the Traditional Handicrafts

Themes

1. Arts and crafts from the perspective of heritage and culture,
2. Arts and crafts from the perspective of economy and tourism,
3. The size of employed labor in the field of arts and crafts, and its economic returns,
4. Perspectives of handicrafts marketing,
5. The role of arts and crafts in the cultural dialogue among peoples,
6. The relationship of arts and crafts with the habits and traditions of the region,
7. Patronage and Governmental Efforts in developing and protecting arts and crafts,
8. Audio-visual media and their responsibility in forming a generation consciousness of the importance of handicrafts,
9. Educational programs for children and their role in forming a generation awareness of the importance of arts, crafts and heritage,
10. Production, supply and sale of art works.

Language

Papers will be presented in English, Arabic and Persian.

4. Tabriz International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts

Handicrafts around the world consist of a rich range of remarkable innovations in various fields such as carpets, and kilims; embroidery and batik; metal works including jewelry and silver artifacts; pottery and ceramics; woodwork; papermaking and ebru (marbled paper); stucco colored glass; miniature; gilding; leather and binding and other masterpieces that continue to effectively stimulate tourism and economy and highlight innovations in the field of cultural heritage. The importance of the award is that it will stimulate innovation spirit, encouraging artisans for more creativity and drawing attention on craftspeople and their important role in preserving crafts heritage.

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Eligible Works

- 1) Participants will have to present at least two pieces of their products: one completed product along with semi completed one to be finalized in front of the international jury members to show their skills. In addition, the artisans are required to send digital images of at least 10 other works to the festival secretariat at Tabriz Islamic Art University by email.
- 2) Participation in the award is open for all artisans provided the product is submitted for the first time and has never been presented before.
- 3) Participants will have to provide comprehensive information about every presented piece, that is to say an overview on the origin, the materials used and the techniques applied.
- 4) Awards will be given to the artisans who make efforts to revive a rare skill.
- 5) Awards will be also given to the artisans who bring one of the best samples of their works and show their skill in working during presentations phase.

The Value of the Award

Tabriz Islamic Art University will grant awards worth \$40.000, which will be distributed to nine handicrafts themes with the opinion of the jury.

1. Carpets, and Kilims
2. Embroidery and Batik
3. Metal Works including Jewelry and Silver Artifacts
4. Pottery and Ceramics
5. Wood-work
6. Paper-making and Ebru (Marbled Paper)
7. Stucco Colored Glass
8. Miniature
9. Gilding
10. Leather and Binding

The Jury

An international jury consisting of arts and craft experts will be formed to evaluate the artisans' works and hold meetings during the convening of the Tabriz International Festival for assessing process. During the examination and inspection of the submitted works, the Jury will consider all the characteristics and technical features of each piece, and special attention will be given in accordance with the terms and conditions of the award.

Announcement of the Winners' Names and the Awards Ceremony

Results will be announced on the last day of the festival followed by an official ceremony to honor the winners.

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Ownership of the Winning Works

Winning works will become the property of Tabriz Islamic Arts University and will be displayed at international exhibitions; also, an award-winners album will be published.

Duration of the Event (May 5-11, 2021)

- **2 days** for the International Congress
- **7 days** for the Exhibitions

Responsibilities of the Organizers

A. Responsibilities of IRCICA

- a) Cover the cost of economy class air travel for jury members and artisans from the least developed countries,
- b) Cover the cost of postage for all participated works in competition section,
- c) Arrange the necessary contacts with the paper presenters, experts and artisans and etc. in a way to ensure a worldwide major participation,
- d) Preparation and printing of the program, brochure along with the poster and the abstracts book of the festival,
- e) IRCICA will furnish the Tabriz Islamic Art University, with copies of the above brochure along with copies of the poster. These documents shall be used for local distribution,
- f) Undertake the preparatory and organizational activities in connection with the event in order to ensure the successful implementation of the festival,
- g) Invite the participants and the resource persons for the event,
- h) Handle all the technical matters related to publicity, contacts and etc.,
- i) General promotional program,
- j) Project development and management services,
- k) General editing of the festival proceedings,
- l) To receive original papers from paper presenters.

B. Responsibilities of Tabriz Islamic Art University

- a) Provide hotel accommodation and meals for in-person participating paper presenters, experts and artisans for the duration of the festival,
- b) Provide translation facilities for English, Arabic and Persian languages required for the congress,
- c) Provide a free convenient hall for the festival along with halls for the exhibitions and other activities,
- d) Nominate 5 craft specialists from Iran to present a paper at the congress,

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- e) Nominate 10 artisans in different types of Iranian handicrafts to take part in the exhibitions and the award,
- f) Publicize the festival in Iran,
- g) Provide refreshments during coffee breaks between every two working sessions,
- h) Extend secretarial services and logistic support during the festival,
- i) Facilitate the issue of free entry visa for the participants,
- j) Receive the participants at the airport and provide them with the necessary local transportation facilities required for transfer to the hotel and festival venue,
- k) Make arrangements for audio visual facilities for the festival,
- l) Make arrangement for local press and media coverage in Iran.



Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç

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