

About Rasheed Butt

Rasheed Butt, a world renowned calligrapher, started Calligraphy in 1961. He says about himself, “I am fascinated by the timeless and captivating message of the Holy Qur’an and Sunnah, It gives me much pride to know that my hand is an instrument in creating delightful expression of this Divine message. I feel honoured that the Almighty has bestowed upon me this opportunity to spread this Divine message to audiences worldwide. My work in Islamic Calligraphy is my fate and destiny to which I have dedicated my life.” He has exhibited his work all over the globe and many of his Calligraphy masterpieces feature in museums, private collections and many monuments including the Pakistani Senate, Al-Furqan Foundation (UK), Agha Khan medical college and hospital and Mecca Gate, Saudi Arabia. Butt has been commissioned by the Prime Minister of Pakistan to create inimitable works of Islamic Calligraphy which have been presented to more than twenty heads of state in an official capacity.

Butt’s achievements were recognised by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi of Sharjah who presented him lifetime achievement award in 2014 and by the President of Pakistan who presented him with the “Pride of Performance” award in 1989 which is considered the highest civil award in Pakistan. He was chosen as an International jury member for the International Calligraphy Competition organised by the IRCICA (Turkey) and also as a jury member for the International Calligraphy competition organised by the Algerian Government in 2009.

Butt has worked to promote the art of Islamic Calligraphy and has many students from around the world. He first taught calligraphy on national television in 1991-1994 when he hosted his own weekly programme. He also has been the curator of national and international Calligraphy exhibitions. Butt continues to teach Islamic Calligraphy as a lecturer at the National College of Art, Fatima Jinnah Women’s University and International Islamic University, Islamabad.

Awards

Lifetime achievement award presented by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi of Sharjah, 2014, UAE

Pride of Performance Award from President of Pakistan, 1989, Islamabad, Pakistan

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Notable Collections

1. His Majesty Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia
2. His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait.
3. Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Prime Minister of United Arab Emirates.
4. H.R.H. Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia.
5. H.E. Sh. Ahmad Zaki Yamani
6. H.E. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu (Secretary General O.I.C).
7. H.E. Dr. Parviz Davoudi, First Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
8. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of Indonesia.
9. Prince Muhammad Bin Issa Al Khalifa, Commander National Guards, Bahrain.
10. H.E. Mahathir Mohammed, former Prime Minister of Malaysia.
11. H.E. Dr. Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia.
12. H.R.H. Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan of Brunei.
13. Mr Hamid Karzai President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
14. Mr Shaukat Aziz, former Prime Minister of Pakistan.
15. Mr Pervez Musharraf, President of Pakistan.
16. Bait-ul-Quran, Bahrain
17. Ackland Museum, North Carolina, USA

Notable Exhibitions

2018	Exhibition in Kazan Kremlin Museum-Reserve, Tataristan, Russia
2017	Travelling exhibition, "From Pakistan to China, 'From a Scroll to the Book'", Shanghai University - Shanghai, Peace Museum - Beijing, China.
2014	International Islamic Calligraphy Exhibition, Sharjah
2010	International Calligraphy Exhibition organized by ECO, Baku, Tajikistan
2010	International Exhibition of Calligraphy, Tehran and Mashhad, Iran
2010	International Exhibition of Calligraphy, Abu Dhabi
2010	International Exhibition of Calligraphy Biennial, Sharjah
2010	International Exhibition of Calligraphy, Algeria
2010	Jury Member. Kuwait National Competition of Calligraphy, Kuwait
2010	Exhibition in Shakespeare Museum, England
2009	International Exhibition of Calligraphy, Algiers, Algeria
2009	Jury member for the International Calligraphy Competition, Algiers, Algeria
2008	IslamExpo, Great Olympia Hall, London
2008	National Library, Tunis Tunisia

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2007	Curator of National Calligraphy Exhibition at National Art Gallery Inaugurated by President of Pakistan, Islamabad, Pakistan
2006	International Exhibition by Five leading Calligraphers of the World, Masjid
2006	al Kabeer, Kuwait
2005	IslamExpo, Alexandra Palace, London, UK
2005	Convention Centre, Kualampur, Malaysia
2005	Hilton Hotel, Houston, USA
2004	Pakistan Embassy, Washington D.C., USA
2003	Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE
2002	Kufa Gallery, London, UK
2002	October Gallery, London, UK
2002	Errum Art Gallery, London, UK
2002	Ackland Museum, North Carolina, USA
2001	Sharjah Museum (International Exhibition), Sharjah, UAE
1997	1st International Calligraphy Festival, Tehran, Iran
1997	Art Connoisseur, London, UK
1996	Jamia, Singapore
1995	Waltham Forest College, London, UK
1995	Al Furqan Foundation, Wimbledon, , London, UK
1994	Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Birmingham, UK
1994	Marriott Hotel, Islamabad, Pakistan
1990	Birmingham Central Cathedral, Birmingham, UK*
1988	National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
1988	1st Intl. Calligraphy Festival, Saddam Art Centre, Baghdad, Iraq
1987	Oriental Museum, Durham, UK
1986	Urdu Markaz, London (UK)
1984	National Art Gallery, Islamabad, Pakistan
1983	Liaqat Memorial Hall, Rawalpindi, Pakistan
1978	Punjab Arts Council, Lahore, Pakistan
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Murals

1996	Al Khoei Educational Complex, Islamabad	Ceramics Tiles, 300 sqft	Sura Dahar, Al Quran
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1990	Eagle House Wimbledon, London	Wood Carving on (Walnut 180 sqft)	Quranic verses in Jali Thulth
1989	Shah Faisal Mosque Islamabad, Pakistan	Brass	Al-Hadeeth in decorative Kufic
1988	Senate Hall, Senate of Pakistan	Teak Wood, Gold leafing (15x58 ft)	Calligraphic Mural in Kufic with floral
1988	Data Darbar Mosque Lahore, Pakistan	Metal & Ceramic Tiles (1400 sqf)	Quranic verses in Knotted Kufic
1987	Gujranwala Cantt.	Gunmetal	Martyr Monument
1986	Agha Khan Medical College and Hospital Karachi	Marble, Wood and Bronze Casting	Al-Hadeeth (In different styles)
1984	Abbotabad,	Gunmetal	Baluch Martyr
1984	Baluch Mosque, Abbottabad	Wood carving& Metal casting	Quranic verses in Kufic and Thulth
1985	Sura Al-Rahman from “Quran” (24 pages: Size: 22x28)		
1984	1 st part of Holy book “Quran” in decorative Kufic (150 pages: Size:22x28 each)		

Christies (London)

Two pieces of calligraphy selected for October 1997 sales – London

Electronic Media

Interviews:

- Noor TV, Birmingham, (1 Hour Special Program on Rasheed Butt) UK, 2010
- SAMA TV, Islamabad, 2009
- Al Arabia TV, 2007
- Abu Dhabi TV, 2007
- Al Jazeera TV, 2007
- Dubai TV, 2007
- Prime TV, London, 2006
- ATV, Morning with Farah, (Morning Live show – 1 hour), Pakistan, 2007

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- Aaj TV, Pakistan, TV Show: “Zainab Can’t Cook”, 2007
- Taught Calligraphy through weekly programme on Pakistan Television for 3 years.
- Television Documentary entitled “Pakistan - Rasheed Butt and his work” televised by Kuwait TV during Islamic summit - February - 1987
- Participated in Film “Islamic Manuscripts” produced by CHESTER BEATTY LIBRARY Dublin - Ireland
- 40 minute live interview televised by TV Asia London - 1995
- Interview televised by BBC 1 TV London - 1995

Lectures

- Calligraphy Professor, International Islamic University Islamabad in 2013
- Calligraphy Professor, Fatimah Jinnah Women University (Master of Fine Arts Students) from 2006-2010
- Calligraphy Professor, National College of Arts, Rawalpindi from 2008-2009
- “The Development of research in calligraphy Education” (1st International Calligraphy Festival) Tehran, Iran – 1997

Calligraphy Workshop

Many Calligraphy workshops around the world

Work Experience

1967-2004 Calligraphic Designer, Pakistan Television (PTV) Islamabad, Pakistan

1965-1967 In-charge Calligraphy Section, Daily Newspaper, Rawalpindi, Islamabad

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