

The basic units of geometric design in Islamic art are repeated squares and circles, which may be overlapped and interlaced to form incredibly intricate and complex patterns. The mathematical elegance of these designs is that, no matter how visually complicated they are, they are always based on grids constructed using only a ruler and a pair of compasses.

A grid can be defined as a grating of crossed bars or a network of horizontal and perpendicular lines, uniformly spaced, for locating points on a map, by means of a system of coordinates. The grid allows the makers to add elements to a layout, as most layout decisions are addressed while building the grid structure for future collaboration. Many fields of study employ the grid as their system of organization.

Derived from simpler designs, used in earlier cultures of the Greek, Roman, and Neo-Persian, Islamic patterns provide a visual confirmation of the grid complexity achievable with simple tools. A deliberate structure of reappearance using a strict code and variation of marks within spaces to create a pattern to emphasize the profoundly mysterious; embodying unity, integrity, harmony, ancestry, rhythm and creative fire. The makers always in search to achieve an overall aesthetic paradigm by investigating the phenomena using a mystical and divine spectrum through themes like simplicity, balance, harmony and virtue.

The underlying principle of the grid allowed for multiple forms of embodiment using hidden geometry in the forms of Arabesque, tessellation and calligraphy to build and embellish artworks. The craftsmen and artists developed an instantly recognizable aesthetic based on repeated shapes inspired by patterns derived from nature and natural elements. This harmony between form and content creates a balance between the physical representation and the spirit of the work.

Keeping in mind the above, participating artists approached the subject in a form suitable to their expression, driven from their understanding of the underlying grid and a chant like repetition that is the premise of the discipline. Beside contemporary work this show is set on the premise of an educational understanding into hidden geometry embodied in examples of antique and recreated forms of art/craft.