



IN HER OWN WORDS

Artist Statement

Matin Zayerebrahimi

As an artist deeply interested in Persian miniature art, my work focuses on two main styles: 'Gol o Morgh' (Flowers and Birds), inspired by the colours and delicacy of nature, and the Isfahan school, one of the prominent branches of Persian miniature. These styles, with their vibrant colours and intricate details, not only captivate me with their aesthetic appeal but also inspire me through their historical significance in decorating manuscripts and architectural spaces.

Initially, during my studies in graphic design and visual art, I was drawn to and engaged in abstract painting, but over time, my interest in detailed patterns and delicate motifs led me to the world of Persian miniature. My study of historical artworks and observation of prominent Persian miniature paintings sparked my interest in this branch of art. What fascinates me about this art is the combination of its visual beauty and the spiritual depth derived from the mystical philosophy of Iran. This spiritual depth is poignantly reflected in 'Gol o Morgh' artworks, symbolising love and harmony. The flower represents the beloved, while the bird symbolises the lover, showcasing the profound connection between nature, love, and spirituality in Persian miniature art.

In the process of creating my pieces, I use handcrafted ultra-fine brushes made from cat and sable hair and apply the colours in delicate lines and dots on handmade 'Aharmehreh' paper. These papers, with their smooth yet slightly absorbent texture and remarkable delicacy, provide an ideal foundation for this style of painting. Due to the meticulous colouring technique and intricate design, each piece takes approximately two months to complete. This process feels meditative and calming, sharpening my focus and amplifying the joy I find in painting.

The colours I use are watercolours made from natural materials, which provide the artworks with long-lasting vibrancy due to the high quality of the pigments. Upon completing a painting, I present it with precisely cut passe-partouts and simple wooden frames to protect its elegance and maintain its pristine condition.

Ultimately, my goal is to preserve the authenticity of this ancient art while expanding its boundaries through exploration and creativity. I aim to explore new approaches, such as applying these traditional techniques to unconventional materials like wood and integrating this style with other visual art forms, including illustration and abstraction. At times, this exploration may even lead to the creation of collages. My artworks are an effort to share my inner world and the rich culture and art of my country with others, all while finding joy in working with colours and crafting intricate details.