

The artist – Swadeka Ahsun

Swadeka Ahsun is an international artist, having exhibited in the UK, Europe, Middle-East and the Gulf. She was born in Mauritius and has also been invited to display her artworks there. Swadeka, who lives in London NW6, has won several prizes as well and her works can be found in collections at home and abroad. She has given interviews on various media subjects and on community issues.

Swadeka's works depict various aspects of Islamic art. She paints on a variety of different size canvasses, including large ones, in single and multiple colours. Most of her artworks have been inspired by Islam, its cultural heritage, its splendour, its glorious achievement of the renaissance and the symmetry of Islamic architecture. She has also portrayed nature in various adaptations of landscape and portraiture.

Her works range from traditional Islamic patterns to geometric imagery. Given the supreme importance of the words of God as set down in the Quran and its transmission throughout the Islamic world, the traditional emphasis upon the primacy of the written word serves to elevate Arabic Calligraphy into a pre-eminent form of artistic expression, a level it never attained in some other traditions.

Islamic Calligraphy, within the interactions with Western developments, helps stimulate stylistic innovations. Swadeka's own practice is situated at the cutting edge of modern calligraphic styles in the visual arts that incorporate contemporary ideas and Western media. She uses bright acrylic washes on the canvass which is created by the brush as well as the reed and the pen. As poetry is the very essence of the Arab World and Islam, which sometimes is expressed in culture and history, Swadeka has tried to use poetical rhythm in some of her works. She enhanced her ideas and multiplied it in various techniques and approaches, painting and drawing, printmaking and mixed media.

In addition, Swadeka has made use of colour with sobriety and intelligent swiftness. Her art takes various forms, including references to Islamic geometry, which helps in making graphic elements and patterns. The study of sensible geometry leads to skill in all practical arts, while the study of intelligible geometry leads to skill in the intellectual art, because science is one of the gateways through which humanity moves to the knowledge of the essence of the soul.

Swadeka has made use of vibrant colour compositions, cosmic metaphors and imagery as well as fantastic landscapes and sceneries. In her work she has attempted to find a synthesis between modern painting and traditional painting. Through her personal development and research, she developed an interest in the renaissance, and thus welcomes new ideas and breaking new ground. She has worked with new experimentation and techniques, freely mixing them in whatever way, thereby advancing the vitality of some of her paintings.

The foreground of dappled colours, flickering brushwork and washes create a tremendous feeling of surging movement. The textures of some of her sceneries has come as important ingredients. This is noticeable in some of her works of sceneries, such as 'spiritual garden', or 'meditation by the sea'. Swadeka takes great pains in portraying seductive movements of transition like 'gazing in the

spiritual garden', or the 'autumn scene'. Most of her paintings and works have elements of composition, light, colour, technique as well as a beautifully poised atmosphere.

Swadeka always works hard, striving under the pressure to move towards new horizon. And she still feels excited by the challenges that have come her way. Swadeka has been engaged with various networks and organisations in Europe in partnership with Creative Europe, part of a British Council--supported European Union project designed to support the work of the European Commission. The works have been designed in various models, so as to target a wider audience in artistic ability such as culture, heritages, and religious and cultural buildings.

Swadeka has also won various awards, most recently the Muslim News Award and the Alhamra Award for her artistic contributions. She has also collaborated with the Cedar Network based in Amsterdam, and is a member of the Royal Society of Art in London.