

Nazli Nalciz

Artist Bio

Nazli is a Turkish born Ebru artist that has called Texas her home for the last 12 years. She graduated from Marmara University in Istanbul with a degree in Textiles. Always interested in designs and the arts, she learned the mesmerizing art of Ebru (Turkish style of paper marbling) from a world renowned Ebru artist, Hikmet Barutcugil. Ebru involves painting on the surface of thickened water. Earth-based pigments are spread on the surface of the water and manipulated into different designs and transferred on to paper.

She has been practicing the art of Ebru for 14 years. Her Ebru pieces depict traditional patterns from the time of the old Masters as well as modern designs. She incorporates her own choice of color and design into her artwork.

Nazli is the Fine Arts Director at the Raindrop Turkish House, and teaches Ebru classes to students of all ages and various backgrounds. She is an active member of Islamic Art Society of Houston. She also likes to share her love of Ebru by doing demonstrations around Houston. Some of these have been held at HAFA-Houston Area Fiber Artists monthly meetings, Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts, City of Houston's Citizenship Month event, 2nd and 3rd Annual Islamic Arts Festival-Houston, Texas Children's Hospital, Ronald McDonald House, Turkish Consulate Generals Annual Ball, Rice University, University of Houston, ISNA-Conference 2014, Interfaith Ministries' Hearth Anthology Art Show, Goddard School, AsiaFest 2015-Asia Society Texas Center, Houston Public Library-Stella Link Branch, House of Tiny Treasures, Raindrop Turkish House Silk Road and Nowruz Festivals, Dialogue Institute's Annual Dinners, several Houston area public schools, Texas Women's Conference in Austin 2014 and Houston 2017, Harambee Art Gallery's Houston Women on the Creative Path exhibits.

Nazli currently lives in Houston with her husband and two children.

Artist Statement

I have been interested in arts and crafts since my childhood, and had always wanted to learn Ebru- the traditional Turkish style of paper marbling. While studying textiles in college, I finally had the privilege to learn Ebru from the world famous Ebru Master, Hikmet Barutcugil.

Ebru is an art form that dates back to the 12th century and is still widely practiced today. It involves painting on the surface of water. Earth-based pigments are sprinkled with brushes on the surface of thickened water and manipulated into different designs. The painting is eventually transferred onto paper.

I always have love of nature. Soil, rain, flowers and butterflies are in my interest. In traditional Turkish style marbling, all materials used are from nature. Plant and water mixture is used as size (water bath). Earth-based pigments are used as colors. Rose branches and horse hair are used as brushes. Materials from nature work harmoniously on the surface of water thus reflecting the artists' inner being. I feel I can best express myself in Ebru. Always one of a kind, like snowflakes, no two are exactly the same.

In my Ebru art, I like to practice the traditional patterns from the times of the old Ebru Masters, as well as modern designs. I also incorporate my own choice of colors and designs into my artwork. I am especially fond of the traditional Peacock, Hatip, Tulip and Carnation designs. As for the modern designs, I like Efsun and Daffodil flowers as well as bird and butterfly designs. Living in Texas, I am inspired by the Bluebonnets and I am working to incorporate these beautiful flowers into my Ebru. Recently I have also started transferring my artwork onto fabric and have marbled various sized silk scarves and shawls.

I am privileged to be an active member of the Raindrop Turkish House and the Islamic Arts Society of Houston. Both of these organizations provide opportunities for me to share my love for this ancient art and allow me to keep growing as an Ebru artist.