

Tuesday, 2 March 2009

Local People Learn the Art of Islamic Manuscript Illumination at Milton Keynes Hospital

MK Arts for Health in partnership with MK Islamic Arts Heritage and Culture held free Arts workshops for local people to learn about Islamic arts and the ancient craft of illumination at local schools and Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust on 16th February and was supported by Community Foundation.

Members of the public, patients and staff contributed to a unique new piece of decorative art for the hospital.

The Mayor of Milton Keynes, Jan Lloyd and Hospital Chairman Dr Walter Greaves, attended the session to contribute to the Islamic artwork.

Artist Ayesha Gamiet said: "The workshops gave a short introduction into the art of Islamic manuscript illumination. For centuries, Muslim artists have used gold, ink and brightly coloured paints to illuminate and beautify Qur'anic calligraphy.

"An illuminated manuscript is traditionally a manuscript which includes ornamental borders, capitals, and illustrations. Participants were introduced to the traditional geometric and floral designs that are used to illuminate the manuscript pages."

Anouar Kassim, Chair of MK Islamic Arts Heritage & Culture, said: everyone seemed to enjoy the experience and "Recent research suggests that social approaches to the arts have the potential to make a major contribution to our health, wellbeing and life skills. The arts can help encourage a greater connectedness to others and help people have a more positive outlook.

"Islamic Art therapy is based on the belief that the creative process of art such as Geometric and Illumination artistic self-expression helps people to resolve conflicts and problems, develop interpersonal skills, reduce stress, increase self-esteem and achieve insight."

