

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**CONTEMPORARY ISLAMIC PAINTING
IN MALAYSIA:
1980 TO 2000**

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Thesis submitted in fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of
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Candidate's Declaration

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ABSTRACTS

One important aspect that was neglected in the development of Modern Malaysian Art is the development of Islamic art. The decades of 80's and 90's appeared to be the most active period of the resurgence of Islamic art in Malaysia and this was marked by the numerous Islamic Art exhibitions, seminars and discussions especially in the 90's. Nevertheless, literature on the subject seems scanty which in turn force the researcher to focus on the artwork itself as a visual document of its time.

This study is about the Islamic forms, substances, interests and the manifestations of the artworks. 83 samples were collected by using the judgmental sampling methods from a population of 520 artworks by Muslim artists of the 80's and 90's. Observations, by using the Content Analysis methods were carried out to analyze the form and content of these samples. Interviews were also carried out employing art historians and artists as respondents to collect additional and supportive data regarding development of Islamic Art in Malaysia.

It is established that there are at least three forms of Islamic manifestations used by Malaysian Muslim artists namely (a) The Explicit Islamic Manifestations, (b) The Implicit Islamic Manifestations and (c) Exclusive of Islamic Manifestations. These manifestations could be seen in the titles of the artworks, images and its content. Islamic art can be in any form or styles as long as they abided to the Islamic law (*syāri'ah*) or jurisprudence (*fiqh*). It is also found that in this period, especially in the 90's, Islamic art had played a major role in the development of Modern Art in Malaysia. The continuous effort of the Muslim artists since pre-Merdeka plus the strong support by the government as well as the higher institutions, had contributed to the resurgence of Islamic art in Malaysia. The key terms for the research are Islamic Art, Islamic Art Resurgence, Explicit Islamic Manifestations, Implicit Islamic Manifestations, Exclusive of Islamic Manifestations

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