

## MONUMENTAL PAINTING OF SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE IN THE CENTER OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION

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**Abstract:** The monumental painting created under the direction of academician Alisher Alikulov, People's Artist of Uzbekistan, at the Center of Islamic Civilization in Tashkent, has become a landmark work of the country's new cultural era. It is not merely an element of architectural decoration, but a spiritual and philosophical manifesto expressing the idea of the revival of Islamic art in the 21st century. The composition embodies the key values of Islamic civilization - knowledge, enlightenment, and harmony - becoming an integral part of both the architectural and spiritual space of the Center.

**Keywords:** Center of Islamic Civilization, Alisher Alikulov, monumental painting, Islamic art, marble mosaic, spiritual revival, architecture of Tashkent, cultural heritage, philosophy of art, Uzbekistan of the 21st century

On June 15, 2018, during the Eid al-Fitr holiday, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev laid the foundation stone of the Center of Islamic Civilization - an institution conceived as a beacon of knowledge, art, and spiritual enlightenment.



*Historical Context and Project Conception*

Located in the heart of Tashkent, the Center is intended to unite past and future, tradition and innovation, the East and modernity. The architectural complex has become a symbol of the cultural renaissance of independent Uzbekistan. Within its walls, the monumental work led by academician Alikulov became the visual and spiritual nucleus of the entire ensemble.

The artist faced a challenging task - through monumental painting, to express the spiritual power and intellectual heritage of Islamic civilization, and to reveal its contribution to world culture.



*Artistic Concept of Alisher Alikulov*

Alisher Alikulov, academician of the Academy of Arts and People's Artist of Uzbekistan, is one of the leading masters of contemporary fine art.

His work combines traditional Islamic aesthetics with a modern philosophical understanding of form and meaning.

In *"The Monumental Painting of Spiritual Renaissance"*, Alikulov sought not merely to convey beauty but to reveal the inner essence of Islam - its humanism, harmony, and striving toward light.

The composition unfolds as a journey through the centuries - from the birth of Islamic science, philosophy, and architecture to the present, where eternal ideals acquire new resonance.

The rhythm of light and space leads the viewer's gaze upward - from earthly labor to celestial inspiration, from human effort to divine illumination.

Every figure and ornament carries symbolic meaning: knowledge, wisdom, mercy, and creation - the universal pillars of spiritual growth.

#### Technique, Material, and Transformation

The original work was executed in acrylic on canvas. It was then transformed into a marble mosaic - a rare phenomenon in world art practice.

Each fragment of the painting was carefully recreated in stone smalt, preserving the original's color gradients, textures, and plasticity. The level of detail is astonishing: even the eyes of figures, ornamental motifs, and folds of garments are rendered with remarkable realism. This fusion of painting and mosaic became a unique example of the synthesis of technique and spirit, where a modern idea found eternity in stone.

#### Teamwork and Contributors

The creation of this monumental work was the result of the harmonious collaboration of outstanding artists and craftsmen.

Under the leadership of academician Alisher Alikulov and Khusan Kasimov, the project was realized by a professional team that included Murod Azlyarkhodjayev, Bakhtiyar Alimkhanov, Masud Kholov, Oybek Islamov, and a group of artists.

Each contributed to the composition, color harmony, and technical execution. While Alikulov developed the concept and overall idea, the team ensured precision and depth in

realization - from the painterly vision to the mosaic embodiment. Their collaboration stands as an example of Uzbek collective artistry, where tradition, discipline, and inspiration are united by a single creative goal.

#### Aesthetics and Symbolism

The composition is a multilayered narrative about the spiritual ascent of humanity. In the lower register, scenes of labor, learning, and creativity symbolize the foundation of human pursuit of knowledge. Above them are depicted great thinkers and poets of the Islamic world, representing the continuity of generations. At the center shines a vertical axis of light, where knowledge transforms into spiritual illumination. The upper part integrates architectural motifs of Samarkand, Bukhara, and Baghdad, forming a symbolic dome of unity. The color palette - noble ochres, azure, and gold - evokes ancient manuscripts and mosaics, imbuing the work with a sense of sanctity and timelessness.

#### Spiritual and Cultural Significance

The monumental painting created for the Center of Islamic Civilization has become a national symbol of spiritual renewal. It unites the legacy of Islamic science, architecture, and decorative art, reminding us that Islamic culture is one of light, knowledge, and creativity. The work of People's Artist Alisher Alikulov demonstrates that monumental art is not mere decoration but a form of collective consciousness, a reflection of the spirit of the age. This mosaic masterpiece attracts artists, scholars, and visitors from around the world, serving as a magnet for cultural dialogue and a symbol of harmony between faith and beauty.

#### Recognition and Legacy

The project received official recognition from the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Academy of Arts, and the Union of Artists for its exceptional artistic and cultural contribution. The monumental painting was included in state catalogs and presented in specialized publications on contemporary Uzbek art.

It has significantly influenced the development of the national monumental school, setting a new standard for future generations of artists and exemplifying the synthesis of tradition and modern technology. For academician Alisher Alikulov, this work represents a milestone in the history of Uzbek fine art, and for the entire artistic community - a creation of international significance. His innovative approach - transforming a painted canvas into a marble mosaic - is recognized as a unique artistic achievement, unparalleled in regional practice.

#### Conclusion

The monumental composition created under the direction of academician and People's Artist of Uzbekistan Alisher Alikulov, and realized together with Khusan Kasimov, Murod Azlyarkhodjayev, Bakhtiyar Alimkhanov, Masud Kholov, Oybek Islamov, and a team of artists, represents an original and exceptionally significant contribution to the development of both national and Islamic art. From acrylic painting to marble mosaic, this work demonstrates a new technological and aesthetic level in monumental art, uniting spirituality, intellect, and craftsmanship. It is recognized not only as an artistic accomplishment but as a cultural phenomenon shaping the international image of Uzbekistan. Through this creation, the Uzbek school of art reaffirms itself as an influential and creative force, capable of inspiring artists and scholars worldwide.

### References

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