

Ali Rouhfar

Borne in 1949 in Tehran, Iran

Educations:

The 3rd award winning in calligraphy at age of 16, in a contest for students in grater Tehran, encouraged him to improve his skills and learn more about the spirit of calligraphy as his grandfather wanted him to do both.

He received his bachelor degree in Economics and Finance in 1972 from Tehran Business College (Madreseh Aali Bazargani-later the name changed to Allameh Tabatabaee University).

His backgrounds and skills in calligraphy drew his interest to work in architectural field as a financial advisor. This position brought him opportunities to visit architectural plans and learn more about calligraphy in building designs while he was learning Nastaliq from his second master, Master Sadegh Zarrin Ghalam.

Ali's college degree and high score credits allowed him to enroll at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington, USA towards doctorate degree.

Reviewing American history, he was impressed by the biography of Abraham Lincoln, he found himself capable to learn economics without attending school if he could convince him forfeit Doctor Title. Finally and after gathering more information he figures out that this major and similar theoretical majors are not like mathematics that necessarily should be learned in school. He left the school and continued self-studying economics, sociology and history. He succeeded and started teaching during change of educational system in Iran for private institutes.

Ali presented his theory as his theses to the parliament subjecting "Distribution of Nation Wealth" for economy growth and elevation the GNP rate (1980).

For almost a decade he enhanced his academic knowledge and started a research on calligraphy evolution along with Iran history after Islam and improved his calligraphy skills by focusing on the sprite of Nastaliq.

1990 is a big change in his life. He was ready to exhibit his first calligraphy collection but an unexpected serious medical problem forced him to move to the United State immediately due to the urgent care.

Ali was very optimistic that his move by a medical reason force is an assignment for him. Although he was busy on the treatment and his attention was there, he did not forget calligraphy and even paid more attention to it as a very useful tool to distract him from medical issues and put him in a faithful hope and positive energy. So he prepared some art works and exhibited them at community centers. These exhibitions at community centers brought him lots of attention and his art works welcomed by the community and invited to show his works at Seattle Folk Life Festival, Redmond Library, Sufism Symposiums in California and Washington, International School at the University of Washington, and Children Museum in Seattle.

Ali got an offer to teach at the University of Washington in 1999. This university is the most accredited university in Washington State and there are many filters to get qualifications. It took almost a year that through interviews and consideration of his background, papers in economics subjects, and courses he passed, that he got recognition as equivalent to doctorate degree and qualified to teach. So he offers manuscript-reading courses for graduate and postgraduate students in 2000 and started teaching at this university.



Lectures and Workshops:

South Seattle College-2014
Annual Iranian Festivals-2008 to 2014
Seattle Libraries, at three different locations -2014
Everett College- 2010-2014
Olympia College-2012
Seattle University-2003-2005
Portland Art Museum, during Ottoman Empire Calligraphy exhibition in regards to Islamic calligraphy-2004
International School (Jackson), University of Washington-2001-2002
Islamic Educational Center of Seattle, classes and workshops- 1998-2013-2014
Children Museum. Artist in residence, teaching 1700 students-2001
International Sufi symposium- 1999-2000

Exhibitions:

South College -20014
Keywan Gallery-2003 to 2006
Windermere Gallery -2004
Redmond Library-2002
Children Museum -2002
Kirkland Art Festival-2001
Solstice tea and coffee house in University district in Seattle-2002
Community centers-1997-1998
Folk Life Festival in Seattle -1998

Researches, Publications, and interviews:

Research on role of interest in economy and its effectiveness on flow the money out of production loop and causing collapse in economy was an accomplishment paper to his thesis. When the economy went down in 2008-2009, this theory and solution to bring the economy out of depression by reducing interest rate was submitted to the president of the United State.

Research on a new self-learning method for Nastaliq was done in 2013. This method was published in English under the title NUQTEH in 2014.

Research on the spirit of Nastaliq, its relation to human soil, and how it effects on daily life. This research is projected to be ready to publish in 2015.

Interview by Redmond Reporter Paper-2007

Interview by local Iranian paper

Interview by Bellevue College. This interview was for broadcasting on Educational TV channels (available on UTUBE as well)-2013.

In addition, he has continued calligraphy classes on a limited basis. His method of teaching helps American students to attend his classes as well and get the ladder of achievement to higher level of skills.

Ali has designed logos and posters using Nastaliq and Shekasteh Nastaliq for different organizations and doing this service now but on a limited basis.