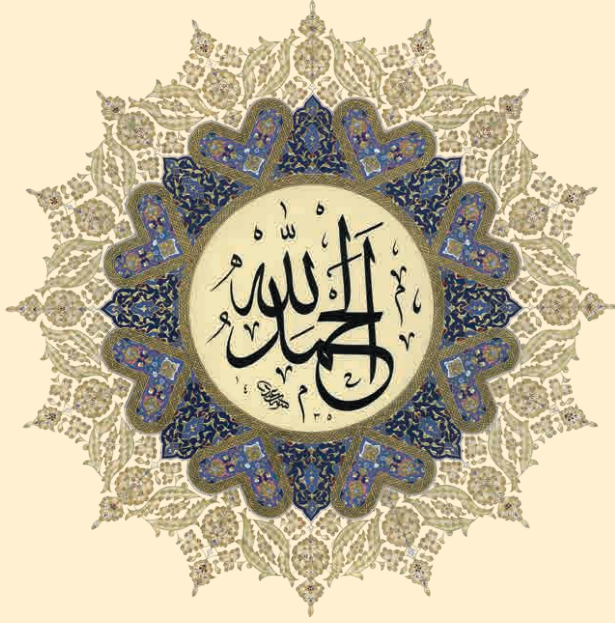




N A K K A Ş T E Z Y İ N İ  
S A N A T L A R M E R K E Z İ

CALLIGRAPHY, ILLUMINATION  
AND PAINTED DECORATION  
EXHIBITION

“ S E Ç K İ L E R ”



NAKKAŞ  
TEZYİNİ SANATLAR MERKEZİ



BAHÇEŞEHİR ÜNİVERSİTESİ









Education and culture are two fundamental pillars that shape the future of a society. At Baheşehir University, we are proud to undertake responsibility not only in the academic field but also in preserving and revitalising our cultural heritage.

In this regard, it is a great source of excitement for us to host the exhibition entitled “SEKİLER” at the Gazi Osman Paşa Yalısı, which has been meticulously restored and returned to our cultural life, opening its doors to art for the first time. Hosting the centuries-old elegance of our traditional arts within the historical setting of the Bosphorus holds a very special significance for us.

This collaboration with Nakkaş Tezyini Sanatlar Merkezi, one of Türkiye’s leading institutions in the fields of decorative arts and restoration with an 85-year tradition, brings together the finest examples of Calligraphy, Illumination and Painted Decoration. Featuring a unique collection inspired by the original designs of the Yemiş Room at Topkapı Palace, the exhibition adds an aesthetic dimension to the dialogue between the past and the future.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our distinguished state dignitaries and all our art-loving guests, whose presence honours us at this meaningful opening. I would also like to thank Mr. Enver Yücel, Chairman of the Baheşehir Education Institutions, who has always championed art and culture, and Mr. Muammer Semih İrteş, founder of Nakkaş Tezyini Sanatlar Merkezi, who has brought these valuable works together with us. I also express my gratitude to Ms. Sevgi İrteş, who curated the exhibition, for her contribution. I hope that this distinguished venue will continue to serve as a centre for outstanding cultural and artistic projects.

**HÜSEYİN YÜCEL**

Chairman of the Executive Board  
Baheşehir College



## Dear Art Lovers,

Our Traditional Turkish Decorative Arts constitute an ancient heritage that has endured to the present day through a centuries-old history spanning a vast geography.

For 85 years, Nakkaş Tezyini Sanatlar Merkezi has served the culture and arts of our country by contributing numerous works through nearly 1,000 ornamentation design, implementation and restoration projects in the fields of civil and religious architecture, both in Türkiye and abroad.

To promote our traditional arts and introduce them to wider audiences, we continue our educational activities both at our centre and at various institutions. We also organise exhibitions, seminars and talks at certain times and work to transform our archive of decorative arts into publications.

In this exhibition, we present for your appreciation, under the concept of “SEÇKİLER,” the finest examples produced in our atelier of the Art of Illumination, which enhances and complements Calligraphy, one of our ancient arts, and the Art of Painted Decoration, which has been used for centuries to embellish the interiors and exteriors of architectural structures. One section of the exhibition features a selection from our collection of 75 works based on all the original designs documented following the six-year restoration we carried out in the Privy Chamber of Ahmed III, also known as the Yemiř Room, in the Imperial Harem of Topkapı Palace. These designs were recreated on wood in their exact dimensions and colours using a highly refined floral painting technique known as hatching.

Through this exhibition, organised in collaboration with Bahçeşehir University, one of our country’s leading institutions in education, the doors of Gazi Osman Pařa Yalısı—restored by the University and returned to our culture and civilisation—will be opened to art for the first time.

We extend our gratitude to Mr. Enver Yücel, President and Founder of Bahçeşehir Education Institutions, and Mr. Hüseyin Yücel, Chairman of the Executive Board of Bahçeşehir College, for supporting the arts with the aim of establishing a new cultural centre and for their commitment to passing our ancient arts on to future generations with the quality they deserve. We also thank ARGE Yapı for its contribution to the restoration of this distinguished venue, which will host outstanding projects.

**Architect–Nakkař M. Semih İrteř**

*Founder of Nakkař Tezyini Sanatlar Merkezi*



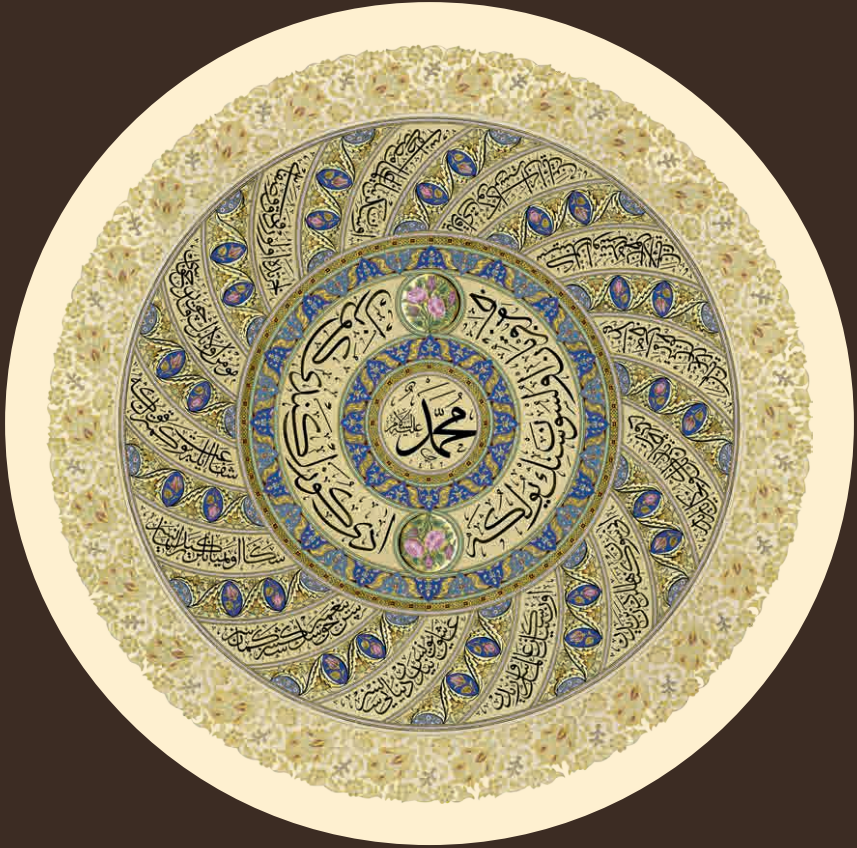
## THE ART OF TEZHIP (ILLUMINATION)

Tezhip, commonly translated as illumination, derives from the Arabic word zeheb, meaning gold, and refers to the art of decorating books with gold.

Over the centuries, the art of tezhip has added beauty to Hüsni Hat and complemented it. Its examples are found primarily in religious books, as well as in literary, historical and scientific manuscripts, calligraphy albums and imperial monograms. The artists who practised and developed this art in palace ateliers under state patronage were known as müzehhîps.

Today, the art of tezhip, generally practised together with calligraphy, has evolved into a form of panel art created by artists around Qur'anic verses, basmalas, the Beautiful Names of Allah, Hilye-i Şerif, the Declaration of Divine Unity, verses against the evil eye and aphorisms.

Traditional motifs used in the art of tezhip, such as Rumi, Hatayi and Bulut, are shaped through the stylisation of forms found in nature and constructed upon a systematic geometric foundation. Illuminated works produced over different centuries reached their most vibrant period in the sixteenth century, when numerous new styles and techniques were introduced in the Ottoman palace ateliers.



CANIM KURBAN OLSUN YOLUNA  
ADI GÜZEL, KENDİ GÜZEL MUHAMMED

—  
Illumination: Sevgi İrteş  
Calligraphy: Hüseyin Kutlu  
Dimensions: 86 × 86 cm



## HADİS-İ ŞERİF

Illumination: Nakkaş Tezyini Sanatlar Merkezi

Calligraphy: Kerim Erbili

Dimensions: 113 × 92 cm

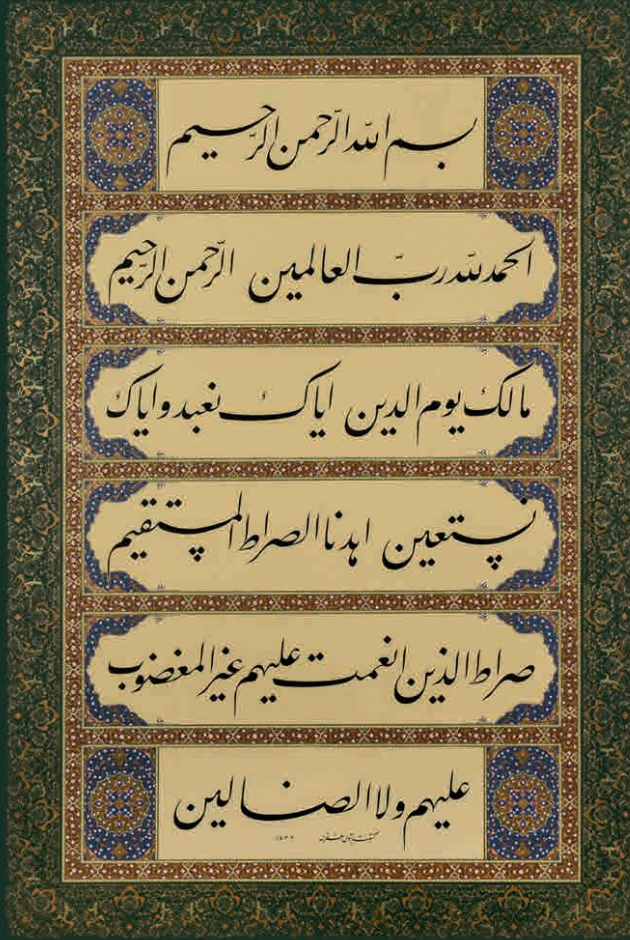


## HÜVE'L BÂKÎ

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Illumination: Sevgi İrteş  
Calligraphy: Ali Toy  
Dimensions: 130 × 115 cm





## FATİHA SURESİ

Illumination: Nakkaş Tezyini Sanatlar Merkezi

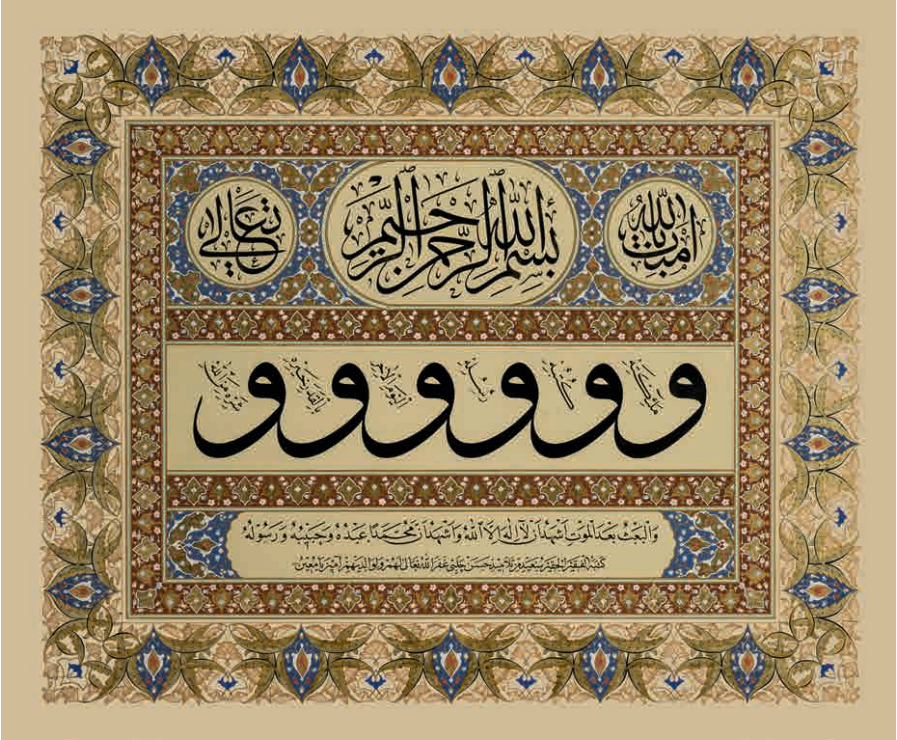
Calligraphy: Betül Topbaş

Dimensions: 156 × 114 cm



## ELHAMDÜLİLLAH

—  
Illumination: Sevgi İrteş  
Calligraphy: Said Abuzeroğlu  
Dimensions: 60 × 60 cm

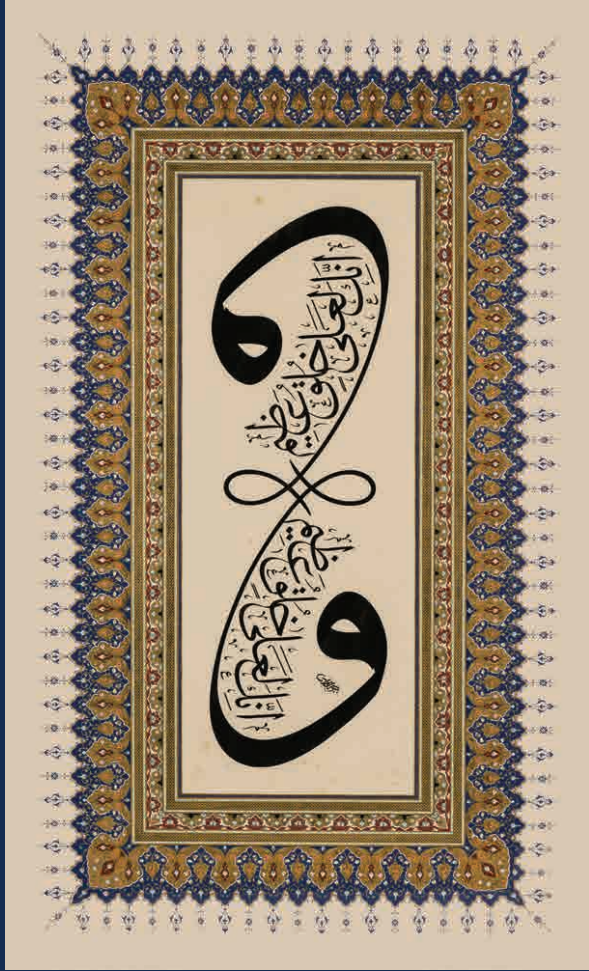


## AMENTÜ DUASI

Illumination: Nakkaş Tezyini Sanatlar Merkezi

Calligraphy: Said Abuzeroğlu

Dimensions: 84 × 73 cm



## KALEM SURESİ 4. AYET

Illustration: Nakkaş Tezyini Sanatlar Merkezi

Calligraphy: Said Abuzeroğlu

Dimensions: 93 × 62 cm

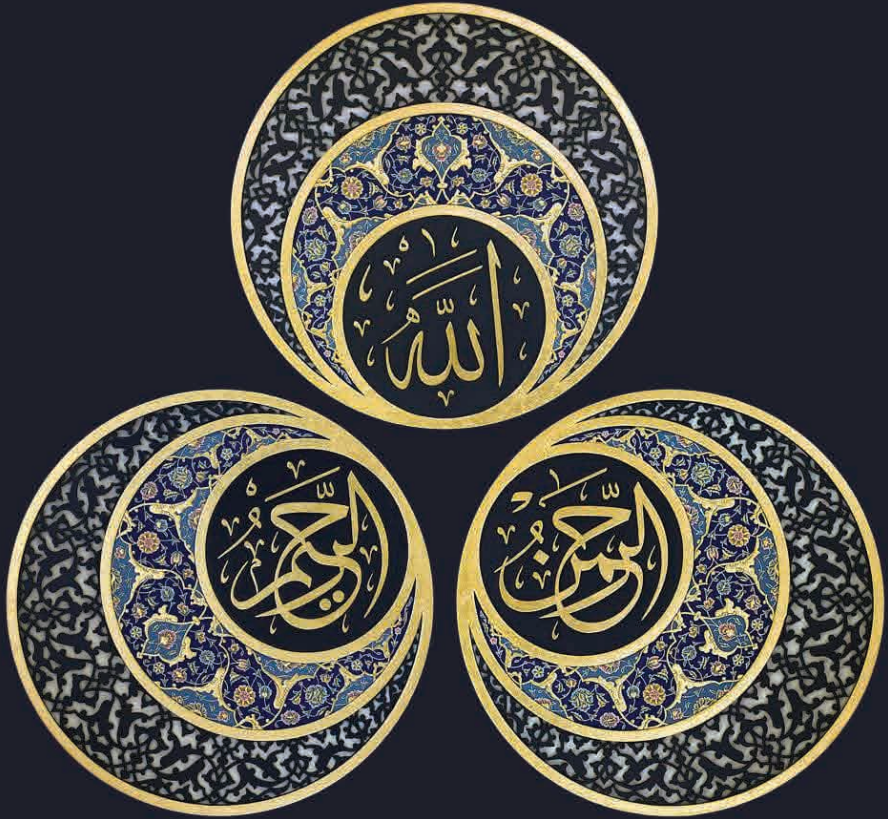


## THE ART OF KALEMIŐI (PAINTED DECORATION)

The ornamental designs executed on the interior walls, domes and ceilings of our civil and religious architecture, on materials such as plaster, wood, stone, fabric and leather, using coloured paints and sometimes gold leaf with brushes known as killı kalem, are called Kalemıőı.

Those who create these designs are called Kalemkâr, while those who prepare and apply the patterns that form the design of the ornamentation are called Nakkaő.

Depending on the material to which they are applied, Kalemıőı works display technical variety as plaster work, wood work, stone and marble work, leather and fabric work, and malakârı.

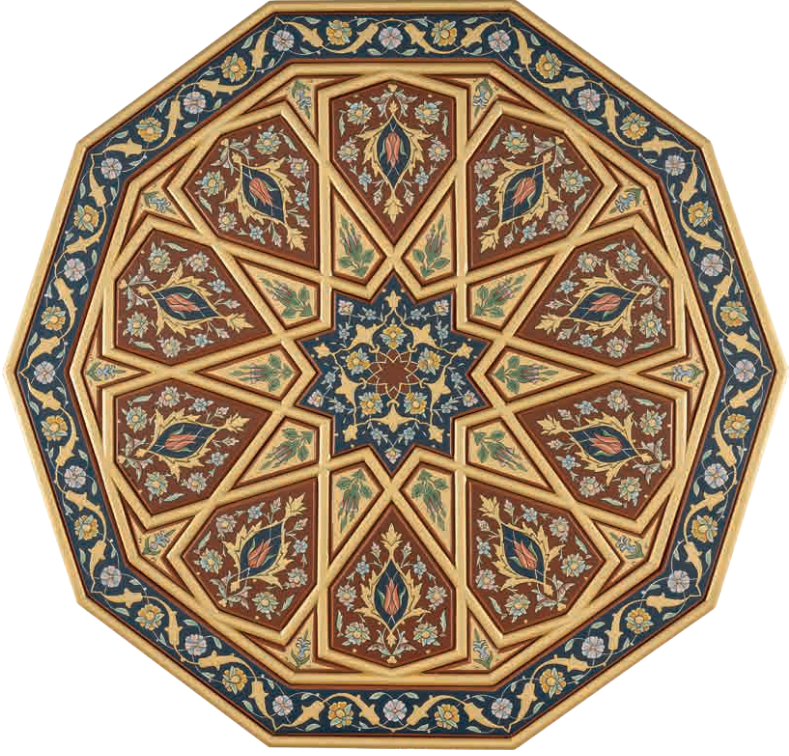


## ÇİNTEMANİ

Painted Decoration: Sevgi İrteş

Calligraphy: Hüseyin Kutlu

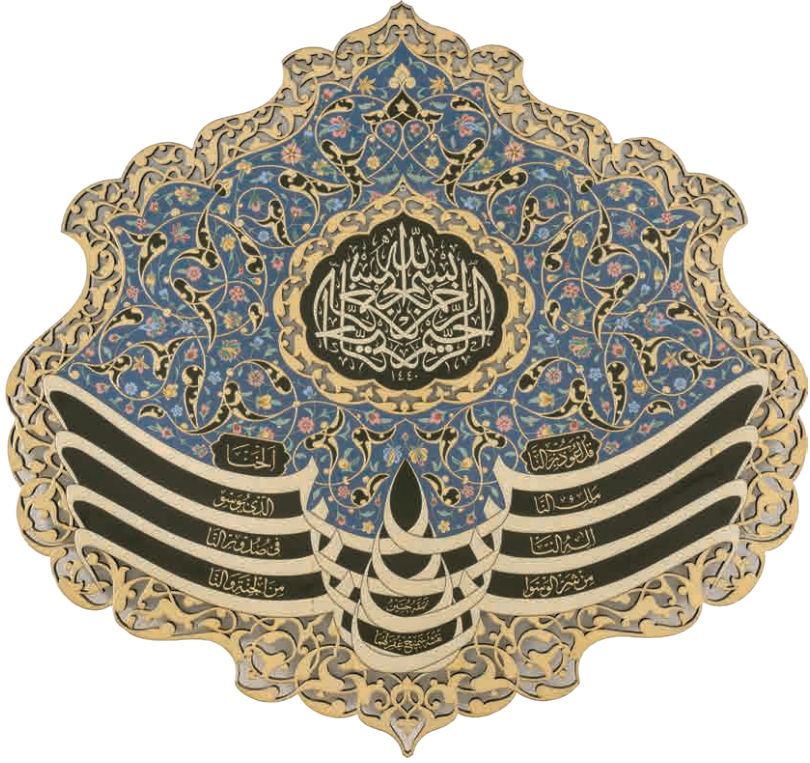
Dimensions: 80 × 80 × 3 cm



## ÇITAKÂRİ TAVAN GÖBEĞİ

Painted Decoration: Semih İrteş

Dimensions: 90 × 90 cm



## NAS SURESİ

Painted Decoration: Semih İrteş

Calligraphy: Hüseyin Kutlu

Dimensions: 92 × 86 cm



## KELİME-İ TEVHİD TUĞRA

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Painted Decoration: Semih İrteş

Calligraphy: Hüseyin Kutlu

Dimensions: 140 × 204 cm



## HİLYE-İ ŞERİF

Painted Decoration: Semih İrteş

Calligraphy: Said Abuzeroalu

Dimensions: 120 × 57 cm



## ZÜMRÜDÜANKA



Painted Decoration: Sevgi İrteş

Dimensions: 107 × 80 cm



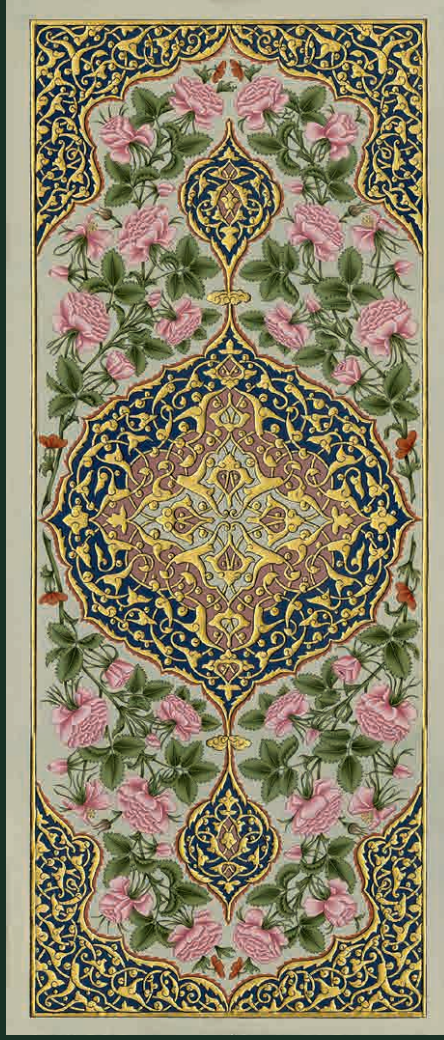
## THE PRIVY CHAMBER OF AHMED III (YEMIŞ ROOM)

Built for Sultan Ahmed III in 1705 in the Harem section of Topkapı Palace, the Privy Chamber—also known as the Yemiş Room—is a 4 × 4-metre masterpiece of design, magnificently conceived from floor to ceiling.

All the walls, window reveals and window soffits of the Yemiş Room were constructed using a tongue-and-groove system, with wooden panels of varying sizes assembled between the main beams. These panels feature various bouquets of flowers in gold-relief vases and fruit arranged on decorated plates. The room also contains a variety of distinct borders and four mirrors with ornamented edges on three walls.

Since its construction, the Yemiş Room has undergone restoration three or four times. Most recently, between 2015 and 2021, its restoration was completed following a six-year project undertaken by our specialist team in wood restoration together with the illuminators of our atelier.

The resulting collection consists of 75 pieces, in which all the original designs found in the room were recreated on wood in their exact dimensions and colours using a highly refined floral painting technique known as hatching.



### III. AHMET HAS ODASI (YEMİŞ ODASI)

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Window Soffit With Painted Decoration On Wood  
Painted Decoration: Nakkaş Tezyini Sanatlar Merkezi  
Dimensions: 113 × 56 cm



### III. AHMET HAS ODASI (YEMİŞ ODASI)

Ceiling Border With Painted Decoration On Wood  
Painted Decoration: Nakkaş Tezyini Sanatlar Merkezi  
Dimensions: 128 × 58 cm



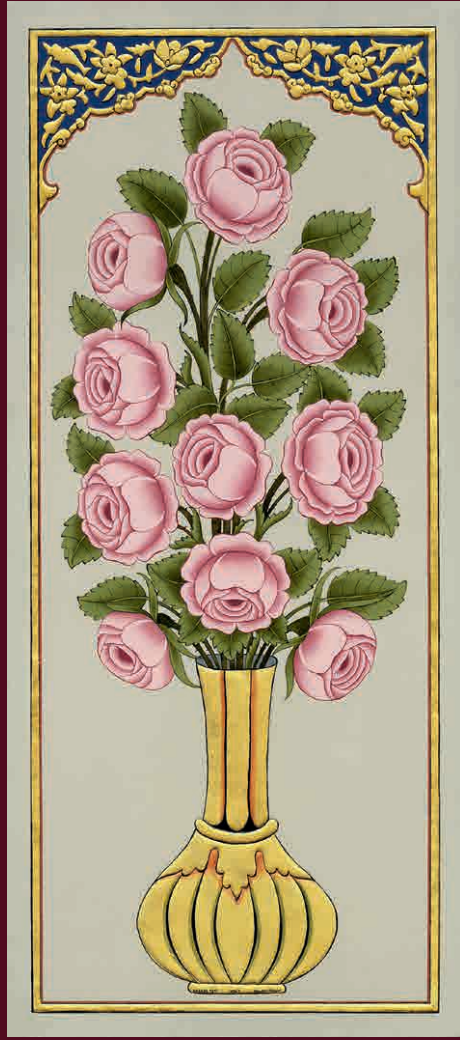
### III. AHMET HAS ODASI (YEMİŞ ODASI)

Floral Bouquet With Painted Decoration On Wood  
Painted Decoration: Nakkaş Tezyini Sanatlar Merkezi  
Dimensions: 102 × 46 cm



### III. AHMET HAS ODASI (YEMİŞ ODASI)

Floral Bouquet With Painted Decoration On Wood  
Painted Decoration: Nakkaş Tezyini Sanatlar Merkezi  
Dimensions: 104 × 55 cm



### III. AHMET HAS ODASI (YEMİŞ ODASI)

Floral Bouquet With Painted Decoration On Wood  
Painted Decoration: Nakkaş Tezyini Sanatlar Merkezi  
Dimensions: 63 × 31 cm



### III. AHMET HAS ODASI (YEMİŞ ODASI)

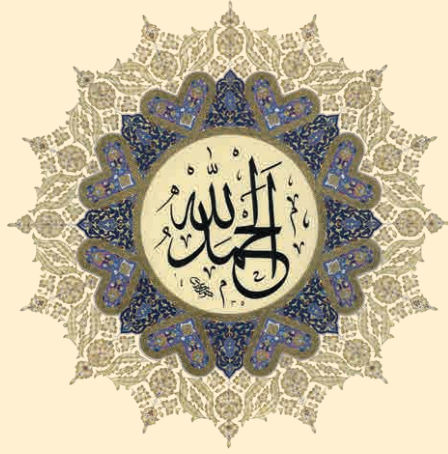
Mirror With Painted Decoration On Wood  
Painted Decoration: Nakkaş Tezyini Sanatlar Merkezi  
Dimensions: 109 × 90 cm



### III. AHMET HAS ODASI (YEMİŞ ODASI)

Floral Bouquet With Painted Decoration On Wood  
Painted Decoration: Nakkaş Tezyini Sanatlar Merkezi  
Dimensions: 63 × 31 cm





NAKKAŞ  
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