Abstract

This research is aiming to study the art of Ebru as an Islamic Ottoman art practiced by Muslim Ottoman artists; to show how they used this art to serve another Islamic crafts like bookbinding, calligraphy and painting.

The Ottoman artists of ebru are generally do not sign their works specially when it is used in bookbinding, this tendency; in addition to the fact that the cover of a manuscript may be replaced in later time; made dating the Ottoman Ebru works a challenge.

In order to solve this problem, I made an analytical study of the objects I obtained; I compared the dated objects which usually used in calligraphy and paintings, with the undated ones which usually used in bookbinding.

The analytical study led me to suggest dates for some undated objects, and I suggested a modified classification of Ebru types other than what is usually used in the books which is studying Ebru, so that I divided the classification into two main parts, according to patterns and according to use.

This research is an essay that may help as a guide to date the undated objects, and it may also help in classifying the Ebru objects in a more proper way, it contains also useful information about tools, materials and recipes used in making Ebru, and biographies of some Ottoman Ebru artists.