

Impact Statement

Eve Wilson, Grade 8.

Muhammad Makes His Mark on Math, 2022.

Mixed media sculpture, 20 x 11.5 x 12 inches.

LaVilla School of the Arts, Jacksonville, FL

Unsung Hero: Muhammad ibn Musa Al-Khwarizmi

Even though this project is a school assignment, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to dedicate an art piece and give recognition to a person that added great benefit to the world. When looking through the list of names, I especially connected with Muhammad ibn Musa Al-Khwarizmi, who lived in Iran c. 780 AD, because I love algebra and math in general, and he, in fact, created algebra. I was very excited to do research on Muhammad and learn about all his discoveries and to embody what I learned into an art piece that gives him the recognition he deserves!

While reading the main facts about Muhammad, I delved deeper and deeper into all the things he completed in his lifetime. Muhammad began his career as a translator and then started to pursue astronomy, geography, and mathematics. Muhammad's accomplishments were mainly focused on mathematics, developing algebra and discovering algorithm. In fact, he introduced the Arabic-Hindu numeral system to the western world. Muhammad wrote multiple books to record what he had learned through his studies to share with others, and I wanted to do the same with what I had learned about him, just with an artistic twist. I decided to express how amazing Muhammad was, using the concept of a book. I wanted to explain (1) who he was, (2) what he did, and (3) how his accomplishments affect the world today through my art piece. I made the book sculpture so that the audience would be able to observe these three aspects of Muhammad simultaneously, in a three-dimensional way, and through three primary sculpture mediums, including paper, epoxy sculpt, and wire. I created my art piece sculpture to be a book that "shoots out" fascinating information and interprets that information into imagery, creating a fun way to look at history.

From a materials perspective, I had the opportunity to try epoxy sculpt when creating the relief portrait. This expanded my selection of medium choices for future artworks. As I progressed with the project, I developed an understanding of how paper reacts to certain types of manipulation. I gained experience in how to create and alter a sculpture so that it is sturdy and well-structured. Overall, the project gave me experience with how to interpret history and make something that will successfully give recognition to someone or something. Completing a project like this helped me with time management and organization, as I needed to start well in advance of the deadline and set aside time nearly every day after school to get a little bit more done with the project. I will be able to use these skills I learned later in my life, not only with art projects, but also with any new project or undertaking.

We, as a society, often take technology we have today for granted, not realizing all the effort and discoveries involved dating back thousands of years that paved the way for modern day living. We experience the end-product, and not the often numerous and various steps leading up to it. One man who discovered key parts of math has inspired major breakthroughs that have

greatly affected many parts of our day-to-day life. While I shined a light on Muhammad through my art piece, I do not want to exclude the countless others that are involved in today's wonders. I have been inspired by Muhammad to believe that there are always more ideas to discover and evolve. I believe I might just have a chance to change the world like Muhammad did.