LOOK CLOSER: HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

LEAFY LETTERS!

Look closely at this text in Arabic letters carved into a wooden beam. Can you see how leaves and blossoms seem to grow out of each letter?

DID YOU KNOW?

This lovely leafy script is called foliated kufic. It was used in North Africa, Spain and other regions of the Islamic world hundreds of years ago. Leaves, vines, and tendrils bloom from different parts of the letters, as if the words themselves are growing to celebrate their messages of faithful hope and renewal.

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

Let’s make a book mark with your very own flourishing name!

Materials:
Paper or cardboard, pencil, colouring pencils or crayons.

Cut a piece of paper or cardboard in the shape of a rectangle. It can be a narrow and long rectangle or a wide and short one. Write your name and have fun decorating the letters with leafy decorations, like in this example. You can colour your name, or colour the white paper that surrounds your name, too.

Why not take a photo of your creation and share it with us by emailing learn@agakhanmuseum.org

Image: Detail of a Beam, Spain, 10th–11th century, carved wood, 427 x 16.7 cm, AKM628