

Arts in STEM Spring 2025

Amira Mostafa- Art Autobiography

Recall

When I think about my earliest memories of art, I remember how much I loved copying pictures as a kid. I would spend hours trying to redraw images from books, posters, or cartoons, making sure every detail matched. One of my favorite things to draw was maps in social studies class. There was something satisfying about carefully outlining borders, sketching mountains, and labeling places. It felt like a puzzle where everything had to fit just right.

In Arabic class, I was introduced to different styles of calligraphy, and I was instantly hooked. The way the letters flowed and curved fascinated me, and I wanted to copy them perfectly. I practiced over and over, trying to match the elegant handwriting I saw in books. My love for calligraphy grew so much that I started entering competitions, eager to showcase my skills. I didn't just see it as writing—I saw it as an art form that required patience and precision.

Reflect

Looking back, I realize that the art experiences that stood out to me the most were the ones that involved structure and accuracy. Whether it was drawing maps, copying pictures, or practicing calligraphy, I enjoyed the challenge of getting every detail right. It gave me a sense of accomplishment when my work looked just like the original.

At the same time, I sometimes struggled with open-ended creative projects. If there were no clear guidelines, I felt unsure about where to start. I've never really thought of myself as a traditional artist, but I've always appreciated how art connects to other subjects like geography

and language. My experiences showed me that art isn't just about imagination, it can also be about skill, practice, and technique.

Connect

To me, art is about both creativity and discipline. It's the ability to express ideas visually, whether through drawing, calligraphy, or something as structured as a map. Art teaches patience and attention to detail, and it allows us to see beauty in precision.

As a physics teacher, I see strong connections between art and science. Both require careful observation, creativity, and problem-solving. Just as I once enjoyed perfecting calligraphy and maps, I now appreciate the precision and structure involved in physics. I encourage my students to visualize concepts, sketch diagrams, and use models to understand motion, forces, and energy. By integrating artistic elements into physics, I hope to make complex ideas more tangible and engaging. My goal is to inspire students to see the connections between different disciplines and recognize the creativity involved in scientific discovery. In the end, I believe that art is about learning to see the world in different ways, and as a teacher, I want to help my students discover that for themselves.