

## E G G   A R T

The art of egg decoration goes back to early civilizations, when eggs were coloured and used as gifts to celebrate the re-birth of life on the earth. From ancient times until now, eggs have been decorated in many ways.

In France, from the 16th century onwards, it became customary to exchange elaborate surprise Easter Eggs. In 1850s the famous Russian goldsmith Peter Carl Fabergé created fabulous egg-shaped treasures, which soon attracted the attention of imperial Czars. In 1885 Fabergé produced the first Imperial egg, which was gifted by the Czar his wife. This became a tradition with the Czar gifting an egg every year to the Czarna during the Russian Orthodox Easter festival.

In the neighbouring Pittsburgh area in the Ukraine region, the tradition of egg decorations emerged in the form of intricate and beautiful 'Pysanky Eggs'.

The Persian culture also has a tradition of egg decorating during Navroz.

In the modern times, USA and Europe have emerged as important centres where egg art is practiced with great vigour.

The exhibition 'Eggxotica' marks the first formal entry of this exotic art into India.

# EGGXOTICA

Egg Art by Farha Sayeed



## ABOUT THE ARTIST



FARHA SAYEED

Farha Sayeed, wife of an Indian diplomat, picked up Egg Art more than a decade ago and improvised it by experimenting with the fusion of Indian and Islamic elements to this otherwise Western art.

Farha, who holds a Bachelor's degree in English Literature, pursues varied interests in arts and crafts. While she has a passion for Egg Decoration and Silk Painting, she is equally adept at charcoal painting, Thermo Cole painting, Tile Painting, Aluminium foil work, Glass Painting, glitter and zardori work and soft-toy making.

Farha's repertoire of egg art include a wide selection of decorated Ostrich, Emu, Goose, Duck, Turkey, Guinea and Hen eggs. Each of Farha's eggshells are intricately cut, carved, decorated and ornamented by hand using pearls, beads, crystals, brocade, velvet, satin, golden laces and rhinestone chains, making each piece a masterpiece and one of its kind.

Farha employs various techniques for decorating egg shells like cutting, carving, decoupage, trolling, etching, engraving, dyeing and bead work. She uses an ultra high-speed rotary drill for cutting and carving of egg shells, which are then treated with liquid polymer to strengthen and preserve their natural beauty.

Farha has created each egg art piece with great precision and ingenuity, involving several man hours of intricate work. These unique Objets d'Art are masterpieces which will surely lead the Connoisseurs of Art on a voyage into the realm of beauty and splendour.

All eggshells used for artistry are unfertilized eggs of domestic farm grown birds, which are procured from reputed hatcheries across the globe. No eggs are taken from the wild.

Farha's collection of decorated eggs was first displayed in October 2003 for a month by the Art Lovers' Group of H. Lundbeck A/S, Denmark.

Farha's maiden full-fledged solo exhibition of Decorated Eggs and Silk Paintings was hosted by the Frederiksberg Commune, Denmark at Byggeriets Hus from April 8-May 9, 2004.

A part of her collection of decorated eggs was also displayed during an international show held at Intercontinental Hotel Jeddah from 16-17th October, 2005, which featured cultural exhibits of arts and crafts from several countries of Asia and the Middle East.

Farha's second solo exhibition, 'EGGCELLENCE' was held at Reda Art Gallery in Jeddah from 14-16 June, 2008 and was inaugurated by Her Royal Highness Princess Fahda Bint Al-Saud. The exhibition was received with great enthusiasm and interest by connoisseurs of art.

Farha is a member of the International Egg Art Guild (IEAG), which is a non-profit association of artists, artisans, and craftspeople who work with natural eggs as an art or folk art medium.



#### INSTANT ATTRACTION

Item No. F-1

This extraordinary piece of egg art is a fusion of intricately carved Ostrich and Goose eggs. The Ostrich egg is elaborately carved into three delicate petals and embellished with golden cord and

#### SUMMER VICTORIA

Item No. F-2

A small Ostrich egg is carved in the shape of a skirt, which is lined with maroon satin and decorated with golden cord and red flat-back crystals. A beautiful painted doll torso is attached to the skirt. An elegant umbrella made out of another mini-ostrich egg adds to the beauty of this art piece.



#### EGG TEA SET

Item No. F-3

This piece is a fusion of an Ostrich and two Geese eggs. The Ostrich egg is lined with pink satin from inside. The spout and the handle of the teapot are painted with liquid gold leaf and decorated with water-sliding transfers. Two Goose eggs are cut to form teacups, which are painted with liquid gold leaf.

#### CINDERELLA'S JOURNEY

Item No. F-4

A small Ostrich egg is cut to form an open coach. The egg is coated with pink pearl paint and embellished with golden cord, rhinestone chain and tiny filigrees. A beautiful Cinderella sits on a couch inside the egg. Two horses are painted white and fitted with a fabric saddle of velvet, decorated with



#### EMU MUSICAL CAROUSEL

Item No. F-5

Emu egg is cut into four portions. The middle portion is reversed to fit on the top forming a canopy and the other portion forms the bottom half. Painted horses are placed alternatively up and

#### TREE OF LIFE

Item No. F-6

This spectacular Egg Tree is made of three carved and decorated Geese Eggs. The eggs are carved elaborately using free hand to form different geometric patterns. The eggs are ornamented with waterslide transfers and outlined with



**HANSA**

Item No. F-7

Emu Eggshell is cut to form body of a swan. A Plaster of Paris neck is painted black and affixed on the swan's body. The wings are attached using shell-enlargement technique. The wings are raised using small golden filigree and decorated with red crystals all around.

**SUPREME SWAN**

Item No. F-8

In this creation a Goose egg is cut to form two delicately carved wings, which are ornamented with pure white beads. The neck of the swan is painted and decorated with pretty flowers. A Turkey egg decorated with sequence beads duplicates as the body of the swan.

**XANTHOUS CAMEOS**

Item No. F-9

This is a pristine set of xanthous cameos, comprising of Goose and Araucana (smaller) eggs. Both the eggs have similar scallop or Prussian cutting and are decorated on the top with beautiful cameos. The eggs are lined inside with heavy maroon brocade.

**DIVINE PURITY**

Item No. O-1

Islamic calligraphy is carved on both sides of the egg using free hand marking. The egg is placed on a golden stand. This ostrich egg symbolizes purity and divinity.

**BY WILL OF GOD**

Item No. O-2

Ostrich egg is carved all around with Islamic calligraphy. The marking of the egg is done with free hand. The egg is placed on a golden stand. This egg art symbolises that all good things come from God and are blessings from Him.

**BUNCH OF ROSES**

Item No. O-3

This extraordinarily huge Ostrich Egg is painstakingly carved and etched to form beautiful roses. The egg is mounted on a beautiful porcelain rose stand, which adds to its beauty and splendour. This egg forms a unique and rare decorated art piece.

**CLARUS**

Item No. O-4

This Ostrich egg is intricately carved all around in free hand making it a marvellous art piece. The egg is mounted on an elegant stand and placed on a Corian base





**HEAVEN ON EARTH**  
Item No. O-5

This Ostrich egg is beautifully carved and embellished with floral transfers. The interiors are lined with green satin and silk organza. A golden chain is placed on the top to act as a stopper to the lid.

**DUCHESS JEWELLERY CASKET**

Item No. O-6

American Ostrich Egg is intricately carved into a gorgeous casket, suitable for keeping precious jewellery. The design on the lid is drawn free hand and carved around a gorgeous silk-print atop the casket. Pink crystal beads and the interiors lined with



**CYNOSURE OF ALL EYES**

Item No. O-7

Ostrich Egg is cut, hinged and painted with blue acrylic paint to form a Jewellery Box. The embellishment is completed using silk cloth and fanciful lace in the interior, golden cord and crystals on the exterior and filigree and fanciful crystals on the top.

**WEDDING COACH**

Item No. O-8

Ostrich egg is cut to form heart-shaped doors, which have pearl handles. The whole shell is carved in the shape of hearts, each of which is lined with golden cord. The interior is decorated with red velvet carpet which holds an elegant bride and groom. The egg is mounted on a golden coach.



**MAJESTIC COACH**

Item No. O-9

Ostrich egg is delicately cut to form a coach. Golden ornamented interiors, fanciful velvet ceiling, exterior decorated with rhinestone chains and heavy golden lace, blue brocade seats and an elegant golden crown add beauty to this awesome egg, which is mounted on a decorated golden coach.

**COLONIAL EXTRAVAGANCE**

Item No. O-10

Ostrich egg is delicately cut to form an imperial coach with two open doors. Golden ornamented interiors, fanciful velvet ceiling, exterior decorated with rhinestone chains and heavy golden lace, pink brocade seats and a beautiful golden crown add splendour to this spectacular egg.



**VICTORIAN COACH**

Item No. O-11

Ostrich Egg is intricately cut to form a coach with two full decorated doors. The interior embellished with golden filigree and rhinestone chain, fanciful ceiling made of soft crape and two blue brocade seats add to the beauty of the egg, which is mounted on a golden coach.



**EMU DOUBLE  
SURPRISE**  
Item No. E-1

Emu Egg is cut to open three doors. The top door is decorated with a satin print. The inside of the egg is lined with brocade. The egg is mounted on a golden stand and placed on a white Corian base.

**FULL BLOOM**  
Item No. E-2

Top half of this Emu Egg is cut to form tri-petals, which are decorated with rhinestone chain and laces. A beautiful fairy is placed inside the egg, which is mounted on a golden stand and placed on a round white Corian base.



**BLACK BEAUTY**  
Item No. E-3

Emu Egg is painstakingly carved to make beautiful roses. The outermost dark green layer of the eggshell is gently etched to make the underlying light bluish-green and whitish layers visible in the rose petals and leaves. The egg is mounted on a silver stand.

**TRIPLE HEART**  
Item No. E-4

This Emu egg has a complex design that combines floral latticework with shell-enlargement technique. Three heart cut-outs are made in the shell, which are lined with fine golden cord and rhinestone chain. A 'Little Angel' is placed



**EMU EGG CLOCK**  
Item No. E-5

A real working Emu Egg Clock, which is decorated with rows of pearl chain, golden cord, rhinestone chains and golden filigrees. The heart shaped doors on the back provide access to the clock

**EMU HEARTS**  
Item No. E-6

Emu Egg with a beautifully carved top in the form of heart patterns, which are decorated with golden cord. The interior is lined with a mirror and ornamented with flowers. The egg is



**EMU FLOWERS**  
Item No. E-7

Emu egg is completely carved in beautiful floral patterns. The naturally deep green Emu egg is etched meticulously to maintain its original colour while the outlines of the floral patterns reveal the

**EMU JEWEL BOX**  
Item No. E-8

Emu egg is converted into an elegant jewel box with two openings. The egg is embellished using a beautiful silk print on the top, red velvet inside and golden cord and nag crystals on the exterior. The decorated top compartment doubles as a stunning ring holder.





**ROYAL EMU  
CARRIAGE**

Item No. E-9

Emu egg is dexterously cut to form a carriage with two open doors. The interior is lined with red velvet while the exterior is decorated with red crystals. Tufted seats and ceiling and a beautiful crown add to the elegance of the carriage.

**JOURNEY OF  
ELEGANCE**

Item No. E-10

Emu egg is converted into a coach having two carved doors and windows, which are decorated with rhinestone chain. The doors are decorated with golden filigree. A figurine of an elegant lady is placed inside the egg.







**AQUAMARINE  
CHANDELIER**  
Item No. G-1

Goose egg is intricately cut in a delicate design and coloured crystals are meticulously glued to it using jewellers' cement. Four beaded bangles are attached to the egg with small eyelets. The egg is hung on a beautiful

**UNFOLDING  
SENSATIONS**  
Item No. G-2

This splendid Goose egg has a fan-shaped door which is decorated with transparent plastics and golden filigree. A dancing couple is placed inside the egg. A short three duck stand holds the egg.



**BEJEWELLED  
ENCHANTER**  
Item No. G-3

The door of this enchanting Goose Egg is decorated with a golden crystal surrounded by gold filigree, pearl string and rhinestone chain. The interior is lined with white satin and a golden tassel is fixed on the door. The egg is

**SUBLIME BEAUTY**  
Item No. G-4

Goose egg in Queen Anne cut. The egg is lined inside with heavy satin and coloured outside in white and decorated with pearls. The egg is mounted on a stylish golden stand.

