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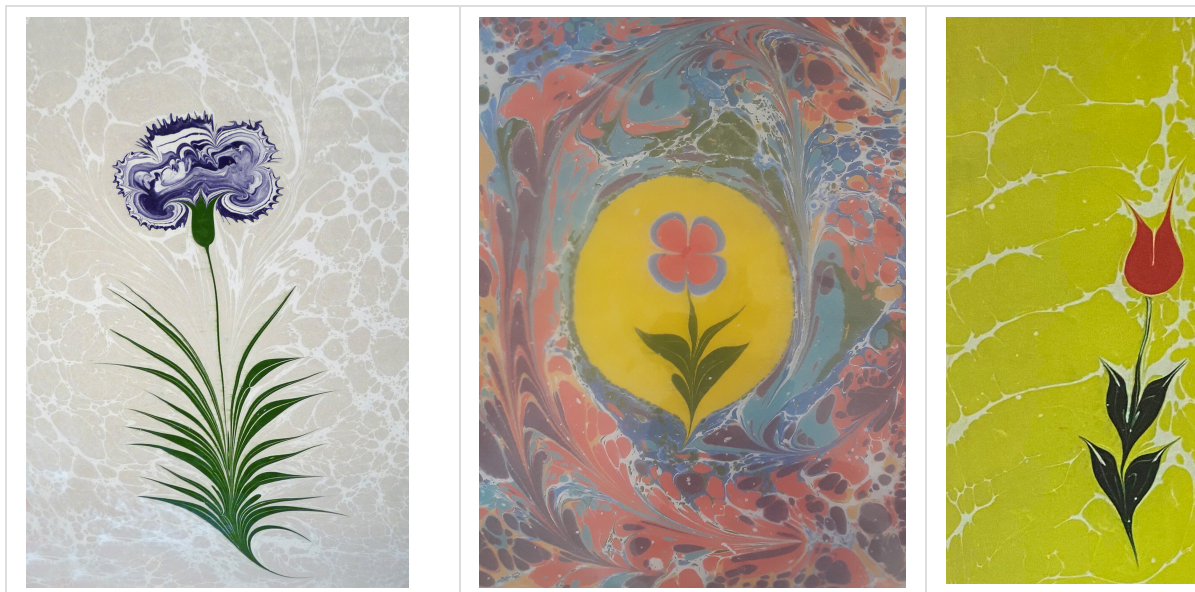
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Ebru Art and the Ottoman Empire

Introduction to Ebru Art

Ebru art, also known as paper marbling, is a traditional art form that began in Medieval Japan and China. It became especially popular during the Ottoman Empire. Artists filled a tray with thickened water, mixed with natural ingredients so that the paints they added could float to the top. They then used tools like needles and combs to swirl patterns, including flowers, waves and feathers, into the paint. Lastly, a sheet of paper would be carefully placed on top of the water, and then lifted and left to dry.

In the Ottoman period, Ebru was used to decorate important books, official papers, and even clothing. The flowing patterns and bright colours show the creativity and preference for abstract arts in the Ottoman world.



Create Your Own Ebru-Inspired Design

Watch the 'Ebru-Turkish Marble Art' video available at
<https://www.ottomanica.org/media/art/visual-arts>

Think about the flowing patterns and colors you learned about in Ebru art. In the space below, draw your own design that mimics these marbling techniques. Try to show how art can represent culture and identity, just like artists did in the Ottoman Empire.
