

**Nottingham
Contemporary**

Hamid Zénati

Two Steps at a Time

**Easy
Read**



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In this Easy Read document, difficult words are underlined. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.

Introduction



This exhibition is a display of artworks by an artist called Hamid Zénati.



Hamid was born in Algeria.



Hamid moved to Germany when he was in his 20s and lived there until he died in 2022.

Nottingham Contemporary



We are showing works by Hamid at Nottingham Contemporary from 25 May to 8 September 2024.

Hamid's Artworks



Hamid was a self-taught artist. This means he didn't go to art school.



Hamid made artworks for almost 60 years.



Hamid wasn't famous in his lifetime and never got the attention of important people in the art world.



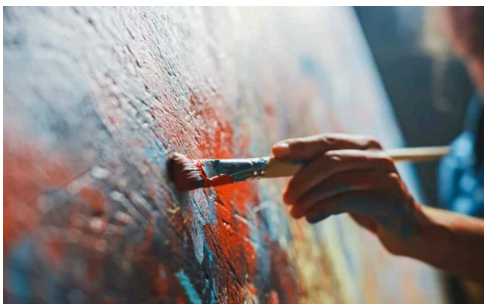
This didn't stop him from making art and he made almost 1000 artworks in his lifetime.



Hamid's artworks are mostly paintings. Some of his artworks are objects and photographs too.



Hamid started painting when he was working as a translator. A translator is someone who speaks more than one language and can change a document from one language into another language. Or they can tell people what somebody else is saying in another language.



When Hamid worked as a translator, he sometimes had time in between jobs when he had no work to do. He started painting in this time.



Hamid didn't just make paintings on canvas like you might expect to see in a gallery.



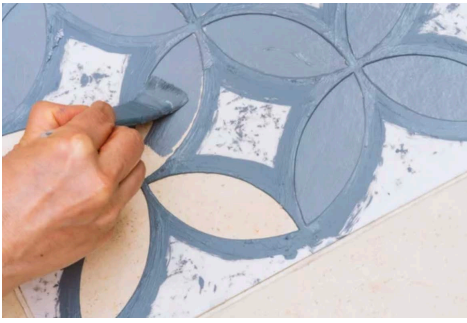
Hamid painted on almost anything he could find including fabric, walls, ceramics and clothes.



This meant Hamid's studio was full of objects and surfaces he had painted onto.



Hamid painted patterns and colours onto everything. He called this his 'all-over' style.



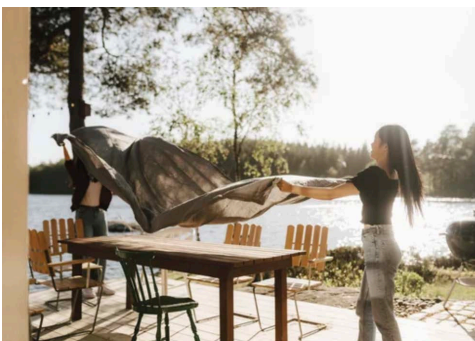
Hamid made lots of his paintings with stencils on fabric. Hamid's stencils were made by cutting shapes out from paper, tape or sticky plastic and putting them on top of fabric. He then painted thin layers of paint onto the fabric.



Once the paint was dry, Hamid ironed the back of the fabric to make the paint permanent. This means it stays there forever.



Hamid didn't treat his artworks in a special way like some artists do. He wanted them to be touched and used by people.



Some of his paintings on fabric were used in people's houses as tablecloths and bedcovers.



The paintings we have in our galleries can't be touched because they are now very precious and can't be replaced.



Hamid didn't display his paintings in the way artists usually do on walls. He preferred to lay them out or take photos of them in different environments he found when he travelled.



In some of his photos Hamid's paintings look like sculptures and sometimes Hamid appears in the photos, like a performer in front of the camera.

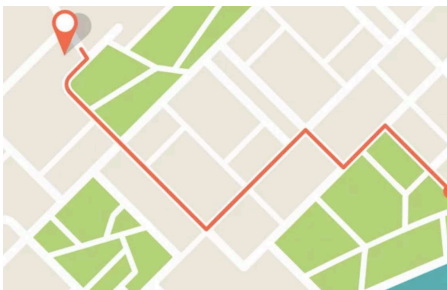


Sometimes Hamid sold his paintings at market stalls. He saw the set up of his stall as a sort of exhibition.

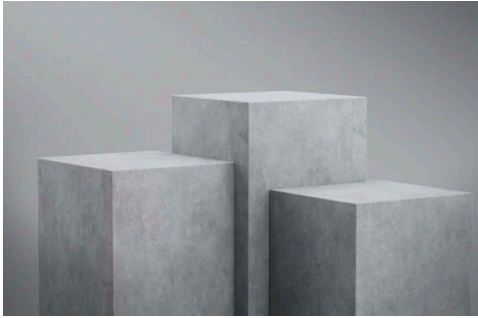
The exhibition at Nottingham Contemporary



In the exhibition at Nottingham Contemporary, the paintings are hung from the ceiling and become part of the architecture of the gallery. Architecture is the way a building is designed. This means the paintings make people walk around the space in a different way.



The layout of the paintings in Gallery 4 is based on a map of an area of Algiers where Hamid lived. The paintings are positioned so that they follow the lines of streets on the map.



The ceramics in Gallery 3 are displayed on structures called . A plinth is used to display artwork and can be made from things like wood or metal. The colour and shape of the plinths were designed to look like sand dunes in the Sahara Desert in Algeria.



Hamid often visited this desert because it made him feel calm.



The colours of the desert and the patterns of objects like cushions and blankets used by people living in the desert inspired some of Hamid's artworks.



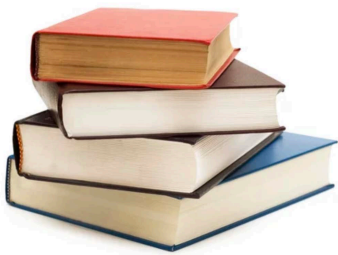
In Gallery 4 there is an area by the window which is inspired by homes in Algeria. This area is a space for visitors to relax and learn more about Hamid's life.



There are some photos from Hamid's life which show us more about who he was and what he was like. These include family photos and photos from Hamid's holidays.



In this area, you can listen to music Hamid liked on a radio. Hamid often made CDs with his favourite music on. He also liked to paint the CD covers himself.

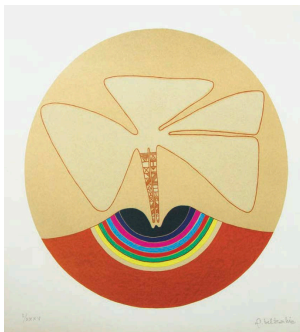


There are also books in this area by writers Hamid liked and was inspired by.

Hamid's Inspirations



The colours and patterns in Hamid's artworks were inspired by lots of different cultures and artforms, including:



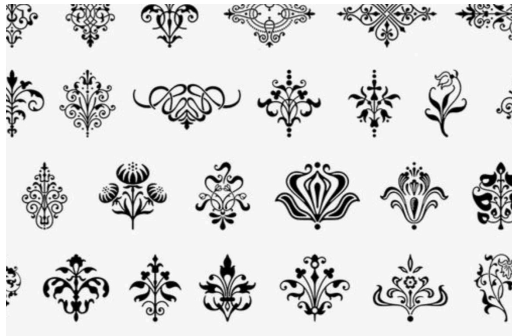
North African Modernism. This is art from North Africa from the 20th century, between 1900 and 2000.



Shapes found in nature like spiral shapes found in shells or leaves.



Set design by Sonia Delaunay who was a French artist.



Indonesian ornamental design. This is the patterns and shapes put onto objects in Indonesian history like shields, fabrics and jewellery.



Amazigh symbols. These are images which mean something to the people who use them, like a language made of pictures. The Amazigh are a group of people who have lived in North Africa for a very long time.

For more information



You can Find out more about what we do by looking at our website here: nottinghamcontemporary.org



If you would like to help us show more artworks in the future, please think about giving us some money.



We suggest £5 as a good amount.



Post: Nottingham Contemporary
Weekday Cross Nottingham
NG1 2GB

Phone: 0115 948 9750



Email:
info@nottinghamcontemporary.org

Artwork Credits

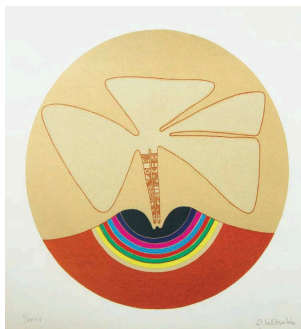
Artwork credits tell us who made an artwork and when they made it. The artwork credits for the artworks you have seen in this easy read guide are shown below.



This is an artwork by Hamid Zénati. The artwork is a photograph of a painting Hamid made. The artwork doesn't have a title. We don't know what year the artwork was made.



This is a photograph of an exhibition by Hamid Zénati. The exhibition was at a gallery called Haus der Kunst in Munich. The exhibition was called All Over. The exhibition was in 2023.



This is an artwork by Farid Belkahia. The artwork is called Shadow. The artwork is an etching, which is a type of print. We don't know what year the artwork was made. The artwork belongs to the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts.



This is an artwork by Sonia Delaunay. The artwork is a painting. The artwork doesn't have a title. We don't know what year the artwork was made.



This is an artwork by Hamid Zénati. The artwork is a painting. The artwork doesn't have a title. We don't know what year the artwork was made.



This is an artwork by Hamid Zénati. The artwork is a photograph. The artwork doesn't have a title. We don't know what year the artwork was made.



This is an photograph of Hamid Zénati. The photograph was taken in the 1990s. We don't know who took the photograph.



This is an photograph of Hamid Zénati. We don't know when the photograph was taken. We don't know who took the photograph.



This is an photograph of Hamid Zénati. The photograph was taken in the 1980s or 1990s. We don't know who took the photograph.