

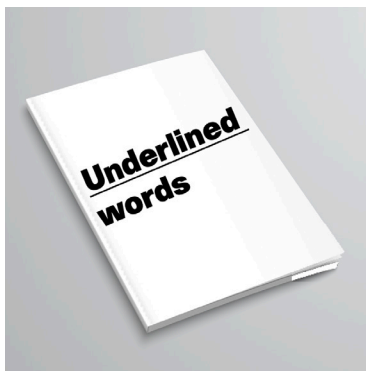
**Nottingham
Contemporary**

Hamid Zénati:
Two Steps at a Time

Easy Read Guide



How to use this Guide



In this guide, hard to understand words are underlined. We explain what these words mean after they have been used.

You can use the contents page below to find out which page of the guide information on different things is found at.

The page numbers are written at the bottom of each page.

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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.



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

Hamid's Artworks



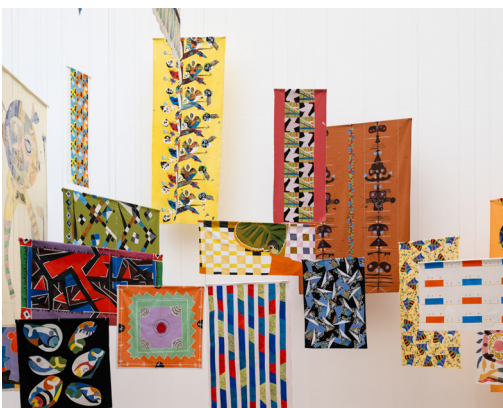
Hamid was a self-taught artist. This means he didn't go to art school.



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. Stencils are made by cutting shapes out from paper, tape or sticky plastic and putting them on top of fabric or another surface. You can then painted thin layers of paint onto the fabric using the stencil as a guide to paint a shape.



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 places 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.

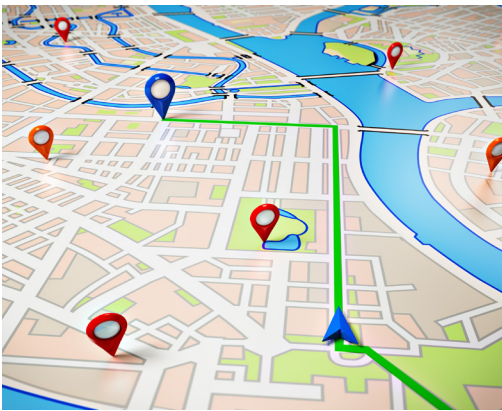


Sometimes Hamid sold his paintings at market stalls. He saw the set up of his stall as a sort of exhibition.

The Exhibition at Nottingham Contemporary



In the exhibition in our galleries, 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 objects in Gallery 3 are displayed on structures called plinths. 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.



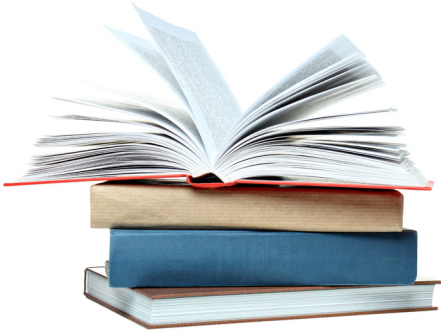
In Gallery 4 there is an area by the window which is inspired by homes in Algeria. This area is a space for visitors to relax and learn more about Hamid's life.



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 between 1900 and 2000.



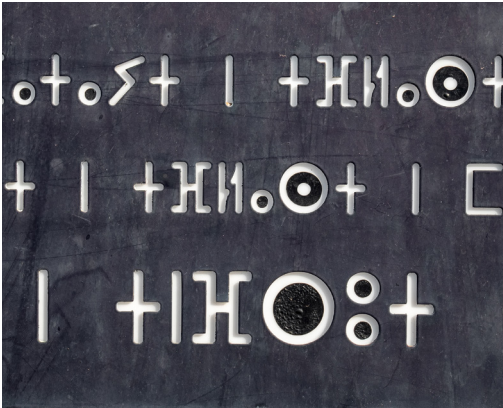
- Shapes found in nature like spiral shapes found in shells or leaves.



- Set designs by Sonia Delaunay who was a French artist. Set designs are drawings for what the stage in a theatre or the background in a film or TV show should look like.

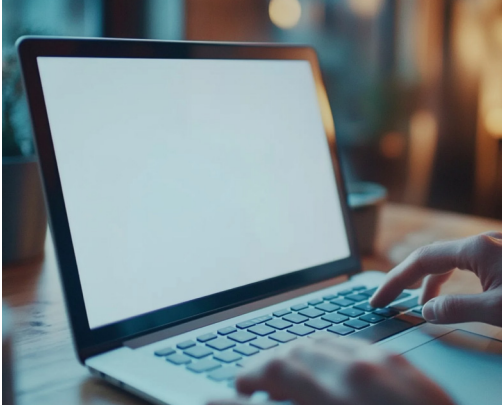


- Indonesian ornamental design. This is the patterns and shapes put onto objects in Indonesian history like shields, fabrics and jewellery.



- 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



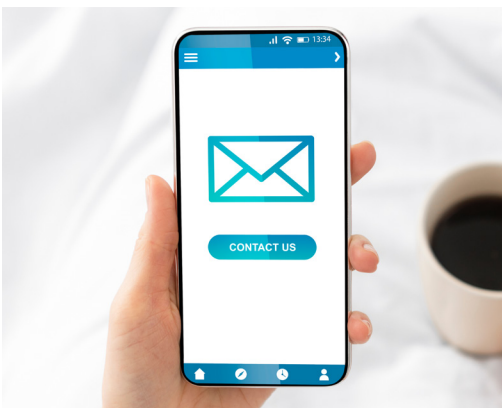
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We suggest £5 as a good amount.



If you need more information please contact us by:

**Post : Nottingham Contemporary
Weekday Cross Nottingham
NG1 2GB**



Phone: 0115 948 9750

**Email:
info@nottinghamcontemporary.org**

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We have to write these in the way they are written below because of special rules. You don't need to read this part of the guide unless you want to. This part of the guide doesn't tell you anything more about the artworks in the exhibition.

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