

Hazem Al-Zubi

حازم الزعبي

Sculptor and ceramicist · Amman, Jordan · born 1957

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Biography — 50 words

Hazem Al-Zubi (Jordan, b. 1957) is a sculptor and ceramicist working in bronze, stone and clay. A graduate of Baghdad's Academy of Fine Arts, he holds the UNESCO Prize for Art and Creativity and Jordan's State Appreciation Award. Two permanent halls in Amman are dedicated to his work.

Biography — 150 words

Hazem Al-Zubi (Jordan, b. 1957) is a sculptor and ceramicist based in Amman, working in bronze, stone and clay. He graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Baghdad in 1982, later serving as President of the Jordanian Association of Fine Artists and lecturing at the University of Jordan.

His work is closely associated with the statues of Ain Ghazal — the Neolithic figures found near Amman, among the oldest large-scale human representations ever made. He works in the clay of that same ground, which he mixes by hand.

He received the UNESCO Prize for Art and Creativity in 1994 and Jordan's State Appreciation Award in 2004. His work is held by the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, the Barjeel Art Foundation in Sharjah and the Hindiyeh Museum of Arts. Two permanent halls in Amman are dedicated to his sculpture.

Biography — 400 words

Hazem Al-Zubi (Jordan, b. 1957) has been making sculpture for forty-three years. He was born in Irbid and lives and works in Amman.

He graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Baghdad in 1982, from the ceramics department established and led by the Cypriot ceramicist Valentinos Charalambous, who had trained with Bernard Leach at St Ives before teaching a generation of the region's ceramicists in Iraq. Al-Zubi held his first solo exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman in 1986, and has since shown in Beirut, Damascus, Doha, Dubai and Washington, D.C., at the Sharjah International Biennial and at the Cairo International Biennale for Ceramics.

He served as President of the Jordanian Association of Fine Artists and lectured at the School of Arts and Design at the University of Jordan. In 2019 he exhibited at the Jordan

National Gallery of Fine Arts in *Objects of Imagination*, a survey of contemporary Arab ceramics, alongside Dia al-Azzawi, Ali Talib, Muhanna Durra and Wijdan.

His subject is Ain Ghazal. The site lies half an hour from central Amman; its lime-plaster figures are roughly ten thousand years old and are among the oldest large-scale human sculptures known anywhere. Their eyes were outlined in bitumen so that they would return a gaze. Al-Zubi has worked in their lineage for decades, in the clay of the same ground, and has said that the clay he loves is clay he makes with his own hands, from his own environment. His limestone figures carry the same drawn eye; his bronzes hold birds at the chest.

A published academic study has examined the influence of the Ain Ghazal statues on his ceramic work. The painter and critic Mohammad Al-Amiri has written that Al-Zubi tests myth and the archaeological trace in contemporary form, and that having exhausted clay in its ceramic possibilities he moved to the more permanent materials of stone and bronze.

He received the UNESCO Prize for Art and Creativity in 1994 and Jordan's State Appreciation Award in 2004, and has served on the jury of Kuwait's State Appreciation Award for ceramics and sculpture. His work is held by the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, the Barjeel Art Foundation in Sharjah and the Hindiyyeh Museum of Arts in Amman.

Two permanent halls dedicated to his work have opened in Amman: at the InterContinental Jordan in 2020, and at Al-Hussein Gardens Cultural Village in 2025.

Fact sheet

- Born 1957 in Irbid, Jordan. Lives and works in Amman.
- Materials: bronze, stone, ceramic. Mixes his own clay.
- BFA, Academy of Fine Arts, Baghdad, 1982.
- President, Jordanian Association of Fine Artists.
- Lecturer, School of Arts and Design, University of Jordan.
- UNESCO Prize for Art and Creativity, 1994.
- State Appreciation Award, Jordan, 2004.
- Jury member, State Appreciation Award for Ceramics and Sculpture, Kuwait, 2019 and 2021.
- Galleries: Orfali Art Gallery, Amman; Orient Gallery.
- Collections: Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts; Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah; Hindiyyeh Museum of Arts, Amman.
- Permanent halls: InterContinental Jordan, 2020. Al-Hussein Gardens Cultural Village, 2025.
- Subject: the Neolithic statues of Ain Ghazal, near Amman — among the oldest large-scale human figures ever made.

Facts worth leading with

Two permanent halls in one city, dedicated to one living artist. That is the rarest fact available and the one to use when there is room for only one.

A sculptor working in direct lineage from the oldest human figures on earth, in the clay of the same ground.

Baghdad, 1982 — trained in the ceramics department founded by a student of Bernard Leach.

Quotable, from the artist

On his material, from a 2012 interview: he loves the clay he makes with his own hands — the clay of his own environment — and every figure he has made has come from clay he mixed himself.

On his work, from 2016: from the clay of water and earth, he opens a window onto life and the birds of absence.

Both are paraphrases from Arabic sources. Exact wording should be taken from the original interview before quoting directly.

Online and social

- Instagram · @hazem.alzubi — Hazem Al-Zubi | Art Gallery · 3,300+ followers · 193 posts. Bio lists both permanent galleries: the Cultural Village, Al-Hussein Park, and the InterContinental Hotel. Links to alzubi.com.

- Facebook · Hazem Alzubi — 4,300+ followers.
- Website · alzubi.com
- Represented and shown by Orfali Art Gallery, Amman, and Orient Gallery.

Instagram is the strongest live channel he has: it carries process footage of him working — grinding stone, throwing clay, installing bronze — which is the material journalists and galleries ask for and which exists nowhere else. It should be credited in any coverage.

Please use @hazem.alzubi as the handle in all coverage.

A note on the name

His name appears online in at least five forms: Hazem Al-Zubi, Hazem Alzubi, Hazem Al-Zoubi, Hazim Al Zubi and Hazem Zu'bi. They are one artist. The studio uses HAZEM AL-ZUBI, matching his mark and his domain, and asks that coverage use that form so his record consolidates rather than fragments further.

Images

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- Credit line: Courtesy of the artist. Photography credit to be added per image.
- Please do not crop the sculpture. Cropping the work is an editorial decision and should be discussed.
- Captions must carry: title in Arabic and English, material, and date where established. Where a date is not established, please write 'date unrecorded' rather than estimating.

Contact

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Prepared by Hala Hijazi Studio, 2026. All facts verified against museum records, published press and the artist's own materials. Anything not stated here is not yet established — please ask rather than assume.