

Hussam Mohammed
Visual Artist



Hussam Mohammed, b. in Baghdad 1990, graduated from the visual art department at the College of Fine Art, Baghdad University in 2015. Since 2017, he is a member of the artist collective TARKIB and developed his own distinctive style of creating abstract big-size sculptures. He is using rusty iron as the preferred material and is addressing subjects related to psychological diseases within the Iraqi society. The corrosion effect of iron is for Hussam like the effect of a disease on a human being.

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TABAQEYE



TABAQEYE

Interactive sculpture
2023

TABAQEYE is a large-scale rotating iron ball covered with sketches drawn by children ages around 12 years addressing Iraq's electricity problem related to the country's social inequality.

Stratification is a technique to classify data, people, and objects into distinct groups or layers. For Hussam Mohammed, stratification refers to the classification of the community into different social classes and how the socioeconomic status impacts thoughts, feelings, and behavior.



9. Tartkib Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival, Muntada Al Masrah, 2023

TABAQEYE

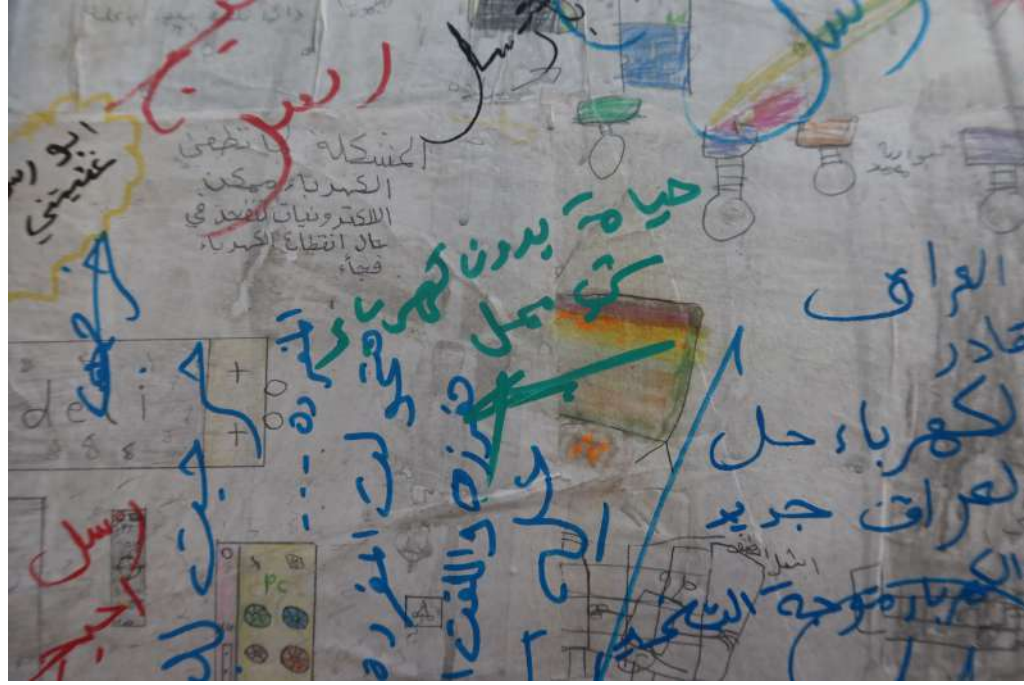
Interactive sculpture

2023

He asked pupils aged around 12 years of the sixth stage in a primary school to illustrate their perception of electricity in Iraq. Their visual answers were different according to the natural character of each single child and the socioeconomic background of the child's family.

Some have electricity in abundance, others have no electricity, which reflects the deep disparity in social conditions in Iraq. Some are very rich, while the majority of the population is very poor. According to the Ministry of Planning, the Iraq poverty rate rose to 25% in 2022. Considering the fact that Iraq has not conducted a population census yet and many other data are missing to set poverty threshold, one can imagine that the real number are far higher.





TABAQEYE



EXPRESS

Interactive sculpture
2022

Hussam Mohammed presented a 2m high iron sculpture with a hanging ball and invited the visitors to write popular proverbs and sayings on it, or whatever they would like to say. It was an invitation to express. For Hussam, the freedom of expression is important, but not always people can say what they want to say without to endanger their life. He offered a place and time to feel free to express. The visitors used the occasion and wrote down typical Iraqi proverbs, but also wishes for the future such as end bombing, freedom, hope and others.



5. BAGHDAD WALK, Al Rasheed Street, 2022

EXPRESS



WAITING

Sculpture
2022

"WAITING" is dedicated to his father, who passed away beginning of the year. He is scrutinising with his sculpt the long administrative process a patient and its family has to go through before a medical treatment can start. The material iron stands for endurance and patience they have to have. The form of a circle symbolizes the cyclic movement of repetition and the long process. The ornaments of the palms stand for the Ministry of Health. The crown in form of a silver ball represents the Minister of health, who has to sign before a treatment can start. The hanging medicine bottles mirror the final status of taking the treatment, but maybe the treatment comes too late, like in the case of his father.



8. TARKIB Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival, Iraqi Artists Syndicate, 2022

BAGHDAD WALK IN BERLIN

Group Exhibition

23.06.-26.06.2022

Salon am Moritzplatz, Berlin

BAGHDAD WALK is an annual group exhibitions series which takes place in public spaces across the city of Baghdad, since 2018.

The exhibition BAGHDAD WALK IN BERLIN revealed how the participating artists developed artistic strategies and narratives in Baghdad's public space and presented selected works from the last four editions. Hussam Mohammed presented his sculpture "ERASE" and a photograph of his iron sculpture "TREE".

ERASE
Sculpture
2020





ERASE
Sculpture
2020

ORPHANS



ORPHAN

Iron sculpture
2021

ORPHAN is a square cage sculpture made of iron bars in the shape of a jail with hanging concrete blocks. The sculpture addresses the fact that children are often the victims of parent's decisions.



7. TARKIB Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival, Al Zawraa Park, 2021

TREE



TREE

Iron sculpture
2021

TREE is an iron sculpture that symbolises a railroad tree. Hussam Mohammed collected different kinds of used railway spare parts from the depot of the International Train Station and assembled them to a tree. A tree is a universal symbol of strength and growth. The railroad tree is a symbol to establish an Iraqi railway system that links Baghdad with all the Iraqi governorates and beyond.



4. BAGHDAD WALK, Baghdad International Train Station, 2021

FUTURE



FUTURE

Iron sculpture | Children drawings
2020

FUTURE reflects the evolution of generations and how the young generation's ideas and thoughts diverge over time and decades. The work is composed in several collage paintings in a wheel that embodies your previous life and the development of your mentality. The collage paintings are drawings of children, which he collected during his classes as an art teacher in a primary school.



6. TARKIB Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival, Online, 2020

FUTURE



PRESSURE



PRESSURE

Sound Installation
2020

Hussam Mohammed's sound installation **PRESSURE** addresses people's struggle to find a balance between work and leisure time. (Predominantly) Iraqi men often sit in this coffee shop playing backgammon or dominos in their spare time. Mohammed presented a cube, which symbolises a die. From the cube emanated the sound of the game of backgammon, recorded in the same coffee shop where he presented his artwork, every so often disrupted by a ringing alarm clock. For the artist, playing die games exercises mental muscles. The atmosphere and soundscape of the traditional coffee house are meditative and rhythmic, some patrons coming in from a long workday and others leaving for their night shifts.



3. *BAGHDAD WALK, Haifa Street, 2020*

ERASE



ERASE

Sculpture, hanging
2020

ERASE was a two-by-two-metre carpet made from typical Iraqi hand brooms hung from a balcony on a house on Al Rasheed Street. The work addressed the community phenomenon of interfering in other people's freedom, which involves stipulations of what clothes to wear, what kinds of food to eat, what skin colour is favoured, when to work, when to rest and so on. Hussam Mohammed's goal was to raise awareness of how small-minded and limiting this can be, to erase this phenomenon that inflicts unproductive social pressure.



2. BAGHDAD WALK, Al Rasheed Street, 2020

FOCUS



FOCUS

Iron sculpture
2019

FOCUS was a big-size iron sculpture criticising some parent's educational methods. He asked: "What is if you play with your kids, instead of giving them only your mobile phone to play."



5. TARKIB Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival, Abu Nawas Theater, 2019

EXPRESSIONS



EXPRESSIONS

Audience-participatory performance
2018

With his participatory work **EXPRESSIONS**, Hussam Mohammed invited the audience to join together in a circle. He asked each guest a personal question and the participants should answer each question without using words. His artwork is called **EXPRESSION** as he wanted to challenge the facial expressions and gestures of the participants. He criticised forms of expressions, normally used in social media. The performance took place in front of Abu Nawas statue, located in the park at the end of the boulevard Abu Nawas.

1. *BAGHDAD WALK, Abu Nawas Statue, 2018*



DIFFERENCE



DIFFERENCE

Installation
2018

DIFFERENCE was questioning the widespread strong contacts syndrome in Iraq. With the right connections you can easily be successful in everything, quite apart from qualifications and expertise.



3. *TARKIB Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival, Bait Tarkib, 2018*

o.T.

Animation

2017

In 2017, German artist Klaus Killisch and US poet Robert Fitterman - both founding members of the art collective Collective Task - collaborated with about a dozen of Iraqi artists. The artists from Baghdad chose the task: **MAKE MUSIC WITH YOUR OWN TOOLS!** As is the guideline with Collective Task, they had one month to complete their responds.



<https://youtu.be/rMQGrBxkqDY>

COLLECTIVE TASK BAGHDAD 2017 @ BAIT TARKIB



TIME

Room-Installation
2017

Hussam Mohammed was addressing the tiring passageways in Iraqi Ministries for ordinary people. To succeed an official stamp for even minor request one has to go through a long time and power consuming process.



3. TARKIB Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival, Shatha Al Jameel, 2017