

**Investment the national identity in contemporary Saudi ceramics****Dr. Hala Abdullah Bahamem**

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The importance of identity lies in its familiar culture of interest to all societies, in terms of its close connection with traditional arts and its authenticity, which is considered as a way through history of nations, their arts, traditions, customs, culture, etc. which are transmitted from generation to generation.

This research is concerned with emphasizing the importance of national identity as a vital resource that can be used in the arts in general and in ceramics in particular. Since the art of ceramics is one of the arts that has been associated with human identity since ancient times, the potter was interested in shaping, coloring and decorating his vessels, borrowing from the environment in which he lives, in order to determine his national or local identity.

This research aims to shed light on the national identity and its use in contemporary Saudi ceramics. In our time, ceramic art has become a competitor to other arts, by moving out of the boundaries of functional utensils to artworks that has aesthetics and expressive forms.

Also, the research followed the descriptive approach, and thus this research deals with the following topics: the concept of identity, sources of inspiration in Saudi art, national identity and contemporary art, using identity in artistic work, and finally presenting some of the works of Saudi potters artists and their investment of national identity in ceramic art, which were implemented with different techniques, where they used clay as an expressive medium in conveying their feelings, opinions and ideas, which showed different and unique aesthetic and expressive values.

The research concluded that the identity and sources of inspiration present in the land of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia helped the Saudi artist to produce works of art in general and in the art of ceramics in particular, and to the extent of his skill in embodying his national identity and building artworks that tell us about the heritage of this country in a contemporary and renewed manner.

Finally, among the most important recommendations of this research, the researcher recommends that academic have to adopt scientific research that is concerned with the Saudi national identity, and study it to enrich artworks in general and ceramic art in particular. In order to root the artistic movement in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Also recommendation for artistic and cultural bodies to promote a culture of inspiration from the national identity of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and to form specialized artistic workshops in the field of ceramics to communicate with the public regarding the art of ceramics in general, and the possibility of communicating with the identity of all parts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

**Key words**

Contemporary ceramics, Saudi ceramics, identity

### **Research problem**

How did the Saudi potters benefit from the national identity and the possibility for investment of it in their contemporary ceramic works?

### **Research importance**

Emphasizing the importance of national identity as a vital resource that can be used in works of art in general and ceramic art in particular.

### **Research aim**

Shedding light on the national identity and its use in contemporary Saudi ceramics.

### **Research Methodology**

The research follows the descriptive, analytical method.

### **Research results**

The research concluded that the identity and sources of inspiration present in the land of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia helped the Saudi artist to produce works of art in general and in the art of ceramics in particular. Contemporary ceramics made its way in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through the hands of its sons, taking advantage of the experiences of the past, then they adapted it with their thought and vision to suit our values and society, and thus:

- It is possible to benefit from the national identity as a vital source from which artists in general and ceramic art in particular can be inspired.
- The process of inspiration should not be limited to direct or indirect transmission, but rather it must be repurposed in a manner that is in line with the spirit of the times and linking form to content.

### **Recommendations**

- The researcher recommends that academics have to adopt scientific researches that are concerned with the Saudi national identity, and study them to enrich artworks in general and ceramic art in particular, in order to root the artistic movement in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- The researcher recommends artistic and cultural bodies to promote a culture of inspiration from the national identity of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and to form artistic workshops specialized in the field of ceramics to communicate with the public regarding the art of ceramics in general, and the possibility of communicating with the identity of all parts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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