

**Inspiration by heritage and preserving identity in the designs of artist****Omar Al-Nagdi****Lecturer /Eman Mohamed Elsaid****Art & Design-King Salman International University-Sharm Elsheikh**[emansaid171@gmail.com](mailto:emansaid171@gmail.com)**ABSTRACT:**

The arts in general and the visual arts in particular express a person in all the details of his reality, his dream, his victories, his complete affiliation and cohesion with others and his integration with the environment and life around him, with all its details and symbols that reflect identity, history, civilization and heritage. Therefore, the need to move towards heritage in the plastic arts emerges. Contemporary to confirm artistic belonging and identity, as this need is imposed by openness to the world, which increases day by day.

Through the design elements in the artwork, the artist relies on an idea, heritage, decoration, icons, symbols, scenes, and materials that are integrated and added to the artistic concepts to give a new dimension and form a special identity for the artwork.

Many visual artists have emerged during the contemporary art movement, whose inspiration from heritage played an important role in the visual construction of their artistic works, and among the most prominent of these artists is the artist Omar Al-Najdi.

Omar Al-Najdi presented many artistic works inspired by the Egyptian environment with diverse and rich artistic styles and techniques in terms of themes, colors, and plastic elements. The artistic composition, which expressed the heritage and identity of the Najdi, achieved a visual balance that combines memory and idea to present creative material that has an emotional spontaneity that blends craftsmanship, skill, and innovation.

The attempt to delve into the depths of heritage is bold, but worthy of the results he obtained in his works. It appeared in an artistic demonstration of extreme richness, seriousness, and depth. It matches his stage of Sufi contemplation, and reflects his spiritual vision of things.

The research deals with the study of design in the works of the artist Omar Al-Najdi and its connection to the Egyptian identity, through his inspiration from the Egyptian heritage, whether this heritage is ancient Egyptian and Islamic art or folk art.

Where his artistic philosophy is clarified and studied in the use of various design elements, to highlight the Egyptian identity in the various subjects of his works. Therefore, the information in this study was in fact gifted to me by the artist Omar Al-Najdi during my apprenticeship under him.

**KEYWORDS:**

Identity - heritage - design – contemporary.