

# **ARTS & CULTURE**

# Jordanian artist and sculptor Mona Saudi dies at 76

> Her artworks are part of collections around the world, from Paris to London and Sharjah



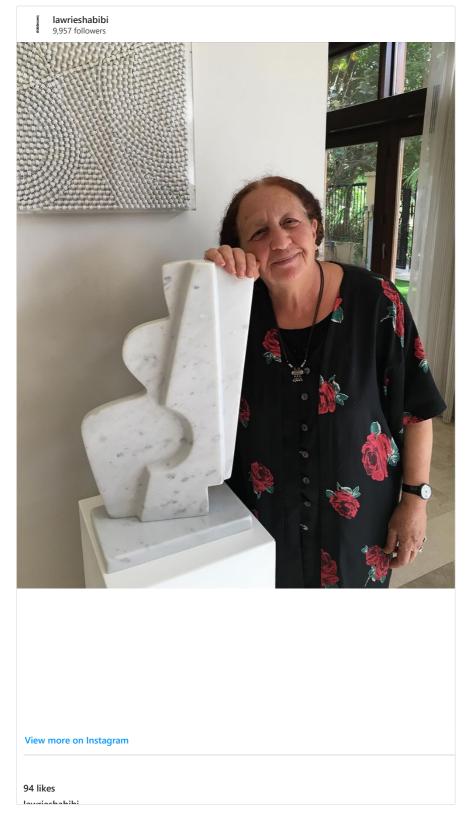
The works of Mona Saudi, a renowned artist and sculptor, are part of collections around the world. Photo: Sharjah Art Foundation



ordanian artist and sculptor Mona Saudi has died. She was 76.

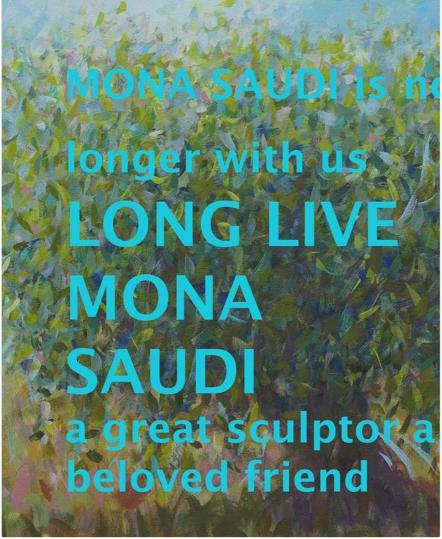
The news was confirmed by her gallery on social media. "Very sad that Mona Saudi, the great Jordanian sculptor, left us tonight," William Shabibi of Lawrie Shabibi gallery shared on Wednesday.

"With great sadness we remember Mona Saudi. An irrepressible personality, a great artist, sculpting in stone for over 60 years, Mona was a force of nature. She passed away peacefully last night in her beloved Beirut. What a privilege to have known, and worked with her — we will always remember her. Shine bright Mona Saudi," Lawrie Shabibi's Instagram posted on Thursday morning.



Close friends of the artist also took to social media to remember her. "Mona Saudi is no longer with us. Long live Mona Saudi, a great sculptor and beloved friend," wrote Palestinian artist <u>Samia Halaby</u> on Instagram.





Born in Amman, Jordan in 1945, Saudi studied sculpture at the Ecole nationale superieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris. She worked and lived between Beirut and Amman and her work has been exhibited at home and around the world.

In an interview with *The National* in 2018, Saudi talked about why she left Amman for Beirut and then Paris when she was only 17.

"This was how I planned my life," she said. "I wanted to do an exhibition and then go to Paris. Nobody supported me. I just decided to make my life by myself, so I abolished all kinds of obstacles — family, society, et cetera."

Mona Saudi, standing by her sculpture, outside Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris in 1987. Photo: Lawrie Shabibi Gallery

By the time she turned 18, Saudi had already held an exhibition, at Cafe de la Presse in the old *An-Nahar* newspaper building in Beirut, and was off to the Ecole Superieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris.

Saudi mainly worked with stone and today one of her works sits outside the Institute du Monde Arabe in Paris. In a recent interview with Nathalie Bondil, director of museum and exhibitions at Institut du Monde Arabe in *Forbes*, Bondil said: "My meeting with Mona Saudi, this immense contemporary sculptor, moved me: a woman who cuts stone is very rare... "

READ MORE

The remarkable career of Jordanian artist Mona Saudi Decades after her first sculpture titled *Mother/Earth* (1965), Saudi's work has been exhibited around the world. Today, pieces of her artworks are in the collections of cultural institutions around the world including the Sharjah Art Foundation, the British Museum in London, National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, DC and the Ministry of Culture in Cairo.

Updated: February 17th 2022, 9:48 AM

# **EDITOR'S PICKS**

# Which UAE property and construction jobs are in demand and how much do they pay?

MONEY



υĸ

# Art and soul: the fabric of Reem El Mutwalli's existence

## ARTS & CULTURE

Dubai named third-safest city for solo female travellers

# TRAVEL

Here's how Abu Dhabi is investing for the future

Filipino artist wins Dh50,000 mural contest at Dubai's Waterfront... ART

UAE Expo 2020 Courts Government Education Heritage Health Transport Science Environment LIAE in Space

6

World UK US Africa Asia Australasia Europe The Americas Cop26

https://www.thenationalnews.com/arts-culture/art/2022/02/17/jordanian-artist-and-sculptor-mona-saudi-dies-at-76/

### Jordanian artist and sculptor Mona Sharjah Art Foundation's March Meeting 2022 to tackle post-... ART

Opinion Comment Editorial Obituaries Cartoon Feedback

Lifestyle

## 32 winning pictures from the UAE's World's Coolest Winter photograp... ART

Travel News Hotels Destinations Covid-19 Travel Airlines Responsible Tourism

Р Т

Т

Е

С

4/5

# MORE FROM THE NATIONAL

COMMENT

Health Arab Showcase

Saudi dies at 76

ART

# 2/17/22, 10:56 AM

Jordanian artist and sculptor Mona Saudi dies at 76

ОАЕ III Эрасе	Business	Fashion Food Motoring Luxury	Sport
Coronavirus	Aviation Economy Energy Money	Family Home Wellbeing	Football Cricket IPL F1 UFC Golf
Gulf	Cryptocurrencies Property Banking Technology Markets	Things to do Comment	Rugby Horse Racing Tennis Other Sport
Saudi Arabia Bahrain Oman	Travel and Tourism Start-Ups	Arts & Culture	Other Sport
MENA	Road to Net Zero Future Comment	Art Books Film Music On Stage	
Egypt Iraq Iran Jordan Lebanon		Television Comment	
Syria Tunisia Captagon Crisis			
About Us Contact	Us Newsletters Sign Up Work With U	s Privacy Policy Advertise With Us	Follow us

About Us Contact Us Newsletters Sign Up Work With Us Privacy Policy Advertise With Us Terms & Conditions Sitemap Special Offers Archive F E N E