

Hazem ElMestikawy was born in 1965, He is a Swiss-Egyptian visual artist, lives between Cairo and Alexandria. He received his BA in art education from Minya University. He has been travelling and showing his works in Europe and all over the world. His work ingeniously assimilates ancient Egyptian and Islamic art and architecture, as well as contemporary minimal art philosophies, such as the Bauhaus. He has received international recognition in North Africa, Europe and all over the world and in 2011 he was awarded the Jameel Prize recognising artists who explore traditional Islamic influences through contemporary art. Hazem ElMestikawy's practice moves between the realms of architecture, design, sculpture, and visual deception, and one of its intriguing aspects is the use of cardboard and cartonage paper-based materials to design installations that are environmentally sound and at the same time seem solid and impenetrable. In fact, the artist plays with fragile materials, with light and shade, with volume and its surrounding space to design deceptively light forms, thus challenging the boundaries between the ephemerality of the material and the enduring nature of the artistic product.