



Photo shows pieces of a jewelry collection by Franco-Iraqi fashion designer residing in Jordan Hana Sadiq at her store in the capital Amman. With verses from love poems and flowing calligraphy, Jordan-based fashion designer Hana Sadiq stitches a testament to the beauty of Arab women. — AFP photos



Franco-Iraqi fashion designer Sadiq speaks of one of her designs incorporating Arabic calligraphy in the 'Thuluth' script, at her store in the capital Amman.

# A POEM TO ARAB BEAUTY: THE FASHION DESIGNS OF HANA SADIQ



With verses from love poems and flowing calligraphy, Jordan-based fashion designer Hana Sadiq stitches a testament to the beauty of Arab women. In a career spanning decades, Iraqi-born Sadiq has shown her creations worldwide and dressed the stars, but she remains rooted in the traditions of her homeland. The artistic handwriting of Arabic script dominates her embroidered modern designs, with poetry or letters scattered in bright colors.

She uses various calligraphic styles, from the elaborate Diwani to the curving Thuluth, and features on some of her outfits the lines of renowned Arab poets including Mahmoud Darwish and Nizar Qabbani. "Arabic calligraphy is the most beautiful," says Sadiq, 72, showing off her love of jewellery as strings of beads around her neck, dangling earrings, and unusual stone rings.

At her home workshop in downtown

Amman, Sadiq notes that the earliest writing was born several millennia before Christ in what is now Iraq, arguing that it was a place "without which all the other civilizations would not have existed". Sadiq has split her time between Amman and Paris since 1982, having both French and Jordanian nationality as well as Iraqi citizenship.

### 'How beautiful she is'

She has exhibited from Europe to the United States as well as the Middle East, returning home with an extensive collection of antique silver ornaments, along with thousands of pieces of Arab textiles and costumes. Her kaftans, traditional robes, feature bright and stunning colours. They reflect the influence of her grandmother who wore a traditional Iraqi "Hashemite dress" and walked "elegantly like a peacock".

The folk outfit is made of very thin fabric

with wide sleeves and transparent sides, decorated with beautiful floral ornaments, golden or silver, on a black base. It was the favourite of Iraqi women in the 1950s and 60s. Sadiq traces her interest in fashion to her childhood, when she would visit her grandfather's textile shop in Baghdad.

She went on to design for celebrities and royals, including Jordan's Queen Rania and Queen Noor. But whoever the client, her work has been guided by pride in the Arab woman's femininity. Unlike more revealing Western fashion, her designs envelope the woman's body, "but it shows high femininity," says Sadiq, who is also the author of a book, "Arab

Costumes and Jewelry, a Legacy without Borders".

She argues that Western clothes are not the best fit for the bodies of Arab women but have spread to the region anyway. "Unfortunately this is the result of globalisation," she says. "What matters to me, in all my work, is that the woman remains female and that a man is attracted to her as a female," she adds. "Which means when a woman passes in front of him, he must notice and see how beautiful she is." — AFP



A model presents a piece by Franco-Iraqi fashion designer, incorporating Arabic calligraphy in the 'Diwani' script, at her store in the capital Amman.



A model presents a piece by Franco-Iraqi fashion designer at her store in the capital Amman.



Franco-Iraqi fashion designer residing in Jordan Hana Sadiq speaks during an interview at her store in the capital Amman.

## Gunmen steal hundreds of holiday outfits from tailor

Gunmen have robbed a Pakistani tailor of more than 200 outfits made for customers ahead of the Eid al-Fitr holiday that marks the end of

Ramadan, tying up and beating his staff. Muhammad Razaq told AFP Friday that two armed men barged into his Islamabad store before making off with 240 completed or near-finished shalwar kameez outfits - Pakistan's national dress. "The police have not been able to find any clue to the ruthless guys who turned this Eid for me into a nightmare," said Razaq.

The haul was worth more than 720,000 rupees (nearly \$4,000), he added. Pakistanis, and Muslims around the world, usually celebrate the Eid al-Fitr holiday with new outfits and jewelry - with the rich splashing out thousands on glitzy ensembles. But even poor people try to buy something new for the holiday, and tailor-made outfits are frequently cheaper than store-bought clothes. The Eid festival

is expected to begin either Monday or Tuesday, depending on sighting of the new moon.

Most of the shelves in Razaq's shop were empty Friday and he sat disconsolately behind a sewing machine. "I have been working in the area for the last 20 years and have customers who come to me from posh areas of Islamabad and Rawalpindi with branded and expensive fabrics," he said. Salman Ashraf, one of the tailors tied up during the raid, said the robbers were very aggressive. "The gunmen thrashed us, tied us with ropes and asked us to remain silent," he said. Police confirmed the incident and said they were investigating. — AFP



Tailor Muhammad Razaq (left) opens his shop in Islamabad after gunmen robbed him of more than 200 outfits made for customers ahead of the Eid al-Fitr holiday.



Tailor Muhammad Razaq stitches a fabric at his shop in Islamabad, after gunmen robbed him of more than 200 outfits made for customers ahead of the Eid al-Fitr holiday. — AFP photos

## Tom Cruise unveils 'Top Gun' sequel with mid-air stunt

Tom Cruise unveiled the world-first screening of "Top Gun: Maverick" at CinemaCon in Las Vegas Thursday introducing the long-awaited sequel while balanced atop a flying bi-plane. The new "Top Gun," which picks up the story of Maverick and his fighter pilot buddies some three decades after the blockbuster original, was scheduled to open in 2020 but was repeatedly delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cruise, famous for doing many of his own stunts, introduced the screening to the movie theater industry convention with a video message recorded in typically hair-raising style, perched on the moving plane's fuselage from the skies above South Africa.

"Hey everyone. Wish I could be there with you. I'm sorry for the extra noise," yelled 59-year-old Cruise over a roaring plane engine and high winds. "As you can see, we are filming the latest installment of Mission: Impossible." "Tom does everything at full speed all the time... and you can't stop him. He's going to do it no matter what," joked producer Jerry Bruckheimer, who also returns from the first movie, at the CinemaCon event.

While plot details and reviews are embargoed before the film officially premieres at the Cannes festival next month, "Top Gun: Maverick" drew immediate glowing praise on social media from journalists attending Paramount's CinemaCon presentation. It combines adrenaline-packed action sequences largely shot on real US Navy fighter jets with emotional references to the original. Bruckheimer said it had taken so long before making

the follow-up because "all our careers kind of took off from that point" and Cruise "had a lot of stories he wanted to tell."

Tony Scott, who directed the original, died in 2012, but new director Joseph Kosinski "came up with a way to make it that excited Tom." Kosinski said he had been inspired by stunning footage on YouTube recorded by US Navy pilots filming with GoPro cameras during their training. "I showed that to Tom and I said 'this is available on the internet for free-if we can't beat this, there's no point in making this film.' So he agreed." With the assistance of Navy engineers, the filmmakers found ways to insert six cameras into the jet cockpits.



US actor Tom Cruise and British-US actress Hayley Atwell are pictured during the filming of 'Mission Impossible: Lybra' in Rome. — AFP

The blockbuster original was based on a real training program that was known as Topgun and based at San Diego's former Naval Air Station Miramar. Navy recruiting officials reportedly saw a dramatic uptick in inquiries from would-be flyboys following the film's release, with military recruiters in some cities setting up tables outside cinemas. Filmmakers "did not get a lot of support from the Navy" to make the original "Top Gun," said Kosinski. "This movie on the other hand, when we approached the Navy to make it, it was like throwing open the doors. You know, 'come on in, tell us what you need.'" — AFP