

# Iraqi Artist Recreates Ancient Artwork

イラクでは、過去の出来事によって傷ついた文化や芸術を見直す動きが進んでいます。美術館や遺跡に残る作品は、長い時間をかけて受け継がれてきた大切なものです。しかし、それらが失われたり壊されたりすることもあります。そうした中で、再びよみがえらせようとする取り組みにはどんな意味があるのでしょうか。



## 1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

Iraqi artist Khaled Al-Abadi's dream is to **recreate** historical **objects** that were damaged during years of war.

Al-Abadi is a sculptor. In his Mosul workshop, he carefully **shapes** objects into pieces of art - lions, chariots, birds, and more.

Al-Abadi told the Reuters news agency, "During the Islamic State **period**, when my colleague and I were walking around, we would see the statues that were removed, and the gates that were being demolished, we were really troubled by this." Demolished is a term that means destroyed.

Al-Abadi's clay-based artworks show the country's long history – from the Assyrian period through the Islamic State occupation.

"We want to remind the coming generations that this is the history of Nineveh," he said, talking about the ancient Assyrian city located close to modern Mosul. "This is the history of Mosul. This is the history of Iraq."

The area where about 20 murals are displayed is located in old Mosul, a part of the city that suffered heavy damage during the war to take back the city from Islamic State militants. These militants destroyed many of its ancient sites.

The country's rich cultural history has long suffered during its [conflicts](#). Last year, ancient objects stolen and taken out of Iraq after the U.S. invasion in 2003 were put on display in Baghdad.

One of the objects on display included a 3,500-year-old clay tablet with part of the Epic of Gilgamesh, the ancient Sumerian story believed to be one of the world's first written works.

Charlotte Bruneau reported on this story for Reuters. John Russell adapted it for VOA Learning English.

Source: [Iraqi Artist Recreates Ancient Artwork](#)

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## 2. Key phrases and vocabulary

First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

**1. recreate (v.) to make something again based on the original**

The Portuguese chef tried to recreate his grandmother's recipe for malassadas.

**2. object (n.) a thing that can be seen or touched**

The history professor put the small object on the table.

**3. shape (v.) to form something into a particular form**

Akinobu used his hands to shape the pizza dough into a ball.

**4. period (n.) a length of time in history**

The country went through a difficult period at the beginning of the 21st century.

**5. conflict (n.) a situation of fighting or disagreement**

The two groups held talks to end the conflict.

## 3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. What kind of work does Al-Abadi do in his workshop?
2. What did Al-Abadi see during the Islamic State period?
3. What happened to many ancient sites in Mosul during the war?
4. Why do you think it is important to protect historical objects?
5. How can art help people remember history?