

38.

Hassan Darsi

Jetée en or



Al Maaden Sculpture Park, Marrakech, Morocco



At Al Maaden Sculpture Park, set on a golf course near Marrakech, Hassan Darsi's *Jetée en or* (*Golden pier*) appears like a scattered line of large geometric shapes. The work consists of multiple golden cubes resting directly on the ground. Each one catches the sunlight, casting bright reflections across the grass. They're arranged in what seems like a random pattern, as if in motion. But their careful placement is deliberate, creating an organised composition that spreads light throughout the area.

During the day, the installation plays with light and shadow: each cube shines brightly, creating a path marked by flashes of gold and soft shadows. At dusk, the work transforms again. A lighting system illuminates the cubes, marking their line like a beacon or the beam of a lighthouse, connecting the piece to the changing light of day and night. The cubes shift from cool, metallic reflections by day to a warm, glowing appearance at night.

By coating these simple forms in his signature gold adhesive – a material inspired by decorative finishes in Casablanca – Darsi turns ordinary blocks into striking, reflective sculptures. The shiny gold surfaces attract attention and suggest luxury, but they also carry a more critical message. Gold is a symbol of wealth and status that also reminds viewers how these things are unequally shared. The cubes in a way resemble small shipping containers or vaults, hinting at global trade, migration and the unequal value placed on goods, people and cultures.

ABOUT HASSAN DARSI

Hassan Darsi was born in 1961 in Casablanca, Morocco. He is known for his thoughtful, site-specific works that explore themes of urban transformation, power and social inequality. He often uses gilding and reflective materials to question notions of value and beauty. His projects, which range from public interventions to

sculptural installations, invite viewers to rethink space, ownership and heritage. By working with architectural forms, urban planning and symbolic materials like gold leaf, Darsi critiques both local and global power structures.



Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden

Three other art stops in Marrakech

- **MUSEUM OF AFRICAN CONTEMPORARY ART AL MAADEN**

The Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden (MACAAL) is located adjacent to the Al Maaden Sculpture Park. The collection is dedicated exclusively to contemporary African art and consists of works by various prominent Moroccan artists.

- **GALLERY WALK**

Marrakech has a small but vibrant contemporary gallery scene, perfect for an afternoon stroll to discover the latest developments within the city's contemporary artworld. Start your art walk at Comptoir des Mines Galerie, a Marrakech art world staple.

- **JARDIN MAJORELLE AND MUSÉE YVES SAINT LAURENT**

Fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent saved the famous Jardin Majorelle, created in the 1920s and '30s by French painter Jacques Majorelle. He conceived a striking cobalt pigment – later known as Majorelle Blue – and splashed it across walls, fountains and pavilions. The colour is meant to resemble the Moroccan sky and the colours of the region's tiles. The Musée Yves Saint Laurent Marrakech sits just steps from the beautiful gardens and is housed in a striking terracotta-brick building. Inside, it showcases around 1,000 couture garments, accessories, sketches and photographs, organised thematically to reflect YSL's inspirations: Africa, Morocco, gardens and art.



Marrakech

