

## ROCK ART FROM BASALT STONE



From one of the oldest and best preserved Byzantine towns in the Southern Hauran in Jordan, we present rock art from the basalt stone that is spread far and wide and which characterizes the desert landscape. Here, the rock is hand shaped by artisans from the local community using basic tools to produce artifacts reminiscent of **ancient times**, which can still be used and enjoyed today as integral, design pieces of interior and exterior decorations.

The product is being developed within the framework of the UNESCO – UN Women Joint Programme “Empowering Rural Women in Mafrq Governorate” and in close collaboration with **Nadia Dajani**, an expert in Jordanian handicrafts and style and a unique advisor in quality development and control. Bowls, plates, sculptures and much more are currently under production by the expert hands of the women in Umm el Jimal, whose endurance to challenges and hardship of basalt stone carving are as strong as those of the product’s champion, **Mostafa Salameh** – the conqueror of the Antarctic. The product will be presented in May 2016 at the official Launch of the pilot collection.



## THE ARTISTS

The Programme trains the women of Um el Jimal in basalt carving, product design and development, quality control, marketing, accounting and business management basic skills. The participants are members of the *Ladies of Umm el Jimal District* who are supporting their community through this business startup project.

“In the past months, I started making some income and I hope that this work will **help me in supporting my husband and family**” says Umm Sultan, a 52 years old trainee with 6 children.



## THE PROJECT



The “UNESCO – UN Women Joint Programme in Mafraq Governorate” fosters the creation of a range of needed cultural **tourism** services at Umm el-Jimal, an archaeological site spanning from Roman to Umayyad times and inscribed in the Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The Programme is implemented thanks to the generous contribution of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Jordan.