

Shisha Masters

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HAND
MADE
HAZY
BOWLS

LUCAS
JASNOWSKI
MASTER
CRAFTSMAN



For centuries, the shisha bowl has been one of the critical components needed to prepare and enjoy the perfect shisha. Over the years the market was flooded by mass produced and low-quality bowls which resulted in uneven heat distribution and tended to break after a few uses. Artist Lucas Jasnowski spotted an opportunity and founded his company Hazy Bowls. He crafts unique and high-quality handmade bowls that can sell for up to \$2,500. We had to find out more.

Tell us about your early life. Where did you grow up? I grew up in Spain. I lived there for a short period with my family before we moved to the United States for an opportunity my father had with his job. Every so often, we return to visit friends and family. I miss the landscape, ambience of the narrow, cobbled streets and the food.

What is your business all about? Hazy Bowls is about me expressing my art through shisha bowls. To me, each bowl is a canvas upon which a new, exciting idea can form. I love to attempt new styles and techniques, to bring a fresh take to the market that is unlike other brands. Each bowl is unique unto itself and no two are alike.



What made you decide to start Hazy Bowls? I grew tired of the market's current offering and knew I could bring something new to the table. I always had a penchant for design and the creative spirit, so it was the perfect way for me to utilize those skills. I love what I do, and the whole process of creating something from nothing is very rewarding.

Can you remember where you enjoyed your first shisha? That would have to be my local lounge around 10 years ago. I came in and enjoyed a bowl of Al Fakher Grapefruit and, well, the rest is history. I had the very good fortune to have a local shisha shop nearby where I would connect with other enthusiasts and get a first-hand experience with many products, including trying new flavours before buying them. It's also where I bought my first real shisha: the KM Prince.

What is your favourite shisha flavour? That is difficult because I have quite a few; however, my favourite profiles are citrus and fruit. You cannot go wrong with a good lemon or orange mint. MustHave Pynkman, Al Fahkamah Passionfruit, Haze 5 Cents a Cup are some of my favourites, to be sure. Granted I don't try as many new flavours these days like I used to!

“Each bowl is unique and no two are alike”

How would you explain the importance of a good quality bowl in shisha to someone not familiar with the product and ritual?

It is the heart of your session, the engine of your car, the MVP of your football team. You can learn to pack as well as you'd like, or even have the nicest pipe, but if your bowl cannot heat the tobacco properly or evenly, you're going to have a poor experience.

What makes your bowls a luxury item? By definition, the demand of the bowls. As time passed and people became aware of my venture, demand increased yet my supply did not. Out of most, if not all manufactures, I probably spent the most time per bowl as each one is different, so they all entail their own process. I must come up with a new idea each time which is consuming, but also exciting being able to do something different each time.

How do you find working in such a niche, unique business? It definitely makes for an interesting operation. The field is so small, I know most other brand owners by name and regularly chat with many friends and enthusiasts who become clients of mine. It really lets me connect with everyone in a way, I think, wouldn't be possible in a larger industry.



What challenges have you had to face when building your business? My biggest challenge so far has been attempting to meet the demand and the concerns of those unfortunate to miss my drops due to them selling out in under half a minute or less. It truly is humbling to create something that is in such high demand from the general public, to the point where people utilize bots; however, I do my best to combat this so that everyone has a fair chance.

Has your business suffered as a result of Covid-19? Truthfully, not much. The biggest concern was materials shortages causing prices to increase but since I don't work on a large scale, it wasn't as bad for me as it was for large conglomerates who wholesale or mass-produce.

Why do you think shisha has become so popular? It is a lovely tradition shared by many cultures. A great addition to any social situation, especially with friends and family. Other forms of smoking are solitary activities, but with shisha, you can pack two bowls and enjoy it with your friend.

If you could choose any company or business person in the world, which do you admire the most? And Why? The company I admire most is Wikipedia. A collective of knowledge on a whole range of topics is a great feat on any level, and to do so without advertising but by the support of its readers, is a testament to how much knowledge they provide, all of which, is cited. A library of Alexandria, if you will, on the internet. The world just would not be the same without it.

“My goal for Hazy Bowls is to create more creative and enticing pieces. To keep surprising people with what a shisha bowl can be”

What goals do you have for your life business/project? My goal for Hazy Bowls is to create more creative and enticing pieces. To keep surprising people with what a shisha bowl can be. There's still so much untapped potential in how shisha bowls can be designed that I am very interested in and wish to show everyone.

What is your process of creating a bowl from start to finish? It depends on where I draw my inspiration from. I have a sketchbook of ideas when they come to me, so sometimes I source from there, but most of the time, it's created from nothing. I just draw from previous experience and keep thinking about how I can make the piece better or what would happen if I did something in particular. Other times, I look at other works of art for inspiration such as lamps, towers, chair spindles or even shisha stems themselves and try to think of ways of creating my own twist on them.

Would you describe yourself as a craftsman or an artist? Can they not both be the same? I see myself more as the latter since, to me, making my bowls is more of a creative outlet. I love what I do, and with each bowl, I become more experienced and skilled, which allows me to create art in new and meaningful ways.

How does innovation impact your business? There isn't much space on a bowl, and having such little room to work with, you really have to think about every millimetre and how it will play out in your design. New tools bring new ideas and competition encourages innovation naturally, so I am always looking for ways to stand out and make people realize bowls can be so much more than just a piece of ceramic that works well.

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What 3 things can you NOT live without? Cold Brews/Milk Tea, my Takamine H5 guitar, and my pottery wheel.

What has been your most satisfying moment in your business? Recently? Probably setting the record for most expensive bowl ever sold at \$2500. People believe in me and what I am doing, and want to see me succeed, and to see this reflected in such a manner is truly a humbling and jarring experience for someone who never imagined they would be in the position I am today. Overall? Realizing there are people out there who truly enjoy the work I create and wish to collect it. My biggest joy is seeing the look of happiness when people are finally able to secure one of my bowls, after trying for years, and appreciate the work, time and effort I put into it.

Can you describe your typical day? How many hours a day do you usually work or think about work? The typical day is never the same, but generally I only work on a few bowls at a time - usually around 3. Any more and I can't be bothered since I spend so long on each bowl, I have to really be able to focus on each one individually to make sure they come out perfect and meet the standard I set for myself. I am always thinking about how can make bowls, whether that's the different types of glaze combinations I can do, techniques I can try, or forms I can shape, it never ends.

Considering all the individual parts of the shisha hose, bowl, stem, head, coal describe your perfect shisha set up? Bowl: Hazy Bowl (I mean, were you expecting something else?). Stem: Now this is difficult, but probably El Nefes Sultan or Gazi, Shika Zizo or Tyron, maybe even a Narwas Crosshatch or Swirl. If you couldn't tell, I am a fan of the traditional. The weight and craftsmanship behind the metalwork is truly something I appreciate. Hose: VM Handmade and Kuerbis Craft make some exceptional work. Other craftsmen who put a lot of time and energy into their work, and that is always something I appreciate. Diffusor: Heba makes the quietest diffusor, prove me wrong. Ashtray: Shika and Al Jamal create some beautiful traditional ashtrays. But lately, a lot of modern companies have been making waves in actually putting more effort into this part such as El Bomber and Alpha Hookah, which is something I love to see.

Where is the best venue in the world to enjoy a shisha? Anywhere as long as I am with my girlfriend or friends! But, truthfully, I am a fan of well-decorated lounges with a cozy atmosphere that creates a relaxing experience. A nice ambience always pairs well with a good smoke.

ESCA works to promote shisha and to educate the public and political leaders about the tradition of shisha and those who use it.

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