

# MIT List Center

## Dimitri Hadzi

Artist Dimitri Hadzi's bold, heavy forms, though abstracted, summon up images of ancient warriors. Hadzi drew on his own Greek heritage and study in both Athens and Rome to create works such as this 1963 bronze sculpture titled Elmo-MIT, the first outdoor commission on the MIT campus.

The curved projection that caps the sculpture, whose title means helmet in Italian, indeed could be a piece of military armor. It's also shaped like the cloud of the atom bomb. In a 1981 interview, Hadzi said he intended for the sculpture to project strength but also the brutality that can come with it.

The helmet form also mimics the dome buildings that dot Italy's landscape suggesting strength of a different order. One that is cultural. In fact, Hadzi took inspiration for his Elmo series from the hoplite or heavily armored infantrymen in Homer's epic poem, The Iliad.