11 OCTOBER 2015 - 14 FEBRUARY 2016

FOCUS: Works from Mathaf Collection is an ongoing series of solo exhibitions featuring artists from the Museum's Permanent Collection.

The first five exhibitions, with Farid Belkahia (Morocco), Saloua Raouda Choucair (Lebanon), Faraj Daham (Qatar), Inji Efflatoun (Egypt), Abdelhalim Radwi (Saudi Arabia), propose entrances into looking at these artists' production through the lens of curatorial interpretations of historical contexts, materials and aesthetics. With this exhibition series, the Museum's role is not only to conserve art over time, but to suggest paths for revisiting, re-experiencing, and seeing the selected artworks in light of current events and curatorial readings. Together, the exhibitions invite viewers to rethink their understanding of art history and its connection to the world through original research, writing, and curating.

Each of the five exhibitions explores multiple artistic approaches towards major topics of modernity, including identity, invention and experimentation in art. Belkahia, Choucair, Daham, Efflatoun, and Radwi believed they had a responsibility as intellectuals to embrace historical traditions and social progress. They innovated the direction of artistic practice in ways that have proved crucial for subsequent generations. Their diverse backgrounds, education, and interests, as well as their dedication to social reform, allowed for original yet universal creations. In different ways and with different forms, these five artists have played a major part in generating ideas and inventing techniques as they, in conversation with international art movements and other geographies, make sense of their artistic, social, and political worlds.
ARTISTS AND CURATORS

Farid Belkahia: Aube(s)
Curated by Abdellah Karroum

Saloua Raouda Choucair: The Meaning of One, the Meaning of the Multiple
Curated by Laura Barlow

Faraj Daham: Divergence
Curated by Mayssa Fattouh

Mother Tongue: Selected works by Inji Efflatoun
Curated by Leonore-Namkha Beschi

The Quest for Authenticity in the works of Radwi
Curated by Fatma Mostafawi