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# Modern and Contemporary Middle Eastern art online auction returns to Duk



Hayv Kahraman, Kurdish Women. Photos courtesy of Christie's.

DUBAL- Christie's Middle East is pleased to announce the return of the Modern and Contemporary Middle Eastern Art Online auction taking place from 1 – 16 May. The sale comprises 63 works across mediums including paintings, sculpture and photography, from the period 1963 to 2021. Leading the sale is an exceptional work by Moroccan artist Mohammed Melehi, Wilde, 1963. (Estimate US\$100,000-150,000) coming from the Private Collection of Toni Maraini, Rome. This rare work hails from the artist's time in New York, and was exhibited in Galleria Trastevere in the same year of its making, and was also recently exhibited at London's New Waves exhibition at The Mosaic Rooms in 2019.

The sale covers artistic production from across the Middle East and North Africa, including works by artists from the U.A.E, KSA, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Iran, Iraq, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. Exciting contemporary names from the region such as Mohammed Ahmed Ibrahim, Ali Banisadr, Hassan Hajiai, Reem Al Faisal, Thameur Meiri and Jawhara al Saud, are balanced by strong modern works including Etel Adnan's Khat wa Rasm, 1986, (estimate US\$50,000-70,000); Dia Azzawi's Gilgamesh Epic no 4, 1966 (estimate US\$15,000-20,000) and Shaker Hassan Al Said Kitabat a'la jidar raqam, 1978 (estimate US\$70,000-100,000).

Leading modern female artists include Samia Halaby, Helen Khal, Etel Adnan, Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian, Huguette Caland and Behjat Sadr, alongside contemporary female artists Hayv Kahraman, Tala Madani, Nadia Kaabi-Linke, Dana Awartani and Shirin Neshat who comprise a third of the works on offer in the auction, a strong market barometer of the continued interest in and rising demand for works by these talented artists.

#### Highlights include

The Maghreb section of the auction includes a highlight from Tunisian-Ukranian artist Nadia Kaabi-Linke, Carthage Presidence, 2009 (estimate US\$50,000-60,000). This monumental work (over four metres long) represents a unique opportunity for collectors to access a work from the sold-out series. Nadia's work can be found in MoMA. Guggenheim and Centre Pompidou collections. The sale includes two commissioned works on paper by the Iraqi female artist Hayv Kahraman, who explores themes of identity, femininity and transformation throughout her work. Kurdish Women, 2009 (estimate US\$25,000-35,000), depicts a group of women from Kurdistan bird-watching, and is the largest figurative work on paper by the artist to come to the secondary market., Dana Awartani (Saudi Arabian, B. 1987), Icosahedron Within a Dodecahedron (From the Platonic Solid Duals Series), 2016 (estimate US\$25,000-35,000) is a sculpture comprising wood, copper and glass. Of the talented Saudi Arabian female artists, Dana Awartani has recently showcased her works at prestigious venues such as the Sharjah Biennial and Lyon Biennale of Contemporary Art. In this work the artist fuses Euclidean geometry with Islamic geometry, and craftmanship with contemporary practice.

Etel Adnan's leporello Khat wa Rasm, 1986 (estimate US\$50,000-70,000) beautifully illustrates the poem 'Stations Beyond Death' by Adnan's friend, the Iraqi poet Shawqi Abdel Amir. Produced in California in the 1980s, the work weaves Abdel Amir's ethereal verses with Adnan's hand drawing and writing in 28 sheets using watercolour, ink and coloured pencils

Shaker Hassan Al Said Kitabat a'la jidar raqam, 1978 (estimate US\$70,000-100,000). Al Said was one of the founders of the modern Iraqi art movement and Baghdad Modern Art Group (1951), this work comes from his sought after Wall series and quest for One Dimensions. Mohammed Kazem, Scratching Series, 2021 (estimate US\$25,000-35,000). Kazem is one of the leading Emirati artists, as part of the 'Five' informal group of artists alongside Hassan Sharif, Hussein Sharif, Mohammed Ahmed Ibrahim and Abdullah Al Saadi. This work is a continuation of the series which he began in the 1990's, using a scratching technique with scissors to create reliefs scratched onto the surface of cotton, while also tearing material to produce repetitive sound. Nabil Nahas, Untitled, 1980 (estimate US\$20,000-30,000). A rare example of a work from the artist's geometric period that set forth his oeuvre, and intertwines Islamic geometrical principles with the geometric forms of the American Abstract expressionists.

Suzy Sikorski, Specialist, Post War and Contemporary Middle Eastern Art comments, 'There is a rising demand for Middle Eastern art at a regional and international level, now met with a growing interest of new collectors to the category that are focusing on GCC, especially Saudi Arabia, met with prestigious art exhibitions and residency programs. International exhibitions such as the Venice Biennale and Lyon Biennale of Contemporary Art have also built more awareness of Middle Eastern art in a non-profit space, while also allowing for a more global perspective on art from the region. Christie's Middle East's auction this season in Dubai reinforces our role to nurture the market here, for the regional and the international stage'.

Marie-Claire Thijsen, Head of Sale, Middle Eastern Modern and Contemporary Art comments, 'Our online sale includes strong representation from the contemporary market which is going from strength to strength. We are seeing a significant increase in demand for work by contemporary names from the region, not only from collectors in the Gulf but notably internationally. We anticipate that there are names to watch included in this sale who will become highly sought after in the immediate future. This is an exciting development for emerging talent across the diaspora and the category as a whole'.



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Cantor Arts Center showing 'Reality Makes Them Dream: American Photography, 1929 to 1941'

Fourth-generation Italian art dealer brings rare collection of 13th-17th century paintings to South Florida

NYC libraries stave off Sunday closings in Mayor's new budget plan

Sotheby's presents MOTHER of all: Louise Bourgeois, Spider this May in New York

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Pace Gallery presents a solo exhibition of new work by Keith Coventry in London

'Kaloki Nyamai: Dining in Chaos' 2023 now open through June 24th, 2023 at Galerie Barbara Thumm

'Call of the Void: Robin Megannity' now open at WORKPLACE until June 4th

Dread Scott awarded the Rome Prize and now opening the exhibition 'Goddam' at Cristin Tierney Gallery

Coloring in the margins: Pacita Abad

Karl Berger, 88, who opened minds of generations of musicians, is dead

'Hortensia Mi Kafchin: Years of Bad Hair' now on view at P·P·O·W

Gallery Weekend Berlin 2023 to feature work by Björn Dahlem at Galerie Guido W. Baudach

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