

We use cookies to remember choices you make on functionality and personal features to enhance your experience to our site. By continuing to use our site you consent to the use of cookies. Please refer to our privacy and cookie policies for more information.

Accept

CREATE ACCOUNT LOG IN

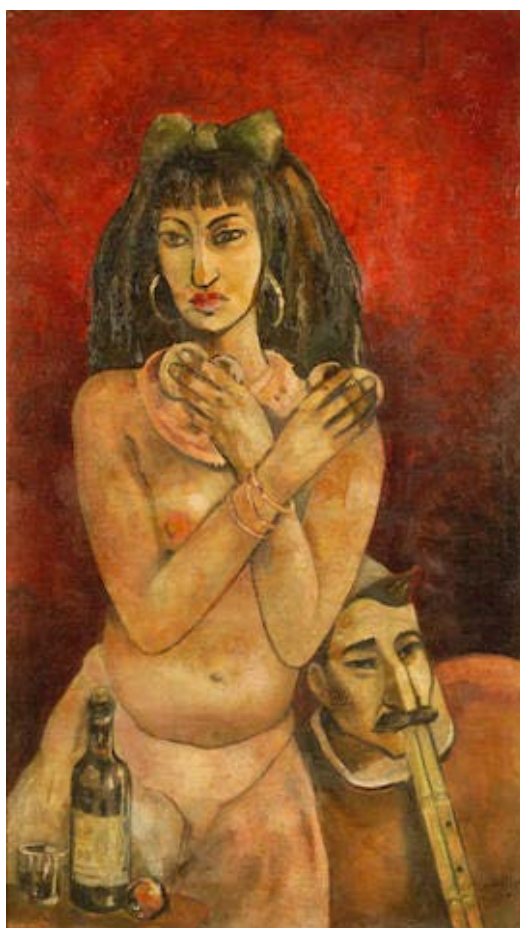
# Bonhams

Auctions Results Departments Locations Services Stories Search

< Previous Lot

All lots

Next Lot >



LOT 30\*

## HUSSEIN YOUSSEF AMIN

# (Egypt, 1904-1984)

The Dancer and the Zammar

£ 40,000 - 60,000

€ 48,000 - 71,000

**AMENDED**

[FOLLOW](#)

Modern and Contemporary Middle Eastern  
Art

28 Nov 2017, 15:00 GMT

London, New Bond Street

## HUSSEIN YOUSSEF AMIN (EGYPT, 1904-1984)

The Dancer and the Zammar

oil on canvas

signed "Hussein Youssef Amin" and dated "1946" in  
Arabic (lower right), executed in 1946

*176 x 85cm (69 5/16 x 33 7/16in).*

### Footnotes

Provenance:

Property from a private collection, Giza

Hussein Youssef Amin belonged to the second generation of the modern Egyptian art movement. Amin was born in 1904 in a socially privileged class and was the son of a Turkish government official. Amin was naturalised Egyptian by order of the khedive. During his youth he travelled through Italy, France, Spain and Brazil, acquiring deep understanding of various art schools and graduating from the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence. During his travels around the world Amin became closer and closer to his Egyptian identity. Upon his return to Egypt in 1931,

# B

Noor Soussi  
Auction administrator  
Modern & Contemporary  
Middle Eastern /  
London, United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 20 7468  
[noor.soussi@bor](mailto:noor.soussi@bonhams.com)

Amin became a prominent art scholar and taught art at a number of universities.

His young promising students gathered every week at their mentor's house in Maryoutiya to foster their creativity and discuss the world of art. Amin not only gave them the courage to embrace their traditions, but also to become spokespersons for the unheard majority of the population by depicting the fear and fatality generated by poverty. Following in the footsteps of the surrealist artists, Amin's students condemned social injustice, political oppression and the bourgeoisie.

In 1944, Amin formed the Contemporary Art Group; the group members included Abdel Hadi Al-Gazzar, Hamed Nada, Maher Raef, Kamel Youssef, Abou Khalil and Ibrahim Massouda. They were dedicated to shaping national identity, promoting modernization, social reform and collective freedom through art. Their works were inspired by folk symbolism, popular traditions and notions of the collective unconscious. In the mid-1940s he formed several groups collectively known as the "Rejectionists". They challenged previous romanticised imagery and Western academic styles by exploring the daily realities of poverty and oppression. In 1946, Amin organised the Contemporary Art Group's first art exhibition, at the Lycee Francais du Caire. History was in the making with the 190 works by Amin's protégés that dealt with previously unexplored themes rich in symbolism. In 1948, a second exhibition took place at the YMCA in downtown. That same year Amin won the first modern art prize at the Sao Paolo Biennale.

The most spectacular and inventive artworks by the groundbreaking Egyptian artists Adel Hadi El Gazzar, Samir Rafi and Hamed Nada from the mid-1940s to the mid-1950s exist because of Amin's relentless efforts. His financial and ideological support was instrumental in the discovery of these artists. Rejecting the absence of both

local heritage and the reality of unprivileged people in the works of art & freedom, Amin built on the foundations of Henein's socially engaged movement to visualise a national character born from homegrown psychological, social and historical values. Amin succeeded in creating an embedded Egyptian surrealist-expressionist movement which he termed "cultural emotions".

"Egyptian painting started miraculously around 1946" wrote Aime Azar a Lebanese professor of literacy criticism at Ain Shams University and Egypt's most important art historian, in his 1961 book *La Peinture Moderne en Egypte*.

### Saleroom notices

Please note the correct date for the artwork is 1940 and not 1946

Conditions  
of Sale

[View >](#)

Go to Modern  
&  
Contemporary  
Middle [Go >](#)  
Eastern Art

[Auction information](#)

---

[Lot symbols](#)

---

---

### NEWS





## ZEID GEIST

FAHRELNISSA PORTRAITS TRIUMPH AT  
BONHAMS  
28 Nov 2017

[View all news](#) >

### SIMILAR ITEMS



LOT 12\*

**HAMED NADA**  
**(Egypt, 1924-1990)**

Zaar with Tuba

Sold for £ 43,750  
inc.premium,  
(€ 51,975)

[FOLLOW](#)

Sign up to receive your weekly update on our global auctions.

[Sign up](#)

**Bonhams**

[Auctions](#)

[Careers](#)

[Sell](#)

[Catalogues](#)

[Help](#)

[About Us](#)

[Contacts](#)

[Terms & Conditions](#)

[Press](#)

Copyright © Bonhams 2001-2022