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LEBANON

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Lebanon's Saliba Douaihy sets new auction record at Christie's

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DUBAI: Christie's auction house held its Modern and Contemporary Arab, Iranian and Turkish Art auction in Dubai Tuesday night, with sales totaling \$4,016,300, exceeding the auction house's estimated haul of \$3.9 million.

The highlight was "Marsa Matrouh," by Alexandria-born Mahmoud Saïd, which sold for \$602,500 – double its estimate. In addition, a work by Iraq-born Ahmad Alsoudani sold for \$386,500.

A work by Lebanese artist Saliba Douaihy (1915-1994), one of two works sold by the North Carolina Museum of Art to benefit the Museum's acquisition fund, sold for \$278,500 – well above the \$80,000-120,000 estimate and establishing a new world auction record for the artist.

The last lot in the sale was a work created just a day before the auction in front of an audience by the Tunisian artist Nja Mahdaoui and four young Emiratis. It sold for \$50,000 to benefit the Noor Dubai Foundation.

"We are delighted with the sale this evening, which had such a strong sold percentage and in which four new world auction records were set," said Michael Jeha, managing director of Christie's Middle East and head of sale.

"With such an impressive group of artists represented in the part I sale combined with the emerging talent in part II, collectors have had a rare chance to see the past, present and future talent among the artists of the Middle East and Turkey. We look forward to the part II sale tomorrow evening."

The audience applauded when "In Transit V," by Saudi artist Abdalnasser Gharem's (b. 1973) sold for \$116,500, the second highest price for the artist at auction.

"And it was my life that was flowing slowly ... ," a portrait by the celebrated Turkish artist Azade K?ker, (b.1949), sold for \$86,500. A painting of Marilyn Monroe by Murat Pulat fetched \$56,250, a new record for the artist.

The sale continued Wednesday evening and Christie's announced it will continue to support the Noor Dubai Foundation at their forthcoming Art 4 Sight charity auction to be held on 23 April at Dubai's Ara Gallery.

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