

Women Artists in Modern Egyptian Art Presented at Green Art Gallery



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The role of women in the development of **Modern Egyptian art** and also the entire modern society of Egypt is soon to be explored through the exhibition *Modernist Women of Egypt* at Green Art Gallery! It will uniquely examine the period **between**

the 1950s and 1970s in Egypt, when social issues like nationalism, womanhood, activism, traditions and multiculturalism produced a substantial environment for [artists to develop](#). Featuring works by female creatives such as **Inji Efflatoun, Vessela Farid, Tahia Halim, Zeinab Abdel Hamid, Effat Naghi, Marguerite Nakhla, Gazbia Sirry, and Margo Veillon**, it will witness the evolution of the history of modern

Egypt.



Left: Effat Naghi – El Arousa, Courtesy of a Private Collection / **Right:** Inji Efflatoun – Le Pain de Notre 1964, Courtesy of the artist and Green Art Gallery, Dubai

Women Artists in a Fifty Years Long Feminist Struggle

In 1950s Egypt, some quite significant legislations were issued to **elevate the women's status** in the society, and during this period female artists had [a huge impact on the society](#) through their innovative and brave works. The revolution that brought [independence in 1952](#) offered a sense of hope for many artists along with a motive to portray new topics shaped by their yearning for liberty. **Female artists were very active** and affiliated with various movements happening at the time, where for an example Inji Efflatoun exhibited with the Art and Freedom Group, which used [Surrealism](#) as a means to **fight back Fascism** and art's alignment with political propaganda. On the other hand, Gazbia Sirry was an

important part of the Group of Modern Art, which used heavy symbolism in order to visually represent the **national independence and social justice**.



Gazbia Sirry – Untitled nude, Courtesy of the artist and Green Art Gallery Dubai

Art – Witnessing the (R)evolution!

The entire art history in Egypt is strongly connected to **the shift of political systems**, where important changes occurred during the 20th century – from 1908 under the British colonial rule to the independence in 1952, followed by the era of the president Gamal Abdel Nasser. **Artists were productive through this entire time** and gave important responses and actions within these enormous changes, making the position of Egyptian Modern art unique in the [Arabic art](#) world. It is marked by its dedication to experimentation and progression, in tandem with the social and cultural consequences of many political conflicts it went through. Art became a visual component of the state

policy, making the harsh realities of the living conditions and social struggles often **poised with [Egyptian mythology](#) and folklore.**



Margo Veillon – Metamorphose Detail, 1967, Courtesy of the artist and Green Art Gallery

Modern Egyptian Art by Female Artists at Green Art Gallery!

The exhibition *Modernist Women of Egypt* celebrates unique female legacies in the world of art and offers an important reflection on the history of Egypt, by dissolving the distinctions between the artists' social backgrounds, artistic trainings, and styles. It will be on view **from 22nd May until 27th July, 2017** at [Green Art Gallery](#) in Dubai. Do not miss this opportunity to re-echo what the women artists of Egypt witnessed during such an eventful era in the 20th century!

Featured image: Margo Veillon – Metamorphose, 1967, Courtesy of the artist and Green Art Gallery.