

**For Immediate Release**  
Wednesday 17 February 2010

**CHRISTIE'S**

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**CHRISTIE'S TO OFFER MASTERPIECES FROM THE  
COLLECTION OF DR. MOHAMMED SAID FARSI  
IN DUBAI IN APRIL**

**The most extensive selection of museum-quality  
modern Middle Eastern art ever offered at auction**

***International Modern & Contemporary Art***  
***Including Masterpieces from the Collection of Dr. Mohammed Said Farsi***  
**Tuesday, 27 April 2010**

**Sponsored by Credit Suisse**

**Dubai** – Christie's will offer 25 masterpieces from the Collection of Dr. Mohammed Said Farsi at the auction of *International Modern and Contemporary Art* on 27 April 2010 in Dubai. While serving first as Mayor and then as Lord Mayor of Jeddah in the 1970s and 1980s, Dr. Farsi was instrumental in making the city one of the largest open-air galleries in the world and in highlighting international art in the Middle East region; Jeddah boasts sculptures by Joan Miró, Henry Moore, Hans Arp and Alexander Calder, among others. Dr. Farsi was deeply influenced by Egypt where he attended the University of Alexandria, and during his lifetime he has assembled the most important private collection of Modern Egyptian art, from which 25 works will be offered at Christie's in April.

**Jussi Pylkkänen, President of Christie's Europe and Middle East:** *"We are honoured to be offering at auction a selection of masterpieces from such a distinguished collection. Dr. Farsi is renowned throughout the Middle East for his appreciation and promotion of the visual arts, and this shines through in his own collection which represents the greatest group of modern Egyptian art in private hands."*

**William Lawrie, Specialist, Modern and Contemporary Arab and Iranian Art and Head of Sale:** *"We very much look very forward to exhibiting 25 works from this celebrated collection to the public in April, and to the auction which will be one of the most significant events to date for the auction market for Middle Eastern art."*



Dr. Mohammed Said Farsi is one of the world's great patrons of the visual arts. In 1956 he was one of only 35 students from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia sent abroad for further education. Having obtained a BA in Architecture and Town Planning from the University of Alexandria in Egypt, where he developed a passion for contemporary Egyptian art, he returned to Saudi Arabia and in 1972 became the Mayor of Jeddah. In 1980 he became Lord Mayor of Jeddah. As the city profited from oil revenue and the population grew substantially, Dr. Farsi oversaw the installation of a number of monumental sculptures by celebrated international and Middle Eastern artists including Joan Miró, Henry Moore, Hans Arp, Salah Abdulkarim, Aref El-Rayess and Alexander Calder, among others, creating one of the largest open-air galleries in the world.

Dr. Farsi's private collection is recognized as the most comprehensive group of modern Egyptian art in private hands. Prompted by the experience of his time in Alexandria as a student, Dr. Farsi became the driving force in the Egyptian art scene and his collection became the first of its type to be fully documented with the publication of '*A Museum in a Book: The Farsi Art Collection – the "Egyptian Works" owned by Dr. Mohammed Said Farsi*' by the critic and scholar Dr. Sobhy Sharouny (published 1998).

The group of 25 works to be offered at Christie's in Dubai include works representing many of Egypt's most famous 20<sup>th</sup> century artists including Mahmoud Mokhtar, Mahmoud Said, Ragheb Ayad, Abul Hadi El-Gazzar, Hamed Nada, Seif and Adham Wanly, Adam Henein, Inji Efflatoun and Tahia Halim.



The leading highlight is *Les Chadoufs*, 1934, a spectacular early work by **Mahmoud Said** (Egyptian, 1897-1964) (estimate: \$150,000 to \$200,000) (*illustrated left*). The artist is also represented with four additional works including the stunning view of *Sails on the Nile* (estimate: \$80,000 to \$120,000) and *View of the Bekaa Valley* (estimate: \$80,000 to \$120,000). Six magnificent works by

**Hamed Nada** (1924-1990) including three large masterpieces are led by *Henna Eve* (estimate: \$120,000 to \$180,000) (*illustrated right*). Illustrated on the cover of Liliane Karnouk's important book *Modern Egyptian Art 1910-2003*, this work features a uniquely distorted sense of perspective, with its bird's eye view of two musicians contrasting with the other figures.





The auction will offer four rare works by **Abdel Hadi El-Gazzar** (1925-1965), including two works from his most sought-after middle period when the artist explored the mysterious world of folklore, superstition and myth. *Cosmorama* (estimate: \$60,000 to \$80,000) shows a mobile peep show (cosmorama) surrounded by circus performers, and *The Strangers* (estimate: \$70,000 to \$100,000) (*illustrated left*), explores the ambiguous relationship between real and imagined communication.

*When Meeting the Man* by **Mahmoud Mokhtar** (1891-1934) (estimate: \$40,000 to \$60,000) is one of the artist's most expressive works in bronze (*illustrated right*). Rough in texture, the shrouded figure shields her face before meeting her beloved. With his neo-Pharaonic style which merged ancient forms with contemporary figures, Mahmoud Mokhtar was Egypt's first modern artist and arguably the first truly modern artist in the Arab world. *Face of a Nubian Girl* by **Tahia Halim** (1919-2003) (estimate: \$30,000 to \$40,000) is an exceptional example of the artist's Nubian period, revealing her tangible affection for her subject. This painting features on the cover of Dr. Sobhy Sharouny's recent publication on the artist.



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*Images available on request*  
Visit Christie's Web site at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)

\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

#### About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in 2009 that totaled £2.1 billion/\$3.3 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 53 offices in 30 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.