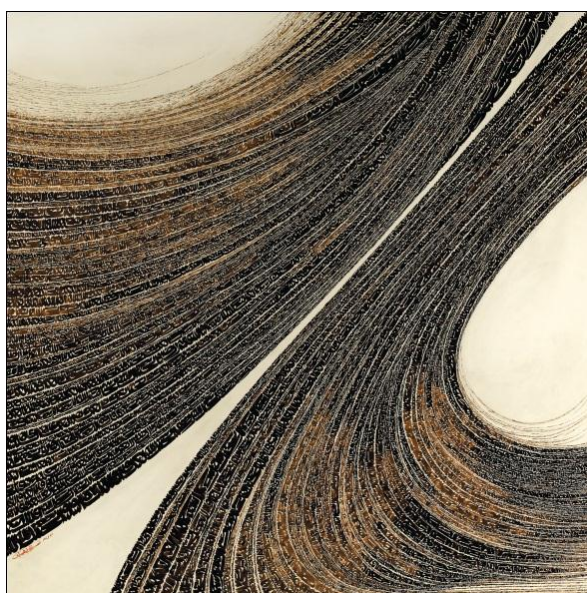


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**EARLY DUBAI APRIL SALE HIGHLIGHTS  
INCLUDE WORKS BY  
KAYYALI, GUIRAGOSSIAN & AFJEHEI**



Nasrollah Afjehei (Iran, b.1933) *Wave*, 2010 (estimate:\$80,000-120,000)

**Modern and Contemporary Arab, Iranian and Turkish Art**

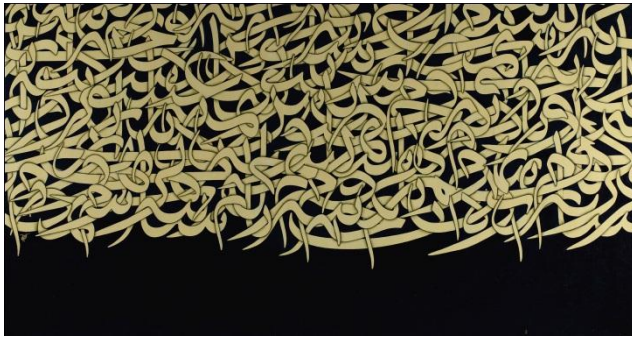
**April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

***Sponsored by Zurich***

**Dubai** – Early highlights consigned for this spring's **Modern and Contemporary Arab, Iranian and Turkish Art** sale at Christie's in Dubai on April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 will include works by Louay Kayyali, Paul Guiragossian and Nasrollah Afjehei. The sale is sponsored by Zurich, who recently signed a three-year contract to be the sole sponsor of the bi-annual Christie's Dubai sales, and will be held at the Emirates Towers Hotel in Dubai with pre-sale viewing from the Sunday prior to the sale.

Michael Jeha, Managing Director of Christie's Middle East and specialist in charge of the sale, said: "It is always very encouraging to have a strong selection of works already consigned so far

in advance of the sale and we look forward to adding other important works over the coming months prior to the April sale.”



The highlight of the sale is a beautiful calligraphic work by the highly respected and internationally known Iranian artist Nasrollah Afjehei (b.1933). Entitled *Wave*, the large-scale canvas (measuring 2 metres square – see page 1) depicts the movement

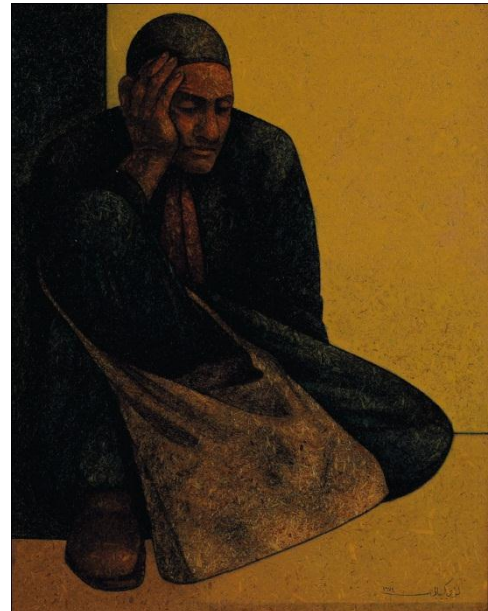
and energy of the crashing wave through the tightly-written words which expand and contract in parallel ‘strands’ gently curving to simulate the curve of the wave. It was painted in 2010 and is

estimated at \$80,000-120,000. Painted in the same year

by the female Iranian artist Azra Aghighi Bakhshayesh (b. 1968) is *Ringlet*, an oil on canvas (shown above).

This calligraphic piece is dominated by a confection of interlocking symbols across the top three quarters of the canvas while the bottom section remains empty and black, (estimate: \$10,000-15,000).

From the Syrian modern master Louay Kayyali (1934-1978) is a figure of an *Old Man* painted with oil on masonite, a type of hardboard. The texture of the



wood chips clearly

visible beneath the surface of the paint, the composition shows an old man slumped in the corner with his head in his hands, (estimate: \$50,000-70,000). *The Newspaper Seller* by the

Syrian artist Saad Yagan (b.1954) shows the abstract news vendors hands embracing a collection of broadsheets, his face shown full on and then again in profile against a blue background, (estimate: \$6,000-8,000). The newspapers he is selling represent a cross-section of publications with their varying social and political views. This is the first time that the artist has been included in the sale and is an interesting



juxtaposition to the work of Kayyali above. Yagan represents the next generation of Syrian artists

and was also from the city of Aleppo. Both the work by Kayyali and Yagan represent portraits of people at the margins of society.



Paul Guiragossian's (Lebanon, 1926-1993) *L'Adieu* is an early work from 1962, showing two figures embracing, the muted pastel colours of the oil scratched with lines which give depth to the seated group. It is a much smaller work than the majority of pieces by the artist and unique as it shows such an intimate moment between the loving couple from an artist best known for his large scale works of groups of people with a more common focus on the relationship between mother and child. It is estimated at \$20,000-30,000.

Atef Ahmed (Egyptian, b. 1969) shows two contrasting views of women. *Untitled (Niqab and Hend)* has the figure on the left in a tightly fitted dress and provocative pose beside another hidden beneath her abaya and is estimated at \$12,000-18,000.



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Image available on request

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#### Notes to editors:

- Christie's auction of *Modern and Contemporary Arab, Iranian and Turkish Art*, sponsored by Zurich, takes place at the Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012
- Press Conference and Viewing: Sunday 15 April at 11.00am
- Viewing is open to the public at the Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel:  
Sunday 15 April: 2pm to 10pm

Monday 16 April:	2pm to 10pm
Tuesday 17 April:	10am to 10pm (selected lots)
Wednesday 18 April:	10am to 12noon (selected lots)

- For catalogues and further information, please telephone +971 4425 5647

#### **About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in 2010 that totaled £3.3 billion/\$5.0 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 \$100 million. Christie's has 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, 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.

\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.

#### **About Zurich**

Zurich Financial Services Group (Zurich) is a leading multi-line insurance provider with a global network of subsidiaries and offices in Europe, North America, Latin America, Asia-Pacific and the Middle East, as well as other markets. It offers a wide range of general and life insurance products and services for individuals, small businesses, mid-sized and large companies, and multinational corporations.

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Zurich employs over 60,000 people, serving customers in more than 170 countries. Founded in 1872, the Group is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland. Zurich Financial Services Ltd (ZURN) is listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange.

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