

CHRISTIE'S

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TWO IMPORTANT COLLECTIONS LEAD THE MARCH 19 AUCTION AT CHRISTIE'S DUBAI

PHAROS COLLECTION OF
MODERN EGYPTIAN ART
&
IRAQI PAINTINGS FROM THE
PRIVATE COLLECTION OF MAATH ALOUSI



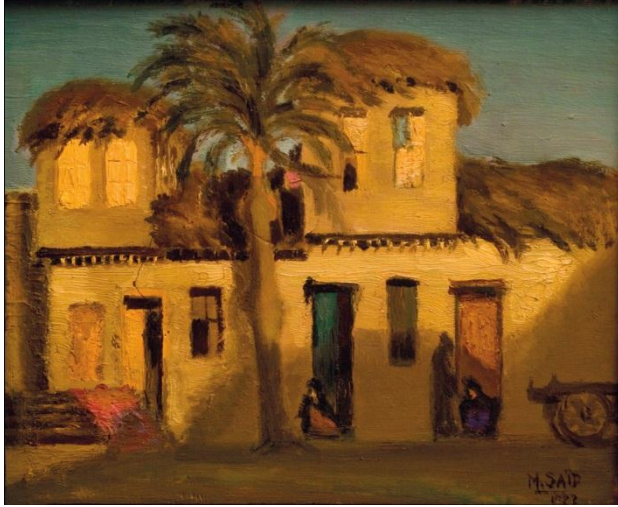
Shaker Hassan Al Said, *Ta'Imlat Mowdou'l*
the Estimate: \$100-150,000



Abdul Hadi El Gazzar, *Construction of Suez Canal. Estimate: \$100-150,000*

Christie's 16th sale season in Dubai: 19 & 20 March, 2014
Sponsored by Zurich

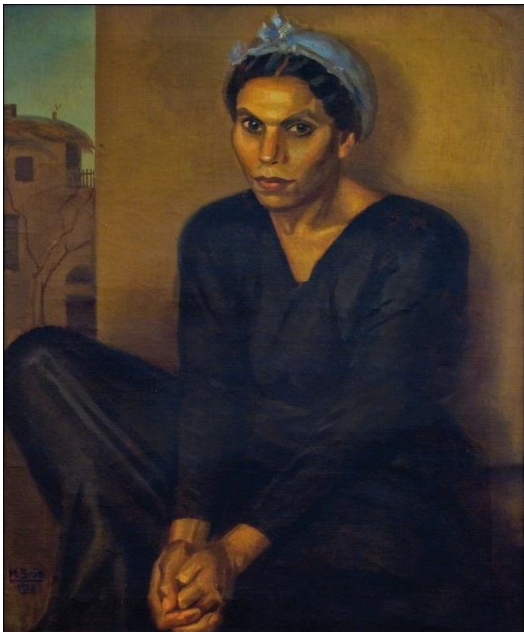
Dubai – Two important collections of Middle Eastern art will lead the 16th sale season at Christie's Dubai on 19 March. The Pharos Collection of 55 works includes works by the leading names of the modern Egyptian art movement while the Maath Alousi Collection focuses on modern Iraqi art acquired by this important architect of the modern Arab world. The Important Watch sale will be held the following evening with 120 watches representing the world's leading luxury brands.



Hala Khayat, Head of the Sale, said: “Selling works from private collections gives us all a glimpse into the connoisseurship of those who have put it together and, for this reason, we feel very privileged to have been entrusted with their sale. Both provide a comprehensive overview of leading works by the major artists of the modern movements representing Iraq and Egypt. The works will be on public exhibition from 16-19 March - a golden moment for all the many visitors to Dubai during this vibrant Art Week in the City.”

THE PHAROS COLLECTION

The art sale will be led by the Pharos Art Collection put together by a group of private Egyptian collectors. Since late 2006 this group has successfully accumulated works by the leading names of Egyptian modern and contemporary art including Mahmoud Saïd, Mahmoud Mokhtar, Abdul Hadi El-Gazzar, Youssef Kamel, Effat Nagui, Mohammed Nagui, Adham and Seif Wanly, Inji Efflatoun and Adam Henein. After a public exhibition in Cairo in 2009, they have decided that the time is now right to sell. The 50 works are expected to sell for in excess of \$1 million.



One of the highlights among the works is a study by Abdul Hadi El-Gazzar (1925-1965) of the infamous large scale work showing the *Construction of the Suez Canal* (shown above). The painting was commissioned from the artist by the Maritime Museum in Alexandria to honour the workers who built the Canal in the 1860s and the finished work now hangs in the Egyptian Museum of Modern Art in Cairo. Dated 1965, the watercolour preparatory work (35 x 70cm.) is estimated at \$100,000-150,000 and depicts labourers stooping beneath their loads of stone excavated from the vast trench being dug through the landscape beyond.

Hager by Mahmoud Saïd (1897-1964), an portrait of a peasant (shown above), will be offered with an estimate of \$150,000-200,000 alongside a portrait of his mother-in-law, *Sherifa Hanem Rassem* (estimate: \$150,000-200,000) and two landscapes *A House in Talkha* reflecting the evening sun (see above) and *Teraat El-Mahmoudia* (estimated at \$40,000-60,000 and \$60,000-80,000 respectively).

The collection also has two bronzes by the master sculptor, Mahmoud Moktar (1891-1934), one of the pioneering figures of Egyptian modernism. Typical of his work, they depict peasants at work, capturing a moment in time as Egypt was developing as a nation in the 1920s and 1930s. *The Peasant* shows a woman collecting water and *The Lady* showing a woman standing, are estimated at \$60,000-80,000 each.



Another important sculptural work is by Adam Henien (b. 1929) of the legendary Arab singer, *Umm Kulthoum*, (shown here) one of an edition of eight, from 2008 (estimate: \$100,000-150,000). From the other end of his career, entitled *Labor* and acquired by the Collection directly from the artist, is from 1957 and is expected to sell for between \$80,000-120,000.

IRAQI PAINTINGS FROM THE COLLECTION OF MAATH ALOUSI



The Iraqi architect, Maath Alousi, has built up one of the most impressive collections of Modern Iraqi Art since he began buying directly from artists in the 1960s. Born in Baghdad in the late 1930s he grew up with a love for the great architecture in his City. He studied in Turkey and then for a further degree in London before establishing an international firm in his

name with offices around the world. His projects include The Central Bank in Salalah, Oman, The Arab Bank, Embassy of the UAE, Embassy of Qatar, Cultural Centre of Salalah and the Kuwaiti Embassy in Bahrain. He also published a seminal reference book, *The Visual Diary of an Arab Architect*, in 1984.

Behind each work he acquired for his collection is a story of his friendship with the artist. Alousi was not only their friend, he was often one of the very few early patrons offering support. In

1988, Alousi built 'The Cube House', a famous residential building overlooking the Tigris which became a 'salon' for intellectuals and artists. Soon afterwards, due to the unfolding situation in Iraq, Alousi moved out his great building to the safety of Limassol, Cyprus.

The key work in the sale is by Shaker Hassan Al Said (1925-2004) entitled *Ta'imlat Mowdou'l (Meditations)*, from 1984 and estimated at \$100,000-150,000 (see page 1). A co-founder of the influential Baghdad Modern Art Group alongside Jewad Selim (whose work is also represented in the sale???), this seminal work by Al Said combines an abstract suggestion of a concrete wall decorated with graffiti and bursts of colour. This is a poignant reference to the destruction caused by the war in his homeland, a theme which runs through many of his works.



Pictures of Ismail Fattah's (1934-2004) *Untitled work of 1988*, chart the history of the collection as one interior shot of Maath Alousi's home in Baghdad taken the same year the work was painted shows it hanging in the main living space of Cube House with another

photograph showing the picture now moved to his next home in Cyprus. The artist was born in Basra but moved to Baghdad to study and from where he met and was influenced by his contemporaries including Shaker Hassan Al Said, Kadim Haidar, Faeq Hassan and Jewad Selim. He went on to work in Rome but returned to Baghdad to work as an art teacher at the Institute where he had trained. This vivid portrait included in the auction with the features picked out in stark horizontal lines, has a dedication to Alousi by the artist written on the work and is estimated at \$40,000-60,000.

Works by Dia Al-Zaaawi, Kadhim Haidar and Mohammad Mohreddin are also included in the collection.

Brian Reilly, CEO of Zurich's General Insurance business in the Middle East, said: "The first Christie's auction of 2014 is auspiciously timed to coincide with Art Dubai week, meaning the attention of the art world will be firmly fixed on the UAE this March. Alongside fine art's integration into the Middle East's cultural fabric, it has also become an increasingly attractive standalone asset class, with 24 new world records achieved at Christie's most recent Dubai sale. As prices and collections have increased, it was inevitable that protecting these investments would take on much greater importance, and so it has proved, with the region's collectors increasingly turning to the specialist and experienced Zurich team for risk management advice."

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AUCTIONS:

- Christie's auction of Modern and Contemporary Arab, Iranian and Turkish Art, takes place at the Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel on Wednesday, 19 March at 7.00pm
- Christie's Watch sale will take place on Thursday, 20 March at 7pm

PRESS CONFERENCE

Sunday, March 16 at 10am

VIEWING TIMES:

- Viewing is open to the public at the Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel:

Sunday 16 March:	2pm to 10pm
Monday 17 March:	2pm to 10pm
Tuesday 18 March:	10am to 1.30pm
Wednesday 19 March:	10am to 12noon
- For catalogues and further information, please telephone +971 4425 5647

About Zurich

Zurich Insurance 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 insurance and life insurance products and services for individuals, small businesses, mid-sized and large companies as well as multinational corporations. Zurich employs about 60,000 people serving customers in more than 170 countries. The Group, formerly known as Zurich Financial Services Group, is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, where it was founded in 1872. The holding company, Zurich Insurance Group Ltd (ZURN), is listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange and has a level I American Depositary Receipt program (ZURVY) which is traded over-the-counter on OTCQX. Further information about Zurich is available at www.zurich.com.

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2013 that totaled £4.5 billion/ \$7.1 billion, making it the highest annual total in Christie's history. 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 has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers around 450 auctions 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 also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £760.5 million (\$1.19 billion) in 2013, an increase of 20% on the previous year.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth 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.