

# CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | DUBAI | 16 SEPTEMBER 2012  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CHRISTIE'S DUBAI SALE INCLUDES 6 LOTS TO BE SOLD TO BENEFIT CASPIAN ARTS FOUNDATION



Ayad Alkhadi, *At the Beginning*. Estimate: \$35,000-\$45,000

**Modern and Contemporary Arab, Iranian and Turkish Art**  
**October 23 & 24, 2012**  
*Sponsored by Zurich*

**Dubai** - Six lots sold to benefit Caspian Arts Foundation, a new educational initiative that supports art students from the region to enable them to study abroad, will be among the highlights of the part II of the **Modern and Contemporary Arab, Iranian and Turkish Art** sale at Christie's in Dubai on **October 24, 2012**. For some of the artists, who already have an international reputation and representation, this is the first time their work has been sold at an international auction. The sales on October 23 and 24 are sponsored by Zurich and will be held at the Emirates Towers Hotel in Dubai with pre-sale viewing from the Sunday prior to the sale.

Nina Mahdavi, the Foundation's founder, said: "Caspian Arts Foundation has the potential to play its part in connecting the East with the West and bridge the gap between culture, language & tradition."

Dina Nasser-Khadivi, Christie's Consultant in the Middle East, said: "In order to raise the maximum amount for the charity, these talented artists, some of the world's leading international contemporary art galleries and Christie's have all joined together for this sale. We are happy to provide a platform to help launch Caspian Art Foundation and raise funds to enable the next generation of contemporary artists to flourish."

Caspian Arts Foundation was launched in 2011 as a non-profit organisation, sponsoring young artists and students from the Middle East & North Africa to complete their postgraduate studies in the visual arts at University of the Arts London. The first young artist to benefit from a scholarship will begin his or her studies later this year but, due to the volume of applications and interest from the MENA region, the Foundation wishes to raise funds for 5 additional full scholarships to be awarded in 2013. It is hoped that they can broaden the programme incorporating other disciplines across the arts to include the performing arts and fashion.

#### The Works:



Shoja Azari (Iranian, B. 1958) & Shahram Karimi (Iranian, B. 1957)

*Spring (from the Silence Series)*

acrylic on canvas with video projection

50 x 89in. (127 x 226cm.)

Executed in 2007-2008, this work is number one from an edition of three

Estimate: \$25,000-\$35,000

From the Silence series, this is one of four video paintings representing the seasons – a collaboration between these two lifelong artist friends. Abstract views of a lake are depicted here with subtle movements of wind, water and rain suggested by the projection of a mirror image onto the painted canvas, bringing the flat surface to life.

DONATED BY THE ARTISTS AND LEILA HELLER GALLERY, NEW YORK



Ali Banisadr (Iranian, b. 1976)

*Divine Wind*

Oil on linen

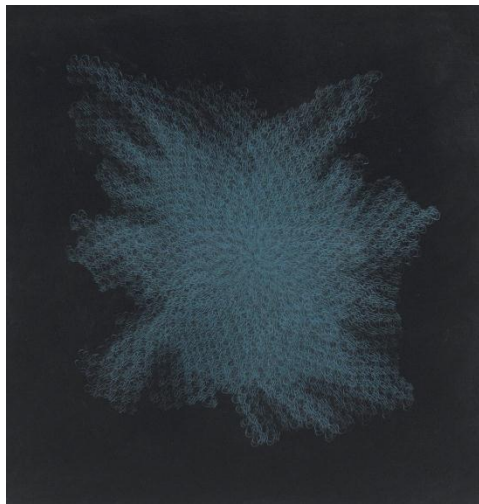
30 x 36in.

Painted in 2012

Estimate: \$20,000-\$30,000

Through the use of a bright palette and large brushstrokes, the artist evokes his chaotic memories of displacement and war. Originally from Tehran, a young Banisadr left the country with his family to settle in the United States where he now lives and works. He captures the brutality of the war in this broken and fragmented composition. Banisadr's works have never been auctioned before, except for charity and, as he produces very few works, his works are rare.

DONATED BY THE ARTIST AND THADDEUS ROPAC GALLERY, PARIS



Shirazeh Houshiary (Iranian, B. 1955)

*Untitled*

mixed media

15.3/4 x 15.3/4in. (40 x 40cm.)

Executed in 2007

Estimate: \$25,000 - \$35,000

The main characteristic of Houshiary's much sought-after paintings and drawings are that they are intentionally barely visible - emerging from and melting into the black or white backgrounds. The artist explains that her work 'comes and goes: sometimes you see it, sometimes you don't. The universe is like that - everything is in a state of flux'. She acknowledges the influence of Sufism and 13th century Persian mystic poetry in her work.

DONATED BY THE ARTIST AND THE LISSON GALLERY, LONDON



Hadieh Shafie (Iranian, b. 1969)

*11580 Pages*

acrylic, ink and paper with printed and hand-written Farsi  
30 x 30 x 3.1/2in. (76.2 x 76.2 x 9 cm.)

Executed in 2012

Estimate: \$10,000-\$15,000

In this work, individual strips of paper marked with the word *eshghe*, (love or passion), have been delicately rolled to create miniature scrolls. Shafie's work is inspired by the Sufist meditative prayer of the heart known as 'dikhr', where a single word is repeated. With only one work ever offered by the artist at auction, Shafie's works are highly sought-after.

DONATED BY THE ARTIST AND THE LEILA-HELLER GALLERY, NEW YORK





Ayad Alkhadi (Iraqi, b. 1971)

*At The Beginning*

acrylic, pen, charcoal and pencil on canvas

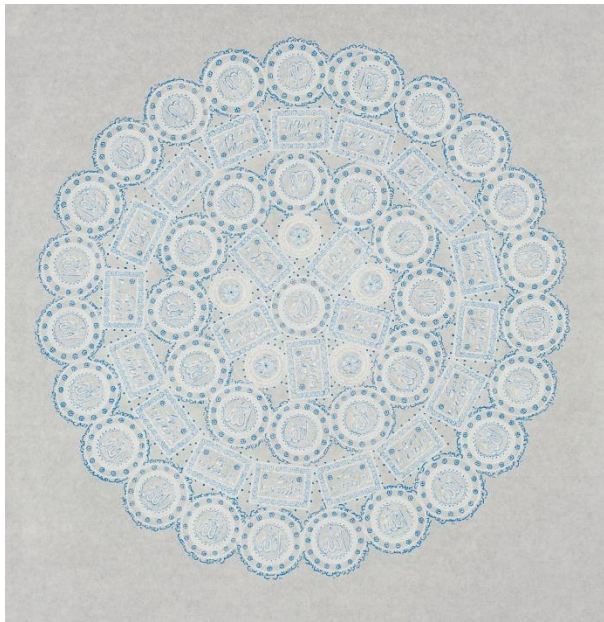
72 x 72in. (183 x 183cm.)

Executed in 2012

Estimate: \$35,000-\$45,000

Alkhadi escaped Iraq in 1994 and settled in California but his work is dominated by the effect of the war described by the artist as “the emotional arc by which one compares all other experiences....”. Here the contrasting bright and dark colours and the distorted and monstrous shapes reflect the artist’s internal struggle as he relives the atrocities witnessed in his homeland.

DONATED BY THE ARTIST AND THE LEILA HELLER GALLERY, NEW YORK



Pouran Jinchi (Iranian, B. 1959)

*Morning 06*

waxed charcoal and pencil on rice paper

18 x 18in. (45.7 x 45.7cm.)

Executed in 2009

Estimate : \$5,000 – \$7,000 USD

“What would a prayer look like if you were asked to draw it? I visualise the spiritual fulfilment of prayers and then translate that into aesthetic creations to see whether they relay what prayer could mean.” (Pouran Jinchi). Jinchi’s work is deeply rooted in her Persian to produce harmonious abstract compositions where the works become platforms for the act of prayer.

DONATED BY THE ARTIST AND THE THIRD LINE GALLERY, DUBAI

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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, October 23 and 24, 2012
- Press Conference and Viewing: Sunday 21 October at 11.00am (TBC)
- Viewing is open to the public at the Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel:

Sunday 21 October: 2pm to 10pm  
Monday 22 October: 2pm to 10pm  
Tuesday 23 October: 10am to 10pm (selected lots)  
Wednesday 24 October: 10am to 12noon (selected lots)

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

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*\*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.*

View our short film about Christie's in the Middle East:

<http://www.christies.com/features/a-history-of-christies-in-the-middle-east-2400-3.aspx>

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*Images available on request*

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