

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | LONDON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | 25 OCTOBER 2017

CHRISTIE'S FIRST LONDON-BASED *MIDDLE EASTERN MODERN & CONTEMPORARY ART* EVENING AUCTION BUILDS ON DUBAI'S SUCCESS, ACHIEVING £5,235,125 / \$6,863,249 / €5,826,694

WORLD AUCTION RECORDS FOR
SHAFIC ABBOD, MAHMOUD SABRI AND JEWAD SELIM



Jewad Selim, *The Watermelon Seller*, 1953, Price Realised: £668,750 / \$876,731 / €744,319

London – Christie's launched the marquee event 'Middle Eastern Art' with *Middle Eastern Modern & Contemporary Art* evening auction, which moved from Dubai to London this season and achieved a total of £5,235,125 / \$6,863,249 / €5,826,694 with sell-through rates of 85% by lot and 88% by value. Registered bidders from 23 countries confirmed the international appetite for works from the region. The sale was led by a world auction record for the Iraqi artist Jewad Selim, whose painting *The Watermelon Seller* sold for £668,750 / \$876,731 / €744,319, more than double its high estimate of £250,000. Egyptian artists were a focal point of the evening with the recognised master Mahmoud Saïd's intimate portrait *Hanem* selling for £320,750 / \$420,503 / €356,995 alongside his second version of *La fille aux yeux verts* (£175,000 / \$229,425 / €194,775) while his reclining nude *Nu au rideau gris* completed the group (£93,750

/ \$122,906 / €104,344). A highlight was Mahmoud Sabri's *Grief*, which sold for £668,750 / \$876,731 / €744,319, more than ten times its high estimate of £60,000 and a new world auction record for the artist. A further record was secured for Shafic Abboud's *Chambre verticale 1; Chambre verticale 2; Chambre verticale 4* (Lebanon, £368,750 / \$483,431 / €410,419). Top prices were also realised for Ramsès Younan (Egypt, £248,750 / \$326,111 / €268,859), Parviz Tanavoli (Iran, £200,000 / \$262,200 / €222,600) and Monir Farmanfarman who combines the traditional technique of glass mosaic and painting with a contemporary aesthetic (Iran, £112,500 / \$147,488 / €125,213).

Michael Jeha, Managing Director, Deputy Chairman, Christie's Middle East: "Holding our first *Middle Eastern Modern and Contemporary Art Sale* in London was an important next step in the recognition of the arts from the region, after conducting these auctions in Dubai for the past 11 years, where Christie's was instrumental in founding the art market in the region. An increase in international bidding, alongside an amplified participation via our online bidding tool was observed. We continued to set new world auction records for artists from the Middle East, this time for Shafic Abboud, Mahmoud Sabri and Jewad Selim. The next Middle Eastern Art sale will take place during Dubai Art Week on Thursday 22 March 2018. This double strength platform for Middle Eastern Art will continue to develop international appreciation for artists from the region and underlines our regional commitment as well as the development of this category with collectors around the globe."

The evening began with spirited bidding for artists across the region including Munira Al-Kazi (Kuwait, £15,000 / \$19,665 / €16,695), Sami Rafi's *Untitled (Blue nude)* (Egypt, £17,500 / \$22,943 / €19,478) and Syrian artist Fateh Moudarres's *Portrait of Ghiath Al-Ghazi (i) & Portrait of Amal Al-Ghazi (ii)*, which doubled its low estimate of £30,000 to achieve £62,500 / \$81,938 / €69,563. The Emirati artist Abdoul Qader Al Rais donated two paintings, *The Dream* (£62,500 / \$81,938 / €69,563) and *Untitled* (£62,500 / \$81,938 / €69,563) with proceeds from the sale benefitting the Emirates Red Crescent Authority.

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in first half of 2017 that totalled £2.35 billion / \$3 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Christie's offers around 350 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.

Alongside regular sales online, Christie's has a global presence in 46 countries, with 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

**Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

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