



CHRISTIE'S

ART FOR AL BALAD: A CHARITY AUCTION

CHARITY AUCTION OF CONTEMPORARY
MIDDLE EASTERN ART IN JEDDAH, SAUDI ARABIA ON JUNE 26

EVENT DELIVERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SAUDI MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND CHRISTIE'S



*Detail from works by Nja Mahdaoui, Suleiman Mansour, Abdhlahman Al Soliman, Samir Sayegh,
HRH Prince Badr bin Abdulmohsen bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and Hussein Madi*

Jeddah – The [e-catalogue](#) for a special charity auction of Middle Eastern contemporary art has been published ahead of a public exhibition in Saudi Arabia on June 23rd and 24th before the auction on June 26.

Art For Al Balad: A Charity Auction will take place in Jeddah and is the first event of its kind in the Kingdom. It has been organised by Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Culture, in partnership with Christie's and the Hafez Gallery.

More than 40 works have been generously donated for the sale by collectors, artists and gallerists representing artists from around the Middle East, to raise funds for a new heritage museum in Jeddah Historical District and a local children's non-profit organisation.

This charity sale forms part of Saudi Arabia's wider cultural transformation plans which aims to create a thriving cultural sector in the Kingdom.

The sale includes 42 works representing leading contemporary artists from Saudi Arabia. HRH Prince Badr bin Abdulmohsen bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud's (Saudi Arabian, b. 1949), *Where to* from 1996 showing shapes in a coloured landscape with two figures shown from above pointing in opposite directions. It is expected to sell for around \$150,000 / SAR 500,000. Abdhlahman Al Soliman's (Saudi Arabian, b. 1954) *The Andalusian Effect*, a view of the dome of a mosque picked out in a vivid blue set amongst the walls of the city, is typical of his work which celebrates Saudi Arabian culture and heritage and is estimated at \$24,000 / SAR 90,000. Abdullah Alshaikh (Saudi Arabian, b. 1936) was born in Iraq and is considered one of the Kingdom's modern art pioneers. His work reflects his interest in human emotions as portrayed in abstract shapes and forms as in *Witnesses in the Desert 1* which is estimated at \$100,000 / SAR 379,000.

The former director of the Jeddah Centre for Fine Art and one of the first Saudi Arabian contemporary artists, Abdulhalim Radwi, is represented by *Untitled 2* from 1992 depicting a stylised Jeddah city scape with towering minarets and buildings before a pink-toned desert landscape. Radwi is perhaps best known for his sculptures in the port in Jeddah and his auction piece is estimated at \$40,000 / SAR 150,000.

Untitled, made with a print of an old Egyptian movie poster by Ayman Yossri (Saudi Arabian, b. 1966) has had much of the original advertising content removed by cutting traditional Islamic star-shapes to leave only the head of the glamorous female star. Best known for his tissue-box or *Maharem* series, Ayman Yossri again shows here his love of objects associated with drama and nostalgia, (estimate; \$7,000 / SAR 27,500).

The work of other Arab artists is featured in the sale, including Assad Arabi (Syria, b. 1941) whose *La passion de la soie* from 2013 shows an intimate interior of musicians with a central female singer, the renowned Um Kulthoum. Shown alongside an oud and double bass player and depicted in rich acrylic colours, it is estimated at \$40,000 / SAR 150,000. *Untitled* by Suleiman Mansour (Palestine, b. 1947) depicts a beautiful landscape of olive trees by one of the most distinguished Palestinian artists known for his iconic work of an old man carrying Jerusalem on his back. It is estimated at £35,000 / SAR 130,000.

The distinctive calligraphy of Nja Mahdaoui's (Tunisian, b. 1937) *Walegh* with lettering forming an intricate series of concentric circles in a variety of colours is estimated at \$22,000 / SAR 82,000. Calligraphy in vivid blue and oranges is also a feature of Hussein Madi's (Lebanese, b. 1938) oil estimated at \$25,000 / SAR 93,000. Madi worked between Rome and Lebanon for many years and his work is part of prestigious museum collections around the world. Lebanese artist and poet Samir Sayegh (Lebanese, b. 1945) is one of the most important modernist artists of the Arab world and *Waw* is an example of his interest in the power of letters; the formalised Arabic symbol is formed in green and deep purple and picked out in gold leaf (estimate: \$25,000 / SAR 93,000).

Through their various charitable activities, including works sold at the Dubai auctions, Christie's in the Middle East has helped to raise more than \$25 million for charity in the region since 2005.

Ends

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Nassif House, Dhahab, Al-Balad, Jeddah 22236. [Nassif House Location](#)

Public viewing:

Sunday 23 June – 5-9pm

Monday 24 June – 5-9pm

Members of the public are encouraged to come to view the works. The exhibition is free.

Auction:

Wednesday 26 June (by invitation only)

[Ecatalogue available](#)

Announcement release [here](#).

ABOUT

Saudi Arabia Ministry of Culture –The Ministry was created on the 2 June 2018 by Royal Decree A/217, under the leadership of His Highness Prince Badr bin Abdullah bin Farhan Al Saud, the Kingdom's first dedicated Minister of Culture. The Ministry was established to enrich the lives of the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and be the guardian of culture across a wide range of sectors. The Ministry has a crucial role to play in delivering Saudi Arabia's ambitious transformation programme, Vision 2030. Its ultimate goal is to contribute towards building a vibrant, thriving, and ambitious nation. For more information, visit the Ministry of Culture [website](#).

Jeddah Historical District - The Jeddah Historic District is situated in western Saudi Arabia on the Red Sea coast. The site was nominated by [UNESCO](#) as a World Heritage site in 2014, and includes over 600 historical buildings. JHD is part of the wider Ministry of Culture and a key part of the cultural space in Saudi Arabia. It has its own governing body, which was recently established to oversee and implement the area's forthcoming cultural regeneration and help the Kingdom achieve its cultural objectives.

The Help Center – A Jeddah-based non-profit organisation that provides children with special educational needs with educational, medical and social services. The centre's five-step approach helps children in early years through to teenage age groups, with cognitive development, communication-related skills and learning in specific subject areas. For further information, visit the [website](#).

Christie's in Saudi Arabia

- In October 2003, Christie's organised an Islamic Art exhibition at the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in London.
- In December 2005, Christie's were the auctioneers at The Nokia Fonetography Auction, which raised SR 2.3 million for the Charitable Society for Orphan Welfare of Makkah, Taif Branch.
- In April 2009, Christie's in Dubai sold the first time a group of works from Saudi Arabian artists ever offered at an international auction.
- Throughout 2010 Christie's sold the collection of Dr. Mohammed Said Farsi for \$15.4 million, still the highest selling private collection offered at auction in the Middle East.
- In 2011, Edge of Arabia, the pioneering art project for contemporary art from Saudi Arabia, offered six works at Christie's Dubai to raise funds to support their education and art workshop programme, which sold well over estimate for over \$1 million.
- In 2012 Christie's supported *Edge of Arabia Jeddah: We Need to Talk*, the largest exhibition of Saudi contemporary art held on the Jeddah Corniche.
- Christie's participated in The Jewellery Salon in Jeddah and Riyadh in 2015.

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in 2018 that totalled £5.3 billion / \$7 billion. www.christies.com

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Images available on request

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