



The exhibition titled 'Pioneers of Modern Arab Art' at Waqif Art Center provides a glimpse to renowned Iraqi artist Faraj Abbo al Numan's creativity and his unique style of painting, writes *Qatar Tribune's Ailyn Agonia*

In the glorious world of Iraqi artist



Dr Shetha Faraj Abbo al Numan, daughter of Iraqi artist Faraj Abbo al Numan.



(Photographs by Jalal Pathiyoor)

An artist, a visionary, a leader and a dedicated professor are how Dr Shetha Faraj Abbo al Numan would like the Arab world to remember her late father and famous Iraqi artist Faraj Abbo al Numan. For the first time, she is sharing her father's works with art-lovers in Qatar through an exhibition titled 'Pioneers of Arab Modern Art' which opened at the Waqif Art Center recently.

"My father was a very gifted artist. I inherited his over 100 art works and for the first time I am promoting them through an exhibition in Doha. This expo is aimed at making the people aware of my father's talent and creativity, and not to sell any of his works. These paintings are too precious for me and I intend to keep them all through my life," Dr Shetha told *Qatar Tribune*. Herself an accomplished designer, Dr Shetha said that her style is totally different from that of her father.

Faraj Abbo al Numan not only produced several art collection during his lifetime but was also a role model for many young painters in the region. After earning recognition from some of the top art institutions in Baghdad and Rome, Faraj joined the teaching profession and became one of the founders of the prestigious Academy of Fine Arts at Baghdad University. He also played a significant role in forming the Iraqi Artists Committee.

Faraj participated in more than 60 exhibitions inside and outside his country. His last solo exhibition was held in 1984 at the Baghdad Gallery for Contemporary Art under the patronage of the



Ministry of Culture. He died in Baghdad on March 5, 1984.

The 'Pioneers of Arab Modern Art' showcases a small yet significant part of Faraj Abbo's collection of paintings and sketches. The works on display are mostly the artist's interpretation of the Iraqi life and ground realities. They also give a glimpse of his distinct touch as he is known for experimenting in a number of methods, schools and techniques. Faraj Abbo had done thorough research of Arabic and Islamic art and his works are a clear reflection of his deep knowledge. He is famous for his

remarkable style known as the Islamic Abstraction, in addition to the Classic, Abstract and Impressionist styles. His collection also shows diverse themes, including landscapes, sceneries and portraits. He even did a portrait of himself in 1951, and this art piece is catching the attention of most of the visitors to the show.

Those who want to catch a glimpse of the glorious art world of Faraj Abbo can visit the exhibition at Waqif Art Center till June 4. Meanwhile, Dr Shetha said that she will hold an exhibition of her own paintings in Doha on June 16.