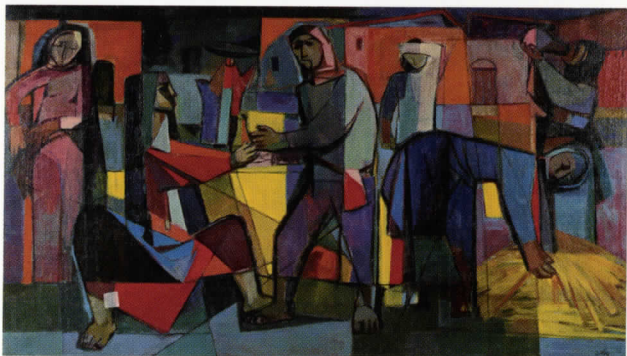




13



14



15

13. **Hafez al-Droubi**
Women in a Café
1960s
Oil on composition board
75 x 150 cm (29½ x 59 in.)
Arab Museum of Modern Art,
Qatar Foundation and Qatar
Museums Authority, Doha

14. **Falk Hassan**
Village Scene
1958
Oil on canvas
92.5 x 154.8 cm (36¾ x 61 in.)
Arab Museum of Modern Art,
Qatar Foundation and Qatar
Museums Authority, Doha

15. **Dia Al-Azzawi**
Mulaqat Al-Harth bin Helizah
1980
Gouache on paper
180 x 120 cm (70¾ x 47¼ in.)
Kinda Foundation, Riyadh

16. **Ismail Fattah**
Untitled
Date unknown
Bronze with black-and-green
patina
137.5 x 40 x 30 cm
(54½ x 15¾ x 11¾ in.)
Arab Museum of Modern Art,
Qatar Foundation and Qatar
Museums Authority, Doha



16

by Hafez al-Droubi (fig. 13). The former was committed to painting after nature, with results ranging from highly abstracted figures of rural characters to the somewhat stereotypical studies of Bedouins produced by Hassan later in his career. Despite its name, the latter group was more avant-garde, absorbing a range of influences, from Post-Impressionism to Cubism and Futurism.

The cause of abstract art in Iraq was promoted with particular vigour by Shaker Hassan al-Said (fig. 21), who produced some of the earliest works to feature what appears to be writing on a wall. The use of text in this way, partly inspired by the great Spanish artist Antoni Tàpies, created a sense of both physical and spiritual depth. As we shall see, the evolution of Shaker Hassan's style, from the figurative art of his early career to something more abstract, has had an influence on artists across the region, including the celebrated

Dia Al-Azzawi (fig. 15), who has developed a strong and recognizable style of his very own. Al-Azzawi, who has drawn on a huge range of sources, from ancient Sumerian sculpture to Picasso, is one of many Iraqi artists who were eventually compelled by political events to leave their country. Now living in London, Al-Azzawi plays a prominent and influential role in promoting Iraqi modern art and artists. Other important figures, such as the distinguished sculptor and draughtsman Ismail Fattah (fig. 16), remained in Iraq, where they received commissions from the Iraqi regime of the time.

In addition to Cairo, Damascus and Baghdad, the other great Arab cultural centre was of course Beirut. In the 1960s, and up to the start of the civil war in 1975, Beirut was the liberal cultural and intellectual centre for the Arab world.

Before the Second World War, Lebanon had produced a number of accomplished artists, including Khalil Saleeby, Habib Srour and Daoud Corm, who were influenced by Impressionism; Corm had studied in Rome in 1871. They were followed by Mustafa Faroukh and César Gemayel (fig. 18), both of whom studied in Rome in the 1920s; Gemayel, who also trained in Paris and Beirut, became a teacher at the Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts. Both artists worked in a broadly Post-Impressionist style that

was considered rather challenging. This is wittily reflected in a caricature by Faroukh from the 1930s, in which an elderly couple, traditionally dressed in local costume, peer intently at a nude hanging on a gallery wall.

A lively, naturalistic approach was also adopted by Lebanese artist Omar Onsi (fig. 17), who completed his education in Paris in 1930. Onsi was known for his vivid landscapes, as was his younger contemporary Rashid Wehbe (fig. 19).

In the period following the Second World War, some Lebanese artists began to concentrate on non-figurative painting, developing their styles with reference to a wide variety of sources. Saliba Douaihy, who spent many years in the United States, produced subtle works inspired by Mark Rothko, as well as by Chinese and Japanese art. Some of the most remarkable pieces to come out of this period were the sensuous, poetic oils made by Shafic Abboud (fig. 26), one of the greatest Arab abstract artists. Abboud created colour harmonies that invite comparisons with music, but his most direct sources of inspiration were the natural world and the changing seasons.

Abboud's lyrical canvases show little sign of the horrors that periodically enveloped his country in the

twentieth century. Lebanese art was, however, given a political dimension by the mass immigration of Palestinians after the foundation of the state of Israel in 1948. As Kamal Boullata has shown, Palestinian artists in Lebanon can be broadly divided into two groups: inhabitants of the refugee camps, such as Ismail Shammout (fig. 11) and Naji al-Ali, who used figurative styles to represent their experiences and aspirations, and the avant-garde Modernists associated with the sophisticated district of Ras Beirut. Of the latter group, the most distinguished member was the painter Paul Guiragossian, who most closely identified with his adopted country, where he spent most of his life, yet was inevitably influenced by his origins in Jerusalem's Armenian community. As an exile, he did not explicitly refer to the plight of his homeland, and yet, as Boullata has described, he found in 'the biblical themes ... of exodus and exile ... the vocabulary of his own world'.²

The Lebanese capital was renowned for its liberal attitudes and freedom of expression, which encouraged many artists and thinkers to live there, and during the 1960s it exceeded other Middle Eastern and Arab cities in the number of galleries and exhibitions that it hosted. Gallery One, founded

17. **Omar Onsi**
Fountain
c. 1936
Oil on wood
38 x 46 cm (15 x 18½ in.)
Courtesy of Agial Art Gallery, Beirut

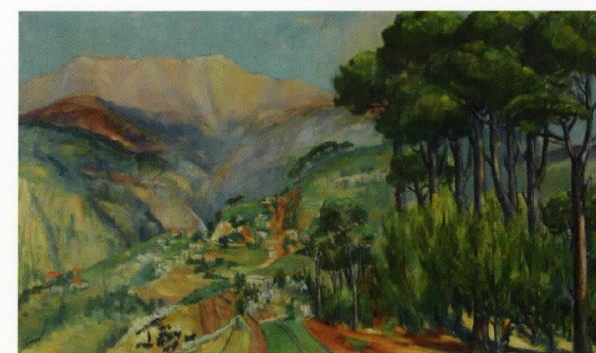
18. **César Gemayel**
Lebanese Village
Date unknown
Oil on canvas
105 x 182 cm (41¾ x 71½ in.)
Collection of Joseph Faloughi

19. **Rashid Wehbe**
Wadi Qannoubine
(Landscape from Lebanon)
1967
Oil on Masonite
65 x 55 cm (25½ x 21½ in.)
Courtesy of Agial Art Gallery, Beirut

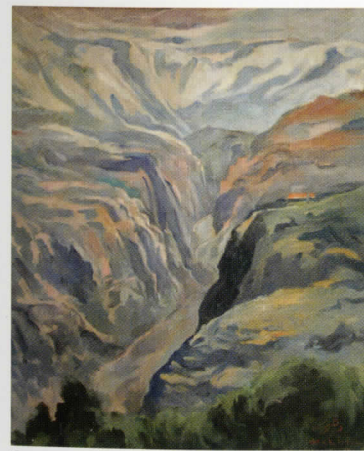
20. **Mohamed Nagy**
Landscape
1938
Oil on paper on plywood
31 x 46.5 cm (12¼ x 18¼ in.)
Arab Museum of Modern Art,
Qatar Foundation and Qatar
Museums Authority, Doha



17



18



19



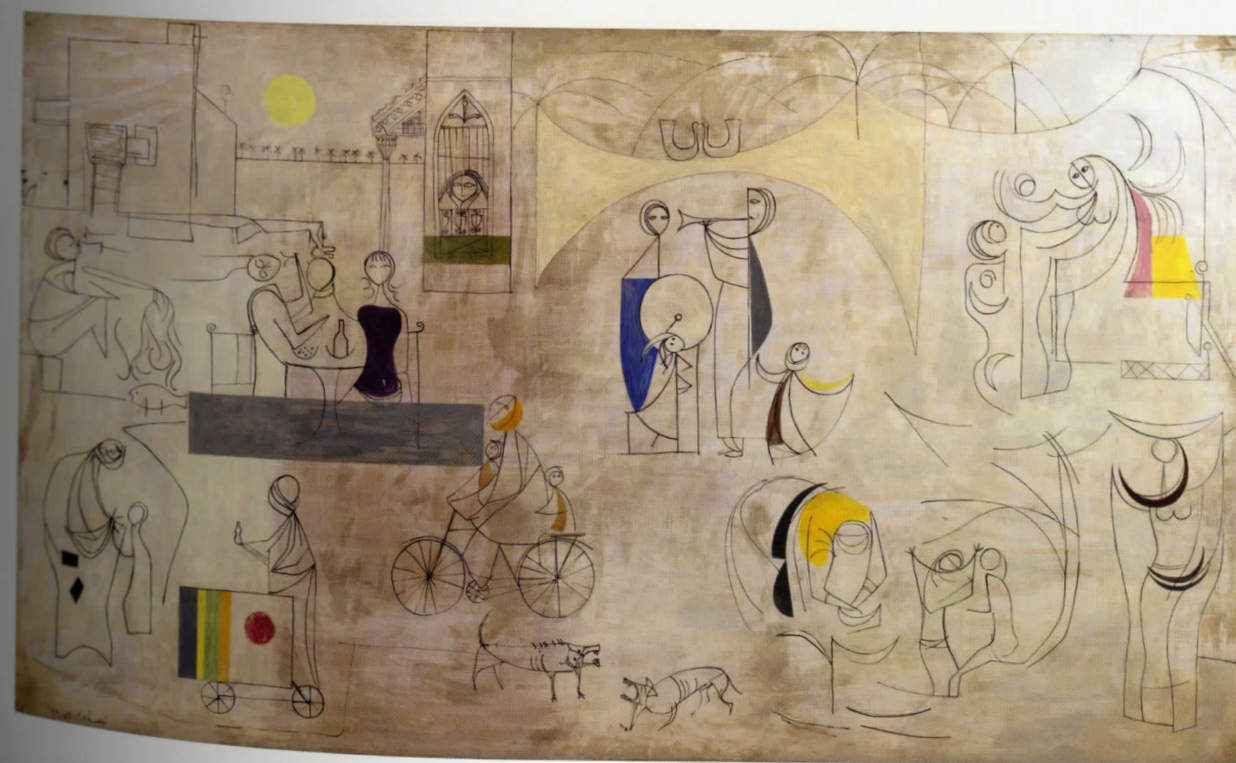
20



Jawad Salim
 ◀ *Woman and Sewing Machine*
 Date unknown
 Mixed media on paper
 65.6 × 46 cm (25 7/8 × 18 1/8 in.)
 Arab Museum of Modern Art, Qatar
 Foundation and Qatar Museums
 Authority, Doha

The Modernist Iraqi artist Jawad Salim was encouraged by Satea'a El Hesry, the director of the National Museum of Iraq in Baghdad, to develop an interest in ancient Mesopotamian art. This influence can be seen in the stylized figures that characterize both works shown here (left and opposite), milestones in the development of Salim's influential style, which managed to be both modern and consciously archaic at the same time. Other details – the rooster, the old-fashioned sewing machine, the cyclist – are images of traditional life from the present or recent past, while *Baghdadiyat* also evokes a more distant Arab heritage.

Jawad Salim
Baghdadiyat
 1956
 Mixed media on hardboard
 98.5 × 169 cm (38 3/4 × 66 1/2 in.)
 Arab Museum of Modern Art, Qatar
 Foundation and Qatar Museums
 Authority, Doha



Ahmed Al-Bahrani
 ▶ *Woman and Bull*
 2001
 Steel sheet
 32.5 × 41 × 23 cm
 (12 3/4 × 16 1/8 × 9 in.)
 Arab Museum of Modern Art,
 Qatar Foundation and Qatar
 Museums Authority, Doha

The Iraqi artist Ahmed Al-Bahrani began his career as a sculptor by modelling clay that he found near his home on the River Euphrates. After studying under the acclaimed Ismail Fattah, he pursued his career abroad, developing a distinctive style that brings together both Modernist and archaic forms. In the work shown here, archetypal figures of a bull and a woman seem to draw on ancient prototypes, although, as Al-Bahrani has himself made clear, his aim is to create images that have a universal significance.

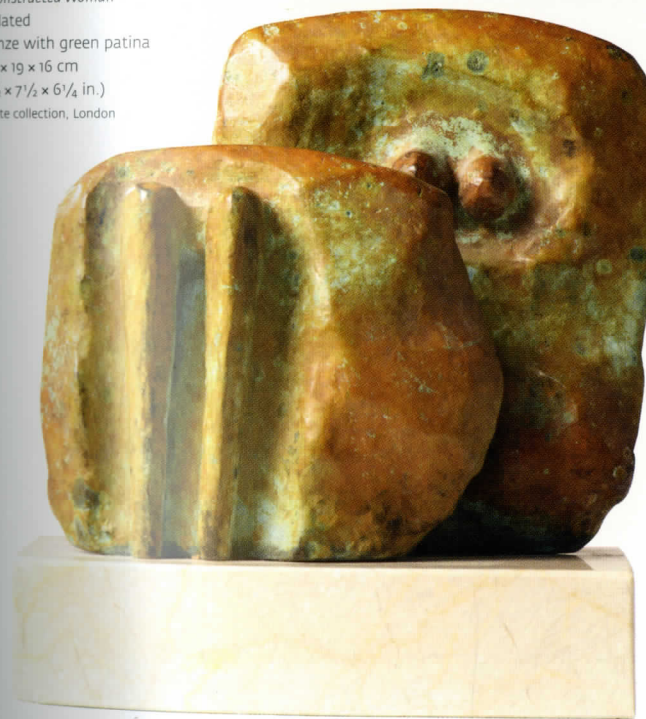




Ismail Fattah
Man, Woman and Rooster
 1995
 Acrylic on canvas
 153 x 122 cm (60¼ x 48 in.)
 Arab Museum of Modern Art, Qatar
 Foundation and Qatar Museums
 Authority, Doha



Ismail Fattah
Deconstructed Woman
 Undated
 Bronze with green patina
 21.5 x 19 x 16 cm
 (8½ x 7½ x 6¼ in.)
 Private collection, London



Ismail Fattah
Untitled
 2001
 Acrylic on paper
 149 x 116 cm (58½ x 45½ in.)
 Collection of Dr Anwar Gargash,
 Dubai

Ismail Fattah
Group of Figures
 Undated
 Bronze
 25.5 x 24 x 10 cm
 (10 x 9½ x 3⅞ in.)
 Private collection, London



The great Iraqi artist Ismail Fattah created some remarkable public sculptures in Baghdad, some of which have been damaged since the invasion of the country in 2003. Even when working on a small scale, Fattah managed to give the human figure an expressive, monumental quality. In *Group of Figures*, he used the strength of bronze to create a cluster of abstract human forms whose truncated torsos are supported on impossibly spindly legs. The work's smooth, black surface contrasts with the patina of *Deconstructed Woman*, in which the abstraction and fragmentation are taken still further in the depiction of a seated woman.

As is clear from the two paintings shown here, Fattah was also inspired by the art of

ancient Mesopotamia. The couple in *Man, Woman and Rooster*, for example, have an archaic, hieratic pose, while their anatomies, especially their broad, flat shoulders, suggest that they could have been carved from a block of stone. Such liberties with the human body are, of course, also characteristic of Western Modernism, as is the bold use of colour. The splash of green, which partly obscures the man's facial features, is taken up in other areas of the painting, and contrasts with the red, its complementary hue. The flowers and the rooster – the latter being a common motif in Fattah's work – are further examples of the artist's dazzling palette. They also add a touch of rustic domesticity, despite the prevailing abstraction.



Saloua Raouda Choucair

of Beirut. She then moved to Paris to study at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts (1948–52). In 1968 she received the Grand Prize at the Alexandria Biennale. Choucair has shown her work widely, and in 2013 was the subject of a retrospective at Tate Modern, London. She lives and works in Beirut.

DAHAM, Sameer Al-
BORN RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA,
1955

Al-Daham attained his diploma at the Secondary Teachers Institute in Riyadh (1971), where he specialized in painting. He continues to promote contemporary art throughout his homeland, and has also relaunched the 'Talents Drawing' Institute at the Society of Culture, Riyadh. He currently serves as the art adviser to the Ministry of Culture and Information in Saudi Arabia, where he lives and works.

DALLOUL, Ziad
BORN SOUEIDA, SYRIA, 1953

Dalloul graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Damascus and the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs, Paris. His

pictorial and graphic work has been exhibited in several venues worldwide, including the Shoman Foundation, Jordan (1997); the Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris (2005); and Galerie Claude Bernard, Paris (2008). He lives and works in Paris.

DARGHOOUTH, Tagreed
BORN SAIDA, LEBANON,
1979

Darghouth studied in Lebanon and France, graduating from the Institute of Fine Arts at the Université Libanaise, Beirut (2000), and later moving to Paris to study at the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs (2003). Darghouth has twice participated in the Ayloul Summer Academy at Darat al Funun, Jordan, first in 2000 and then in 2001; on both occasions she was a student of the Syrian-German artist Marwan Kassab Bashi (see page 383). In 2012 she received the inaugural Boghossian Foundation Prize for Young Lebanese Artists, while her work has appeared in numerous solo and joint exhibitions, including *L'insondable Surface* at the Institut Français, Beirut (2013). She lives and works in Beirut.

DAWOOD, Shezad
BORN LONDON, ENGLAND,
1974

Dawood studied at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, London, where he obtained his BA, and then at the Royal College of Art, London, where he obtained his MA and MPhil in fine art (2000). He has exhibited in solo and group shows in Europe, Russia, the United States and the Middle East. He lives and works in London.

DAYDBAN, Ayman Yossri
BORN RAMALLAH, WEST BANK,
1966

Daydban, a Palestinian with Jordanian nationality, moved to Saudi Arabia when he was one month old. He has participated in numerous group and solo exhibitions, including *The Future of a Promise* at the 54th Venice Biennale (2011). He lives and works in Jeddah.

DEBS, Nada
BORN BEIRUT, LEBANON,
1962

Born in Lebanon and raised in Kobe, Japan, Debs studied both in Lebanon and in the USA, receiving a BA in business administration from the American University of

Beirut (1984), and a BA in interior architecture from the Rhode Island School of Design (1988). In 2000 Debs established Nada Debs Furniture & Design; three years later she opened her first store in Beirut, the Nada Debs Gallery. In 2011 she was selected as a 'High-Impact Entrepreneur' by Endeavor Lebanon, and in 2013 was shortlisted for the Jameel Prize 3. She lives and works in Beirut.

DERAKSHANI, Reza
BORN SANGSAR, IRAN,
1952

Derakshani graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Tehran (1976), and pursued his higher studies at the Pasadena School of Art, California. He later taught visual arts at the University of Tehran. He is known for his many contemporary approaches to his cultural heritage, expressed through visual arts, music and poetry. He lives and works in Tehran.

DOUAIHY, Saliba
BORN EHDEH, LEBANON
1915-1994

Douaihy studied at the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs, Paris (1932–36). In 1950 he emigrated to the United States, a key moment in his career, with the unfamiliar surroundings changing his artistic vision. He won many prizes and awards throughout his lifetime, including the Lebanese National Order of Cedar (1968) and the Medaglia d'Oro of the Accademia d'Italia delle Arti e del Lavoro (1980).

DROUBI, Hafez al-
BORN BAGHDAD, IRAQ
1914-1991

Al-Droubi studied art in Rome (1937–38), and then completed his studies at Goldsmiths in London (1951). In 1942 he launched the first free painting workshop in Iraq, and in 1953 was a

founding member of the Impressionists Group. He chaired the Society of Iraqi Plastic Artists for six years, and was the dean of the Academy of Fine Arts in Baghdad, also for six years.

EFLATOUN, Inji
BORN CAIRO, EGYPT
1924-1989

In 1942 Eflatoun became a member of the Art and Freedom group, the first organization to free modern Egyptian art from the bonds of Formalism. She was also involved in forming a student group dedicated to women's rights in the areas of class difference, the oppression of women and colonial imperialism. Towards the end of her life she was awarded the Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres medal of merit by the French Ministry of Culture (1986).

EHSAL, Mohammed
BORN TEHRAN, IRAN,
1939

Ehsal trained at the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Tehran (1966–71). After graduating he became a calligraphy instructor. He works in graphic design, printing and architecture, and has exhibited worldwide. He lives and works in Tehran.

ELKOURY, Fouad
BORN PARIS, FRANCE,
1952

Elkoury obtained a degree in architecture in London (1979) before taking an interest in photography. In 1989 he joined the Rapho agency, Paris, and was awarded the Prix de la Villa Médicis Hors les Murs. He is a co-founder of the Beirut-based Arab Image Foundation, and lives and works in Paris and Beirut.

ERMES, Ali Omar
BORN TRIPOLI, LIBYA,
1945

Ermes graduated from the School of Architecture and Design at the University of

Plymouth, England (1970). He later returned to Libya, where he became a freelance writer. In 1976 Ermes was appointed as a consultant to the World of Islam Festival in London. He is chairman of the Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre, London, and is involved with a variety of institutions. He lives and works in Bedfordshire, England.

ESPAHBOD, Alireza
BORN TEHRAN, IRAN
1952-2007

Espahbod graduated from the College of Fine Arts for Boys (1971) and then from the College of Decorative Arts (1975), both in Tehran. After moving to London, he went on to obtain an MA in design from Goldsmiths (1977). From 1984 to 1988 Espahbod worked as a graphic designer and art critic for such Iranian magazines as *Friday Book* and *Iran of Tomorrow*.

FAISAL, Reem Al
BORN JEDDAH, SAUDI ARABIA,
1968

A Saudi photographer, Al Faisal studied Arabic literature at King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, before moving to France to study photography at the Spéos Photographic Institute, Paris. Al Faisal is one of the first women to be granted permission to photograph in the holy cities of Mecca and Medina. She lives and works in Saudi Arabia.

FARHADIAN, Mehdi
BORN TEHRAN, IRAN, 1980

Farhadian obtained his MA in painting from the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Tehran. His work has been exhibited throughout Europe and the Middle East. He lives and works in Tehran.

FARMANFARMAIAN, Monir
BORN QAZVIN, IRAN, 1924

Farmanfarmaian began her studies in fine art at the University of Tehran. After moving to New York, she

continued them at Cornell University and Parsons School of Design (1949), later becoming a member of the Art Students League of New York (1950–53). She has exhibited widely, including at the 29th Venice Biennale (1958, gold medal winner); the Victoria and Albert Museum, London (2006); the Belvedere Museum, Vienna (2008); the Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern (2008); the Asia Society Museum, New York (2013); and the Sharjah Biennial II (2013). She lives and works in Tehran and New York.

FARROUKH, Mustafa
BORN BEIRUT, LEBANON
1901-1957

Farroukh graduated from the Accademia di Belle Arti in Rome (1927). He then moved to Paris, where he studied under the French painter Paul Chabas, at the time the president of the Société des Artistes Français. In 1932 Farroukh returned to Beirut, where he taught at the American University of Beirut's teacher training school, and at the Lebanese Cenacle.

FASSIH, Hossein
BORN TEHRAN, IRAN, 1977

Fassih graduated with a BA in fine art from Yazd University, Iran (2006), since when he has been involved in animation. He lives and works in Iran.

FATHI, Golnaz
BORN TEHRAN, IRAN, 1972

Fathi obtained a BA in graphic design from Azad University, Tehran (1995), and a diploma in calligraphy from the Iranian Society of Calligraphy, Tehran (1996). In 2003 she received a grant to study for three months at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris. She lives and works in Tehran.

FATMI, Mounir
BORN TANGIERS, MOROCCO,
1970

Fatmi graduated from the École Supérieure des Beaux-

Arts, Casablanca (1989), and the Accademia di Belle Arti, Rome (2006). He is the winner of several awards, including first prize in the video art category at the Canarias Mediafest, Spain (1998), and the Grand Prix Léopold Sédar, Senegal (2006). He lives and works in Paris.

FATTAH, Ismail
BORN BASRA, IRAQ
1938-2004

Fattah studied at Baghdad's Institute of Fine Arts, where he attained a degree in painting and sculpture (1958). He later moved to Italy to study at the Accademia di Belle Arti, Rome (1963). Fattah created numerous public sculptures in Baghdad, one of the most prominent being the 'Martyrs' Monument' (1983). He died in Baghdad.

FATTAH, Lisa
BORN GERMANY
1941-1992

Lisa Fattah was the wife of Iraqi artist Ismail Fattah (see above). She graduated from the Accademia di Belle Arti, Rome (1963), and trained at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando, Madrid (1963–64). Her work has featured in various exhibitions, including a group exhibition of female artists in Amman (1992). She died in Baghdad.

FUTAIH, Fu'ad al-
BORN HOGGERIYAH, YEMEN,
1948

Al-Futaih attained his diploma in fine art at the Kunstakademie in Düsseldorf, and his doctorate in the history of art at the University of Cologne. He has won several awards, including the Yemeni National Award for Fine Arts (1989). He lives and works in Yemen.

GAZZAR, Abdel Hady El-
BORN ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT
1925-1966

El-Gazzar studied at the School of Fine Arts, Cairo,

graduating at the top of his class (1950). He was then granted a scholarship to study at the Accademia di Belle Arti in Rome. He received many prizes, including a bronze medal at an exhibition in São Paulo, Brazil, and a gold medal at the Salon of Arab Artists, Rome (both 1957).

GEMAYEL, César
BORN AIN AL TOUFFAHA,
LEBANON, 1898-1958

Gemayel studied pharmacology, but was also tutored in art by the Lebanese painter Khalil Saleeby. He later moved to Paris to study at the Académie Julian. Gemayel was awarded first prize at the Exposition Coloniale Internationale, Paris (1931), and was a teacher at the Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts, Beirut. He died in Beirut.

GHADIRIAN, Shadi
BORN TEHRAN, IRAN,
1974

Ghadirian obtained a BA in photography from Azad University, Tehran (1998). She has worked at the first museum of photography in Tehran, the Akshaneh Shahr, and has managed the first Iranian website dedicated to photography. She has participated in art exhibitions around the world, and lives and works in Tehran.

GHAEB, Ghassan
BORN BAGHDAD, IRAQ,
1964

Ghaeb obtained a diploma from the Institute of Fine Arts (1986) and a BA from the Academy of Fine Arts (1997), both in Baghdad. He has exhibited throughout the Middle East, and in England, France and Lithuania. Ghaeb has received several honours, including the sixth Al Wasiti award (1987); a prize at the Contemporary Iraqi Art Festival, Baghdad (1996); and the Creativity Award, Baghdad (2000). He lives and works in Baghdad.

GHANDRIZ, Mansour
BORN TABRIZ, IRAN
1935-1965

Ghandriz graduated from the College of Fine Arts for Boys in Tehran (1956), where he studied painting. In 1961 he entered the College of Decorative Arts in Tehran. He has been associated with the Saqqakhaneh movement. In 1964, together with some of his fellow artists, Ghandriz co-founded the Talar-e-Qandriz art centre.

GHAREM, Abdunasser
BORN KHAMIS MUSHAIT,
SAUDI ARABIA, 1973

GhareM is a major in the Saudi Arabian Army and an artist in his free time. He studied at the Al-Miftaha Arts Village in Abha. He has exhibited in a number of Arab countries as well as in Europe, including at the 53rd Venice Biennale. A promoter of contemporary art in Saudi Arabia, GhareM lives and works in Khams Mushait.

GHAZALI, Hakim
BORN CASABLANCA,
MOROCCO, 1963

Ghazali studied art in Casablanca, and was awarded a scholarship to study at the Haute École d'Art et de Design in Geneva. He has participated in art exhibitions in numerous group and solo exhibitions, and in 2000 received an award from Galerie Bernanos, Paris. In 2006 Linotype announced one of his fonts as a winner in its first ever Arabic Type Design competition. He lives and works in Morocco.

GHEZELAYAGH, Bit
BORN FLORENCE, ITALY,
1966

Ghezelayagh was brought up in Tehran, living through the revolution of 1979. In 1984, midway through the Iran-Iraq War (1980–88), she moved to Paris to study at the École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris La Villette. In addition to being