

Amin El Bacha

Le Paysage fantastique

1998

Acrylic on canvas

95 × 150 cm (37³/₈ × 59 in.)

Private collection



Amin El Bacha

Icare

1965

Oil on canvas

100 × 100 cm (39³/₈ × 39³/₈ in.)

Private collection

As the first of these paintings illustrates, the Lebanese artist Amin El Bacha is capable of creating wonderful landscapes of great lyricism and beauty. His style is characterized by a delicate sense of line and glowing, harmonious colours.

The second work, *Icare*, refers to the Classical Greek legend of Icarus, who perished after flying too close to the sun using wings made by his father, Daedalus: the heat melted the wax fastening the wings' feathers, and the boy plunged into the sea. The story, which illustrates the tragic consequences of hubris, provided El Bacha with an opportunity to produce a vibrant, highly abstracted composition filled with warm, natural hues.





Dia Al-Azzawi

AVEDISSIAN, Chant
BORN CAIRO, EGYPT, 1951

Avedissian studied fine art at the School of Art and Design, Montreal (1970–73), and printmaking at the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs, Paris (1974–76). He returned to his hometown in 1980, where he worked for the Aga Khan Foundation with celebrated Egyptian architect Hassan Fathy. He lives and works in Cairo.

AYAD, Ragheb
BORN EGYPT
1892–1982

Ayad graduated from the School of Fine Arts in Cairo (1911). In 1925 he travelled to Rome to study at the Accademia di Belle Arti.

He returned to Cairo in 1930 and became director of the College of Applied Arts. In 1950 Ayad became director of the Museum of Modern Art, Cairo.

AZZAWI, Dia Al-
BORN BAGHDAD, IRAQ, 1939

Al-Azzawi studied archaeology at the University of Baghdad, and fine art at the city's Institute of Fine Arts. In 1969 he wrote and published the manifesto *Towards the New Vision*, co-signed by his contemporaries Ra'af al-Nasiri (see page 372), Mohammed Muhridin, Ismail Fattah (see page 366), Hashem al-Samarchi and Saleh Al-Jumai (see page 370). In the early 1970s, at the instigation of Jamil Hammoudi (see page 368), Al-Azzawi, Shaker Hassan al-Said (see page 375), al-Nasiri and Abdul Rahman al-Gilani started what became known as the One Dimension group. Al-Azzawi lives and works in London.

BAALBAKI, Ayman
BORN ODEISSE, LEBANON,
1975

Baalbaki attained his degree in fine art from the Institute of Fine Arts at the Université Libanaise, Beirut (1998). He continued his art studies at the Darat al Funun Summer

Academy in Amman, and at the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, obtaining an MA and a PhD. Baalbaki has won a number of prizes and awards, including the 'Young Artists of Beautiful Arts of Lebanon' award, Tripoli. He lives and works in Beirut.

BAALBAKI, Oussama
BORN BEIRUT, LEBANON, 1978

Baalbaki graduated with a degree in fine art from the Institute of Fine Arts at the Université Libanaise, Beirut (2002). He has been a regular participant in the Salon d'Automne at the Sursock Museum in Beirut. Baalbaki also publishes drawings and illustrations as a freelancer in *As-Safir*, a daily Lebanese newspaper. He lives and works in Beirut.

BACHA, Amin El
BORN BEIRUT, LEBANON, 1932

El Bacha studied at the Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts in Beirut from 1954 to 1957. He continued his studies at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris, and participated in artist-in-residence programmes in Europe and the Middle East. He has taught at the Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts and at the Institute of Fine Arts at the Université Libanaise, Beirut. He lives and works in Paris and Lebanon.

BAHRANI, Ahmed Al-
BORN BABYLON, IRAQ, 1965

Al-Bahrani attained his diploma in sculpture from the Academy of Fine Arts in Baghdad (1988), where he worked as a teacher of sculpture from 1992 to 1994. He is a member of the Iraqi Artists' Association, the Iraqi Plastic Arts Association, the Qatar Plastic Arts Association and the International Yemeni Cultural Forum. He lives and works in Doha.

BAYA (née Fatma Haddad)
BORN BORDJ EL KIFFAN,
ALGERIA
1931–1998

After being orphaned at the age of eight, Baya was later adopted in Algiers by Marguerite Caminat, a Frenchwoman who had been married to the British painter Frank McEwen. Baya began to learn painting and pottery as well as reading and writing. In 1947 her work was seen by Aimé Maeght and then shown at Galerie Maeght in Paris. In 1971 she was awarded second prize by Algeria's Union Nationale des Arts Plastiques (established in 1963). She died in Blida, Algeria.

BELKAHIA, Farid
BORN MARRAKECH,
MOROCCO, 1934

Belkahia trained at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris (1954–59); the Institute of Theatre, Prague (1959–62); and the Accademia di Belle Arti, Milan (1965–66). In 1962 he was made director of the École Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Casablanca, and in 2004 was a member of the jury for the UNESCO Visual Arts Award. He has held a number of international exhibitions. He lives and works in Morocco.

BELKHODJA, Néjib
BORN TUNIS, TUNISIA
1933–2007

Belkhodja studied at the School of Fine Arts in Tunis, and held his first exhibition at the age of twenty-three. In the 1960s he travelled to Rome and Paris, where he participated in various exhibitions and biennales. Belkhodja received several prizes and awards, including the Tunis Municipal Prize (1956) and a gold medal at an art fair in Milan (1964).

BELLAMINE, Fouad
BORN FES, MOROCCO, 1950

Bellamine attended Casablanca's School of Applied Arts, and later became a

Ayman Baalbaki

