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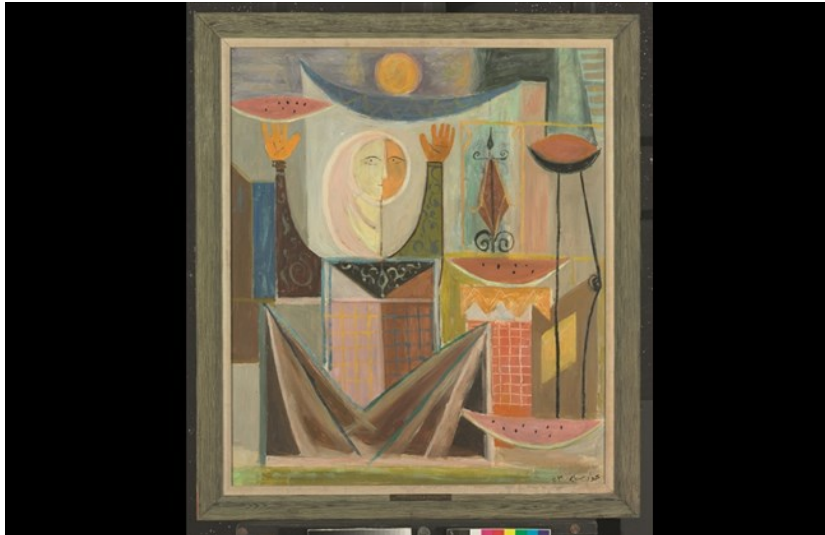
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Art world records smashed during Christie's auction



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The Daily Star

LONDON: After 11 years hosting its "Middle Eastern Modern and Contemporary Art Sale" in Dubai, Christie's auction house moved the event to London Wednesday, raking in \$6,863,249 "with sell-through rates of 85 percent by lot and 88 percent by value." In a press release the auctioneer said that registered bidders from 23 countries participated in the sale.

"The Watermelon Seller," by Iraqi artist Jewad Selim, attained a world auction record, selling for \$876,731, more than double its high estimate of 250,000 pounds (almost \$330,000). Egyptian artists provided most of the auction's stock. Mahmoud Sabri's "Grief" provided one highlight, selling for \$876,731, more than 10 times its high estimate of 60,000 pounds and a new world auction record for the artist. The auction house also moved three titles by Mahmoud Said: "Hanem" (\$420,503), "La fille aux yeux verts" (\$229,425) and his reclining nude "Nu au rideau gris" (\$122,906).

Further records were set for Shafic Abboud for "Chambre verticale 1," "Chambre verticale 2" and "Chambre verticale 4" (\$483,431).

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Ramses Younan (\$326,111) and Parviz Tanavoli (\$262,200).

"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," said Michael Jeha, managing director, deputy chairman of Christie's Middle East. "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."



A version of this article appeared in the print edition of The Daily Star on October 27, 2017, on page 16.

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