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Dia al Azzawi's works on display at Al Riwaq

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THE second part of the two-part retrospective works of internationally-acclaimed Iraqi artist Dia al Azzawi was unveiled at the Qatar Museums Gallery Al Riwaq in Doha on Sunday.

The exhibition to be opened for public viewing from October 17 until April 16, 2017 features paintings, drawings, sculpture and books showcasing Azzawi's career starting as an art student in Iraq in the 1960s.

Azzawi and the exhibition's curator Catherine David, deputy director at Centre Pompidou in Paris, led the opening of the second part of the exhibition titled, 'I am the cry, who will give voice to me? *Dia al Azzawi: A Retrospective (from 1963 until tomorrow)'.

The first part of the exhibition was unveiled at Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art.

"The exhibition profiles the relationship between art and politics that emerged in the artist's practice after 1968. Dia al Azzawi belongs to the cohort of Iraqi artists and poets who sought to think of art practice and its relation with politics. They did so in the context of widespread disillusionment but also from the persecution following the Ba'ath Party coup in 1963. Therefore, for these artists and poets, the word 'revolution', which circulated so widely at the time became the name for an act of speaking the truth that redefined their practice of art," David said.

The collection includes a painting titled 'A Wolf's Cry Memoirs of a Poet' which is an interpretation of the poem of Muzaffar al Nawab, one of Iraq's most influential poets. It highlighted the works featured at

the gallery titled 'Towards a New Vision'.

Other notable works of Azzawi exhibited includes drawings of the short stories of Ghassan Kanafani, a Palestinian writer assassinated in 1972, Azzawi's works during his last service in 1973 on the Kurdistan war front and his drawings and paintings focusing on the Palestinian struggle. Large-scale paintings adorned the exhibition halls along with a depiction of the aftermath of the massacre of the Jenin refugee camp.

"Azzawi was an integral part of cultural movements since the 1960s and is still today. The curatorial reading and concept of the exhibition by Catherine David is a great contribution to the development of the art histories and curatorial dialogues globally," said Abdellah Karroum, director at Mathaf.

Most recently, Azzawi has created a number of iconic public artworks that will be placed in prominent locations across the city. They include two iconic sculptures to be unveiled at the Hamad International Airport.