

Modern Iraqi Art: A Collection

DUBAI / Meem Gallery is presenting an extensive display of works, including paintings and mixed-media compositions, by important modern and contemporary Iraqi artists. Modern Iraqi Art: A Collection takes viewers through the decades of Iraq's modern and contemporary art production. The exhibition opened on May 13, and will run until July 10, 2013.

The exhibition represents the creative output of three generations of artists, starting with the work of modern masters such as Faiq Hassan who, with Jewad Selim, pioneered the country's modern art scene and forged a contemporary artistic identity specific to Iraq. Second generation 'pioneer' artists like Dia Azzawi, Shakir Hassan Al Said and Ismail Fattah, who encouraged a pan-Arab focus for art during the late-1960s and 1970s, as well as a more theoretical approach to art-making, also feature in this collection. Completing the display is the work of the 'eighties generation' of artists, including Hanaa Malallah, Halim Karim and Mahmoud Obaidi, who were taught by the previous generation at the Institute and Academy of Fine Arts in Baghdad, and bring with them an aesthetic that is rooted in Iraq's cultural heritage but simultaneously affected by the experience of exile.

The artists included in the display have work in important regional and international collections such as the Museums of Modern Art in Baghdad, Damascus and Tunis; Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha; Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Amman; British Museum, Tate Modern and Victoria and Albert Museum, London; Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, and Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah. 'Modern Iraqi Art' follows a series of Iraqi art shows by the gallery: Dia Azzawi (2009, solo exhibition), Art in Iraq Today (2010-11, five-part series), and the recent Elegy To My Trapped City (displaying Azzawi's mural-sized painting, 2012). 'Modern Iraqi Art: A Collection' will be accompanied by a catalogue of the works held in the collection.



Faiq Hassan, Bedouin Tent, 1950, Oil on wood, 58x74 cm / Courtesy of Meem Gallery



Kadhem Hayder, Untitled, 1976, Oil on canvas, 57x76 cm / Courtesy of Meem Gallery



Shakir Hassan Al-Said, Untitled, 1992, Mixed media on wood, 80x126 cm /
Courtesy of Meem Gallery



Dia Azzawi, Villager, 1966, Oil on canvas, 70x90 cm / Courtesy of Meem
Gallery

Artists in the Collection

Faraj Abbo, Sadik Kwaish Alfraji, Hayder Ali, Jaber Alwan, Dia Azzawi, Hafidh al-Droubi, Ismail Fattah, Lisa Fattah, Faiq Hassan, Kadhem Hayder, Mohamed Ghani Hikmet, Khalid al-Jader, Saleh al-Jumaie, Saadi al-Kaabi, Halim Karim, Kadhem al-Khalifa, Nedim Kufi, Faisal Laibi, Hanaa Malallah, Mohammed Muhridin, Rafa Nasiri, Mahmoud Obaidi, Madiha Omar, Khalid al-Rahhal, Nouri al-Rawi, Kareem Risan, Atta Sabri, Mahmoud Sabri, Shakir Hassan Al Said, Jewad Selim, Lorna Selim, Naziha Selim, Ismail al-Shaikhly, Delair Shaker, Mohammed al-Shammarey, Akram Shukri, Ali Talib, Samar Usama and Nazar Yahya.