



**ANS
AZURA**

**AGAINST ALL ODDS:
TIMES OF
UNCERTAINTY IN
MIDDLE EASTERN
ART**

Online Bidding begins Nov 11 2024,
10:00 CET+1

Live streamed Auction Room opens
Nov 14 2024, 19:00 CET+1

Find more on: ansazura.com



SUZANA VASILESCU

Co-Founder Ans Azura
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is a Romanian art historian, curator, gallerist and art advisor. She is the Founder and Director of SUPRAINFINIT, a contemporary art gallery in Bucharest, and is the curator and art advisor for important private art collections in Eastern Europe and Middle East. She is also a member of the board and the acquisition committee of the Museum of Recent Art—the first private art museum opened in the last century in Romania—which collects and exhibits Romanian art from 1965 to the present.

Prior to launching her own gallery (in 2015) and Ans Azura (2021), she was leading efforts to establish and cultivate the art ecosystem in Eastern Europe through leadership and curatorial roles at auction houses, galleries, and biennials. During her tenure at Artmark Auction House (2009 - 2012), the leading auction house in Romania, Suzana Vasilescu led the department of Post-modern and Contemporary Art and organised the first post-modern and contemporary art auction in the country. In 2015, she was the director of the first edition of 'Art Encounters Biennale', which took place in Timisoara and has been a milestone in the art context of Romania. Prior to that (2012-2015), she was the Director of the contemporary art gallery, Nicodim Gallery.

She graduated with a BA in Art History and an MBA at ASEBUSS School of Business Management, the most prestigious Romanian business school.



ANDREEA STANCULEANU

Co-Founder Ans Azura
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is a Romanian art advisor and cultural manager, founder of the Sector 1 Contemporary Art Gallery. A graduate of International Business and Trade at the Faculty of International Economic Relations at ASE Bucharest, she has an experience of over 20 years in international business and film production. From 2017 Andreea has primarily focused on following her lifelong passion and opened Sector 1 Gallery, becoming a heard voice on the contemporary art scene in Romania. Through a series of curatorial projects based on the artistic phenomenon coming out of the strong Cluj art scene, the representation of post-avantgarde historical Romanian artists and an international programme focused primarily on CEE artists, Andreea has become part of a network of advisors for relevant East European collections



NATHALIE KHOURY

Head of Department for Middle East Art
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is currently a member of the executive board of the Beirut Art Center, the first non-for profit art space in Beirut and Regional Director of Ans Azura Middle East. After studying graphic arts in Paris, Nathalie Khoury moved to Beirut in 1991 where she worked in the fields of communication, graphic design, and accessory design. From 2005 until early 2010, she was the director of the contemporary art gallery Sfeir-Semler in Beirut. In 2011 she was appointed as a consultant for an 8 months mission by l'Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts/ALBA to work on a new curriculum for their visual art department.

CONDITIONS OF SALES

HOW TO BID IN OUR AUCTION

The works of art which are subject to artist resale royalty rights ('droit de suite') are marked with an * in the description of the work of art. The amount of the royalties is calculated using a sliding scale of percentages of the Hammer Price.

Lots featured on Ans Azura's platform may be subject to export regulations in the country where they are located and import regulations in the country where they will be shipped to. The location of each Lot is marked in its description. You are responsible for ensuring that you understand and comply with all relevant laws or regulations applicable in relation to the export or import of any Lot that you intend to purchase.

By registering to bid in auctions and by bidding on the Ans Azura platform you agree to the Bidder's and Buyer's Terms and Conditions which you may consult [here](#). Please read these Terms and Conditions carefully. By bidding you accept personal liability to pay the Purchase Price consisting of the Hammer Price and the Buyer's Premium plus the applicable Buyer's Expenses.

Please note that the Total Cost Calculator will display the amount including the estimated Buyer's Premium and the estimated artist resale royalties, exclusive of any related shipping expenses, all duties, taxes, VAT, and/or custom processing fees payable by the Buyer.

This November, Ans Azura is honored to present its latest season showcasing a dynamic range of artworks from renowned figures and emerging talents of the Middle East.

This carefully curated collection explores the enduring creativity that has flourished despite—or perhaps because of—the region's political upheaval, war, and deep-seated uncertainties. From the profound, emotive canvases of renowned figures like Paul Guiragossian, Chafic Abboud, Nabil Nahas and Helen Khal to the bold, fresh perspectives of rising artists, this auction captures the diverse yet interconnected narratives of resilience and resistance. These works, ranging from haunting depictions of war and exile to militant expressions of identity and defiance, bear witness to the struggles and hopes of their creators.

These artists, navigating their different national contexts, have turned to their art as a lifeline, a form of survival, therapy, protest, and militancy. Whether from the hands of a celebrated icon or a promising newcomer, each piece speaks to the unyielding power of artistic expression in the face of adversity, offering a unique insight into the heart of a region in flux.

Detail: Bahram Hajou, Paar, Lot 21



Untitled (2010)

This semi-sculptural wall piece presents a meticulous arrangement of plaster cubes and assorted materials (construction materials: plaster, cement, sand, cardboard, and wood), evoking an aerial perspective of a densely populated urban environment. While the initial impression may suggest chaos, a closer examination reveals a subtle concentric order that invites reflection on the inherent duality present in the piece. This sophisticated interplay of disorder and structure mirrors the multifaceted realities of Lebanon, reflecting the impacts of war and displacement. The predominantly white palette adds a layer of starkness, while the tactile quality compels engagement, encouraging viewers to delve into the nuanced narratives embedded within the work. The work was made in 2010 and was showcased in her solo exhibition, "In Transit," at Agial Art Gallery in 2014.

Tania Bakalian Safieddine (b. 1954), known as Tanbak, is a prominent Lebanese-Armenian contemporary artist celebrated for her evocative paintings, sculptures, and mixed-media installations. Her works have been exhibited internationally and are included in prestigious collections such as the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Centre Pompidou in Paris.

Deeply influenced by her Armenian heritage and the harrowing histories of the Armenian Genocide and the Lebanese Civil War, Tanbak's began pursuing art after she left Lebanon in 1971. While pursuing studies in Spanish literature in Madrid and Barcelona, she was profoundly impacted by the works of Spanish masters like Francisco Goya, whose paintings also reflected on war. This experience greatly shaped her exploration of monochromatic palettes and themes of human suffering.

*Size:
80 x 80 cm*

*Medium: mixed media
(construction materials: plaster, cement, sand, cardboard and wood)
Signed and dated on the reverse "TANBAK 24/8/2010"*

Exhibition

*Solo exhibition "In Transit" by Tanbak, Agial Art Gallery, Beirut
Sep 02, 2014 - Sep 20, 2014*

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist

Certificate of authenticity

*A certificate of authenticity can be issued upon request.
Please contact us for details.*

*Estimate:
€2,000 - €3,000*

*Starting price:
€1,000*



ELIE KANAAN*À la lueur de l'aube (c. 2000)*

Elie Kanaan (Lebanese, b. 1926 - d. 2009) is regarded as a significant presence in Lebanese modern art. His lyrical oeuvre walks the line between abstraction and figuration, delicately wielding colour into expressive, gestural brushstrokes. He gained national and international acclaim for his recognizable style, notably from American artist and critic Helen Khal, who likened his technique to the sensual rhythm and texture of Arabic poetry.

A self-taught prodigy, Kanaan won the first prize in Lebanon's "Salon du Printemps" in 1957. In the following year, he won the UNESCO award which facilitated his formal study at the Académie de la Grande Chaumière in Paris and allowed him to refine his distinctive style. During this period, he connected with artists like Yves Alix and Jacques Villon, who introduced him to critics like Waldemar Georges and Maximilien Gautier who lauded his work. Following his time in France, he had an exploratory period in Italy before returning to his native Lebanon, where he began exhibiting. A testament to his growing international success, he received the Prix Vendome in 1967. From 1962 onwards, he participated in many exhibitions in Paris, New York, São Paulo, Belgrade, Moscow and Alexandria.

From the late 1960s to early 2000s, Kanaan's work took on an enigmatic quality, likely influenced by the onset of the Lebanese Civil War. Ultimately, he broke free from his traditional French training and embraced his distinctive style. In the words of French poet Alain Bosquet: "Elie Kanaan's brush stroke begins with the nebulous and heads towards the definite: it is in this thrilling suspense where everything remains suggested, possible, and unrealized. The artist shares with us this intermediate state where every colour and every shape is rich in its creative significance."

Size:
33 x 46 cm

With frame:
43 x 56 cm

Medium: gouache on paper mounted on board
Signed on the front lower left "E.S.Kanaan"

Location

Beirut, Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist

Certificate of authenticity

A certificate of authenticity can be issued upon request.
Please contact us for details.

Estimate:
€2,200 - €4,000

Starting price:
€1,400



SIMONE BALTAXÉ

Untitled (1998)

Simone Baltaxé's Untitled (1998) captures a tender embrace between mother and child, abstracted with bold curvilinear forms and textured, chalky application of colour. Divided into three vertical sections of warm oranges, soft pinks, and deep greys, the composition masterfully blends figuration with abstraction. Baltaxé's fascination with human relationships is evident in the emotive interplay between her subjects, creating a stunning balance between warmth and rawness within this dynamic, yet serene, oil on canvas.

Simone Baltaxé's (French, b. 1925 - d. 2009) distinctive works are celebrated for their depth and texture, and remain proudly displayed in prominent collections, including the Sursock Museum in Beirut and the Centre Pompidou in Paris. She began her artistic training at the School of Applied Arts in Paris in 1940. Disrupted by World War II, she relocated to Lyon in 1942, and later continued her studies at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in 1946 under Jean Souverbié's mentorship.

1951 marked a significant turn in her life when she wed Noubar Martayan and moved to Lebanon, a country that became her home until 1978. Simone's work as an artist started gaining wider recognition in 1957 when she began participating in the Salons du Printemps at the UNESCO Palace in Beirut. A pivotal encounter in 1964 with George Audi, a master weaver, steered her towards the world of tapestry-making. This new artistic venture found its way into the prestigious Salons d'Automne at the Sursock Museum.

Baltaxé showcased her work in solo exhibitions, notably at Gallery One in 1968 and Modulart in 1974. Baltaxé's oeuvre has recently re-captured the attention of prestigious institutions worldwide, securing her place in the collections of the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art in Qatar, and the Saradar Collection in Beirut. Further cementing her status in the art world, Baltaxé was featured in a group exhibition titled "Presence Arabes" at the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris in April 2024, dedicated to celebrating the contributions of women artists. This accolade underscores the significance of her work and its vital place within the narrative of contemporary art.

Size:
80.8 x 64.8 cm

With frame:
84 x 68 cm

Medium: oil on canvas
Signed on the front lower right "S. Baltaxé"

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, France. Acquired directly from the artist

Certificate of authenticity

A certificate of authenticity can be issued upon request.

Please contact us for details.

Estimate:
€10,000 - €18,000

Starting price:
€6,000



OMAR EL-NAGDI

Untitled (2008)

Omar El Nagdi (b. 1931 - d. 2019), often referred to as the “Egyptian Picasso,” was a prolific artist whose work spanned over six decades. Born in Cairo, he studied at the Faculty of Fine Arts before refining his craft in Russia and Italy. El Nagdi’s work is characterised by its bold experimentation with forms and styles, from Cubism and Expressionism to the Sufi-inspired Hurufiyya movement, in which he explored the mystical significance of Arabic calligraphy.

A founding member of the Egyptian Mosaics Group alongside renowned writer Taha Hussein, El Nagdi’s art captures the vibrant spirit of Egyptian life while addressing profound social and political themes. He was deeply influenced by the diverse cultures of rural Egypt and Cairo’s Bab Al Shèreya district, which imbued his work with a unique authenticity.

El Nagdi’s work has been showcased at major venues such as the Venice Biennale and the Institut du Monde Arabe. His legacy is firmly preserved in prominent collections including The Museum of Modern Art in Venice, the Museum of Modern Art in South Korea, the Library of Congress, the White House, and the National Library in Paris. His art continues to be highly sought after, reflecting his lasting impact on the global art scene.

Size:
40 x 30 cm

Medium: mixed media on paper
Signed and dated on the front lower right “Omar El Nagdi -1-2008”

Location
Cairo, Egypt

Provenance
Private collection, Egypt

Estimate:
€2,800 - €4,000

Starting price:
€1,800



NAZIR ISMAIL*Untitled (2009)*

A master of mediums, Nazir Ismail portrays subject matter from Syria's contemporary religious and socio-political fabric. The artist explores themes of confusion, unease, and loss primarily through a blend of abstraction and figuration.

From an early age, he frequented folk artist Abu Subhi Al Tinawi's studio which neighbored his grandfather's home. This early exposure led him to begin his own practice as a self-taught artist in the 1960s. His debut exhibition was hosted in Beirut, where he then lived and worked. Refining his practice over time, he developed his own distinctive style consisting of earthy tones and a unique expressionist technique, painting human or animal figures in the tradition of ancient Syrian sculpture.

Ismail's work has travelled to the world's cultural capitals in numerous solo and group exhibitions. A retrospective exhibition of his work was held in 1969 and in 1996 at the Goethe Institute in Damascus. He passed away in his homeland in 2016.

Size:
60 x 50 cm

With frame:
67 x 57 cm

Medium: acrylic on canvas
Signed in Arabic on the front center part.
Signed and dated on the front center part "Ismail 09"

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon

Estimate:
€2,500 - €3,000

Starting price:
€1,500

JAMIL MOLAEB*Untitled (2022)*

Jamil Molaeb (b. 1948) is renowned for his exploration of village folklore and mysticism in his work. A student of Chafic Abboud and Paul Guiragossian, Molaeb graduated from the Académie libanaise des Beaux-Arts in 1972, before pursuing advanced studies in the United States. He earned an M.A. from the Pratt Institute in New York and later a Ph.D. in Art Education from Ohio State University.

Molaeb's work, which debuted at the Sursock Museum in 1966, has been featured in prominent exhibitions across Lebanon, Algeria, and the United States. He later earned the Special Painting Prize at the 18th Salon d'Automne in 1995. His distinctive style, informed by Druze mysticism and Eastern philosophies, intertwines abstract forms with ancient symbols, including Egyptian iconography. His compositions often feature intricate, repetitive miniatures.

Widely collected, Molaeb's works reside in significant public and private collections, including The World Bank and the Institut du Monde Arabe. He is also a regular participant in international sculpture symposia. His legacy is preserved through the Jamil Molaeb Museum, founded in 2015 in his hometown of Baissour.

Size:

70 x 50 cm

Medium: oil on canvas

Signed and dated on the front lower right "Jamil Molaeb 17.9.2022".

Signed "Jamil Molaeb" on the reverse.

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon

Certificate of authenticity

This artwork is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity.

Estimate:

€2,000 - €4,000

Starting price:

€1,000



AMY TODMAN*Untitled (2024)*

Amy Todman is a writer and emerging visual artist whose multidisciplinary practice spans drawing, painting, animation, objects, and text. Originally from Scotland, she has made Beirut, Lebanon her home after an extended period in Armenia. In 2018, Todman shifted her focus to her art practice, finding her way to Lebanon via Armenia, where the warmth of Beirut has profoundly influenced her painting, poetry, and worldview. Her work explores materiality and the complexities of language, delving into the intertwined systems and frameworks that shape the evolution of an artwork over time.

Todman holds a degree in fine art from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design (Dundee, Scotland), an MLitt in the History of Collecting and Collections from the University of Glasgow, and a PhD examining the concept of landscape in Britain during the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Previously, she served as Curator of Art and Political Collections at the National Library of Scotland in the Manuscripts and Archives Department.

*Her recent solo exhibitions include *The Partial Foreground* at the Henrik Igyityan National Centre for Aesthetics (Yerevan, Armenia), *From Here to There* at Dalan Art Gallery (Yerevan, Armenia), and *and the smell of the flowers is everything I don't say* at Agial Art Gallery (Beirut, Lebanon). Todman has also published two poetry collections, *Twig* (2019) and *G(love)* (Sad Press, 2018), alongside an artist book, *Cover* (Brae Editions, 2014).*

Size:

31 x 31.5 cm

Medium: acrylic on canvas

Signed and dated "2004" on the reverse

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist

Certificate of authenticity

A certificate of authenticity can be issued upon request.

Please contact us for details.

Estimate:

€500 - €1,000

Starting price:

€300



HASSAN JOUNI

Cueillette d'olives (2010)

Hassan Jouni (b. 1942) is marked by his fascination with urban landscapes, Lebanese architecture, and the vibrancy of city life. Originally from the Southern Lebanese village of Roumin, Hassan Jouni was raised in a bustling Beirut neighbourhood, Zuqaq al-Blat. His early artistic inclinations and childhood sketches were profoundly shaped by a dramatic fall from his family's rooftop, which later imbued his landscapes with a dreamlike aerial perspective.

Educated at the Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts, Jouni refined his craft at the Foster Academy of Fine Arts in Madrid, where he later assumed a professorial role at the San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts. Upon his return to Beirut in 1970, Jouni took on a significant role as a professor at the Lebanese University, eventually leading the drawing and painting department. His return marked a transformation in his practice, capturing Beirut's golden age with a nostalgic yet critical lens.

Jouni has exhibited works worldwide and has participated in a handful of biennales such as the ones in Sao Paulo, Alexandria, and Kuwait. Residing in his Manara atelier, which he established in 1980, Jouni continues to evoke a profound dialogue between past and present, rendering a Beirut both cherished and elusive.

Size:
60 x 80 cm

With frame:
64 x 84 cm

Medium: oil on canvas

Signed and dated on the front lower right "H.jouni 2010".

Signed and dated on the reverse "H.jouni 2010".

Titled in Arabic on the reverse

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist

Certificate of authenticity

This artwork is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity.

Estimate:
€2,000 - €3,000

Starting price:
€1,000



JULIANA SERAPHIM

Untitled (1989)



Juliana Seraphim (Palestinian-Lebanese, b. 1934 - d. 2005) channelled her experience of exile into a rich corpus of surreal, fantastical paintings that bear both the feminine and the grotesque in equal measure. She fled to Lebanon with her family during the 1948 Palestinian Catastrophe (Al-Nakba) and was deeply impacted by this episode. Perhaps this is why in 1952 she chose to dedicate her efforts working for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for several years in Beirut.

She began painting under the mentorship of the Lebanese artist Jean Khalifé, who exhibited her work in his studio. Later she was formally trained at the Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts, going on to spend a year in Florence in 1959, and then moving to Madrid to study at the Royal Academy of San Fernando on a scholarship in 1960.

Living as a professional artist between Paris and Beirut until she passed away in 2005, Juliana Seraphim leaves behind a rich legacy. Beyond exhibiting widely in Beirut and abroad, she represented Lebanon (having been granted citizenship) in three international biennials: Alexandria (1962), Paris (1963, 1969) and São Paulo (1965). Her work is featured in the Metropolitan Museum of New York; Museum of the City of Viareggio; Musée du Surréalisme, Paris; Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris; Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Amman; Sursock Museum, Beirut; the Ramzi and Saeda Dalloul Art Foundation, Beirut; and the Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah.

Size:
35.5 x 25 cm

With frame:
50 x 38 cm

Medium: watercolour on paper
Signed and dated on the front lower right "Juliana Seraphim 1989"

Location
Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist

Estimate:
€1,200 - €3,000

Starting price:
€800

MAZEN RIFAI*Untitled (2023)*

Mazen Rifai (Lebanese, b. 1957) is an accomplished artist and architect renowned for his ability to infuse luminosity into his landscapes. His small-scale paintings, often inspired by his hometown of Baalbek, showcase his distinctive thick impasto technique. Rifai studied Interior Design and Architecture at the Lebanese University, later earning a degree in Fine Arts from the Accademia di Macerata in Italy. His architectural background profoundly influences his painting practice, which he describes as beginning “always with a place.” Characterised by rigorous construction and a focus on structural simplicity, his works are devoid of superficial elements, reflecting a deep connection to their origins.

Size:
80 x 80 cm

With frame:
85 x 85 cm

Medium: acrylic on canvas
Signed and dated on the reverse “Mazen Rifai 2023”

Location
Lebanon

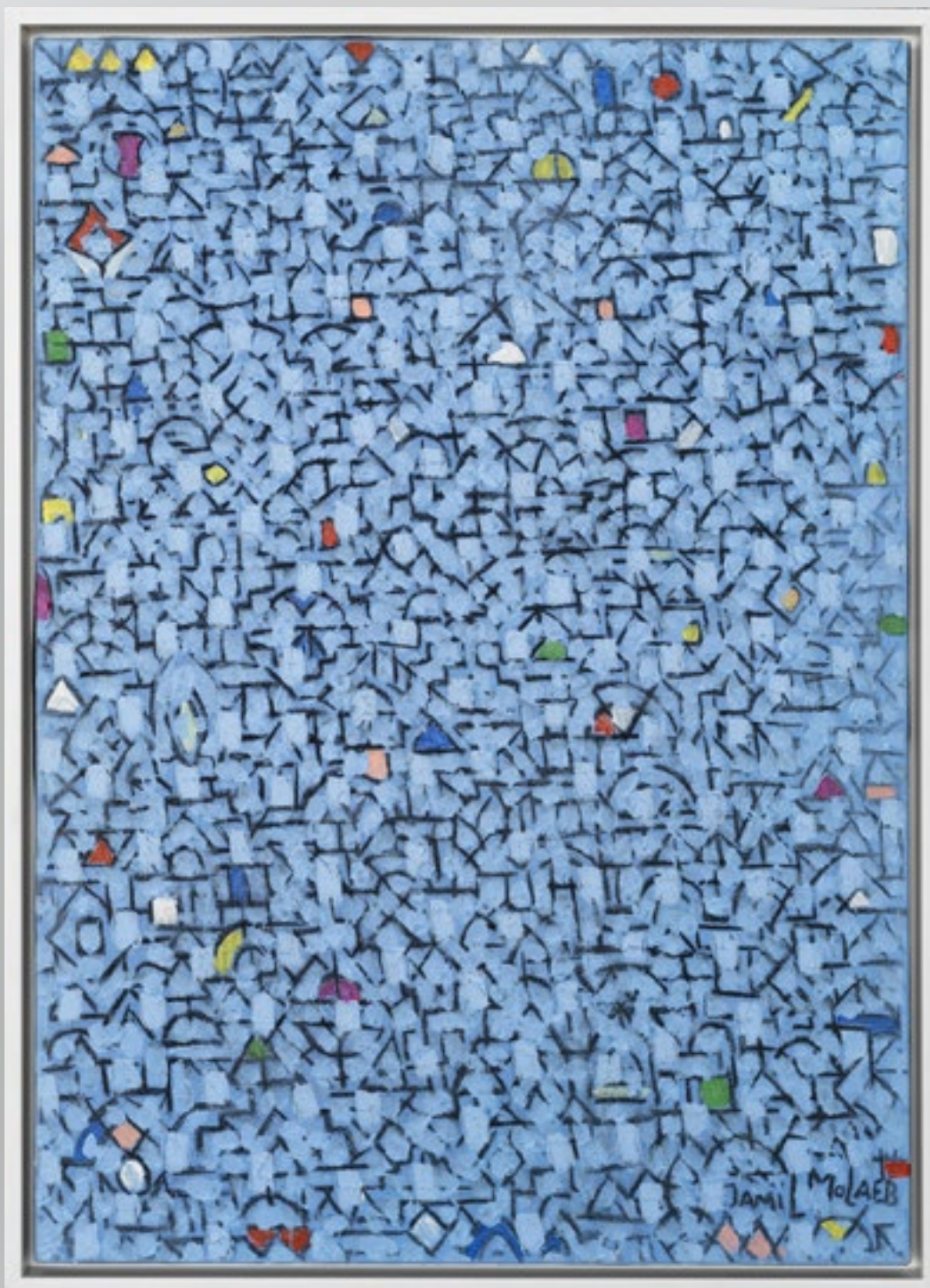
Provenance
Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist

Certificate of authenticity
This artwork is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity.

Estimate:
€2,000 - €4,000

Starting price:
€1,000



JAMIL MOLAEB*Mosaic Houses in Fes (c. 2020)*

Jamil Molaeb (b. 1948) is renowned for his exploration of village folklore and mysticism in his work. A student of Chafic Abboud and Paul Guiragossian, Molaeb graduated from the Académie libanaise des Beaux-Arts in 1972, before pursuing advanced studies in the United States. He earned an M.A. from the Pratt Institute in New York and later a Ph.D. in Art Education from Ohio State University.

Molaeb's work, which debuted at the Sursock Museum in 1966, has been featured in prominent exhibitions across Lebanon, Algeria, and the United States. He later earned the Special Painting Prize at the 18th Salon d'Automne in 1995. His distinctive style, informed by Druze mysticism and Eastern philosophies, intertwines abstract forms with ancient symbols, including Egyptian iconography. His compositions often feature intricate, repetitive miniatures.

Widely collected, Molaeb's works reside in significant public and private collections, including The World Bank and the Institut du Monde Arabe. He is also a regular participant in international sculpture symposia. His legacy is preserved through the Jamil Molaeb Museum, founded in 2015 in his hometown of Baissour.

Size:
70 x 50 cm

With frame:
71.5 x 53 cm

Medium: oil on canvas
Signed on the front lower right "Jamil Molaeb"

Location
Lebanon

Provenance
Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist

Certificate of authenticity
This artwork is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity.

Estimate:
€2,500 - €5,000

Starting price:
€1,300

ALI MOURABET

Untitled

Ali Mourabet (b. 1951, Damascus) is a Lebanese artist and architect who has skillfully navigated both disciplines since 1976. Drawing upon his architectural expertise, Mourabet's work is defined by structured, geometric compositions, yet his art stands apart through its vivid colour palette and evocative depictions of Lebanese architecture and daily life. His practice merges the precision of architectural design with the expressive freedom of painting, reflecting a deep connection to his environment.

Active as an architect since 1977, Mourabet has continually pushed the boundaries of his craft, dedicating increasing time to his artistic endeavours in recent years. His works have been featured in prestigious solo and group exhibitions worldwide, including shows in Beirut, Paris, Los Angeles, and London. Notable exhibitions include Galerie Shammas, Paris (1993), and the Brick Lane Gallery, London (2019).

*Size:**100 x 150 cm**Medium: acrylic on canvas**Signed on the front lower left "a.mourabet"***Location***Greece***Provenance***Private collection, Lebanon***Certificate of authenticity***A certificate of authenticity can be issued upon request.**Please contact us for details.**Estimate:***€1,400 - €3,000***Starting price:***€950**

SABHAN ADAM*Untitled (2005)*

Sabhan Adam (b. 1972) is a self-taught artist whose striking portraits have earned him a distinct place in contemporary Middle Eastern art. From humble beginnings in his hometown on the Syrian-Iraqi border, Al Hasakah, Adam's talent soon propelled him to Damascus, where he held his first solo exhibition at the Goethe Institute in 1994. Just a year later, he debuted internationally at AgialArt Gallery in Beirut, marking the start of his career.

Adam's oeuvre is a series of grotesque yet captivating portraits that do not merely depict but reveal the overlooked ambiguities of the human condition. With honesty and subtle humour, his work confronts the fragility of existence. As the poet Adonis wrote, "the disfigurement [of his characters] projects a particular aesthetics of protest, provocation, and insurrection."

His work has been showcased in prestigious venues such as the Uffizi Gallery, the Institut du Monde Arabe, and the Venice Biennale and are part of prominent collections, including the British Museum, Jalanbo Collection, and Barjeel Art Foundation. Adam's art remains highly sought after by collectors, underscoring his enduring relevance in the contemporary art market.

*Size:
142 x 168 cm*

*Medium: acrylic on canvas
Signed and dated on the front upper left "A 2005".
Signed and dated on the reverse "Sabhan Adam 20 9 2005"*

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon. Purchased by the present owner in 2009 from Obegi Gallery Beirut

*Estimate:
€1,000 - €1,500*

*Starting price:
€800*

ELIE KANAAN*Festival d'été (c. 2007)*

Festival d'été captures Kanaan's distinctive command of colour, presenting a vibrant and lyrical scene. The composition pulses with a harmonious blend of warm reds and yellows, set against the serene coolness of the sky. At its heart, abstracted human figures emerge from energised brushstrokes, subtly dispersed and melding into one another, reflecting Kanaan's masterful ability to evoke emotion and form without rigid definition. The fluidity of the figures and the radiant palette evoke the spirit of a summer festival, imbuing the canvas with a sense of celebration and warmth.

A self-taught prodigy, Kanaan won the first prize in Lebanon's "Salon du Printemps" in 1957. In the following year, he won the UNESCO award which facilitated his formal study at the Académie de la Grande Chaumière in Paris and allowed him to refine his distinctive style. During this period, he connected with artists like Yves Alix and Jacques Villon, who introduced him to critics like Waldemar Georges and Maximilien Gautier who lauded his work. Following his time in France, he had an exploratory period in Italy before returning to his native Lebanon, where he began exhibiting. A testament to his growing international success, he received the Prix Vendome in 1967. From 1962 onwards, he participated in many exhibitions in Paris, New York, São Paulo, Belgrade, Moscow and Alexandria.

From the late 1960s to early 2000s, Kanaan's work took on an enigmatic quality, likely influenced by the onset of the Lebanese Civil War. Ultimately, he broke free from his traditional French training and embraced his distinctive style. In the words of French poet Alain Bosquet: "Elie Kanaan's brush stroke begins with the nebulous and heads towards the definite: it is in this thrilling suspense where everything remains suggested, possible, and unrealized. The artist shares with us this intermediate state where every colour and every shape is rich in its creative significance."

Size:

50 x 60 cm

Medium: oil on canvas

Signed on the front lower left "E.S.Kanaan"

Location

Beirut, Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist

Certificate of authenticity

A certificate of authenticity can be issued upon request.

Please contact us for details.

Estimate:

€5,600 - €8,500

Starting price:

€3,500



GEORGES DOCHE*Untitled (c. 1967-1968)*

Painted circa 1967-68, this lot showcases an early work by Georges Doche. An almost pharaonic figure dominates the left side of the work, set against a stark black background. Chaotic, tentacle-like protrusions emerge from behind the figure's stoic profile, striking a balance between dynamic movement and stillness. Doche's captivating composition suspends his fantastical subject matter with poised restraint. The contrast between translucent forms and bold, sharp outlines imparts a distinctive quality, inviting the viewer into the artist's highly stylized realm.

Lebanese artist Georges Doche (b. 1940 - d. 2019) has recently attracted growing attention from collectors for his whimsical yet masterfully executed works. Born in Cairo and relocating to Beirut in the 1950s, Doche initially pursued studies in chemistry at his father's behest before a transformative shift toward philosophy and art. His rigorous artistic training at the Académie Julian and the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris was instrumental in shaping his innovative approach to painting.

Doche's oeuvre is acclaimed for its experimental integration of chemical materials, such as permanganate and carmine, reflecting a unique fusion with his scientific background. Although his public profile remained modest, Doche was a pivotal figure in the Lebanese art scene during the 1960s and 70s, receiving critical acclaim in Francophone media and forming close associations with prominent contemporaries including Juliana Seraphim and Fadi Barrage.

His works were prominently exhibited at esteemed venues such as the Salon des Artistes Indépendants in Paris and the Sursock Museum's Salon d'Automne in Beirut. Today, Doche's art is celebrated for its distinctive methodology and is held in prestigious collections including Mathaf and the Arab Museum of Modern Art. In addition to his painting, Doche also made significant contributions as a designer of stage costumes, sets, jewellery, and operated an antiques gallery in Lebanon during the 1980s. His oeuvre continues to attract increasing recognition and respect within the art world.



Size:
25.8 x 37.4 cm

With frame:
39 x 51 cm

Medium: gouache and varnish spray on cardboard
Signed on the front lower middle part "Georges Doche"

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist

Estimate:
€2,000 - €3,000

Starting price:
€1,400

YOUSSEF AOUN*Identification III (2004)*

Youssef Aoun is a Lebanese painter and printmaker. Born in 1965, he studied at the Lebanese University and the Beaux-Arts de Paris. He has been teaching since 1991 at Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts – Alba. He is the recipient of many awards, including the Dorothy Salhab Kazemi Prize for Young Artists at Sursock Museum's Salon d'Automne and the Sharjah Biennial Jury Prize.

Youssef Aoun, who claims to be a “son of the war”, recognizes the influences of Bacon, Picasso and Tapies. His paintings, which are formally abstract, are filled with symbols, materials and forms that evoke parts of the human body. This piece was exhibited in Wounds at Agial Art Gallery, Beirut, in 2012. This solo show disclosed dark and dense compositions. At the time of the Arab Spring, the artist had a strong feeling that the region was evolving into very difficult times. Youssef Aoun explains that the black colour progressively and unconsciously invaded his paintings.

Size:
45 x 35 cm

With frame:
52 x 42 cm

Medium: mixed media on canvas
Signed and dated on the front lower part “Aoun 04”.
Signed and titled on the reverse “Youssef Aoun Identification III”

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist

Certificate of authenticity

A certificate of authenticity can be issued upon request.
Please contact us for details.

Estimate:
€1,900 - €2,500

Starting price:
€1,000



GEORGES CYR*Untitled* (1928)*

George Cyr is a French artist (b. 1880 - d. 1964). Early in his artistic career, while on a tour in the Middle-East, he decided to settle in Beirut, where he frequented artists such as Shafiq Abboud, Omar Onsi and Moustapha Farroukh. Having spent half of his artistic life in Lebanon, he became regarded as part of the Lebanese modern art movement, and was even awarded the Lebanese National Order of the Cedar. Over the course of the artist's life, one can see an oscillation between cubist oil paintings and watercolour still-lifes, portraits, landscapes and nudes. His wavering is said to be symptomatic of having been influenced by two cultures - of Paris and Beirut.

Size:
18 x 22 cm

With frame:
30.5 x 35 cm

Medium: watercolour on paper
Signed and dated on the front lower right "Georges Cyr 1928"

Location
Lebanon

Provenance
Private collection, Lebanon

Estimate:
€600 - €1,000

Starting price:
€400

FARID HADDAD*Untitled (1984)*

Farid Haddad (b. 1945, Beirut) is a distinguished Lebanese painter celebrated for his innovative approach to abstract art. His early fascination with painting led him to study under the renowned artist Omar Onsi in the early 1960s, before earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the American University of Beirut, where he was mentored by artists Arthur Frick and John Carswell. He later pursued an MFA at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

In 1972, Haddad was awarded a prestigious Fulbright scholarship to New York, where he deepened his engagement with the avant-garde art scene. His early works, initially influenced by colour-field painting, were lauded for their intellectual rigour and emotional depth, often drawing comparisons to the work of Jack Tworkov. By the mid-1970s, Haddad began teaching drawing and painting at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, before moving to New England College, where he was twice awarded the State Council of the Arts Prize in the early 1980s.

During this period, Haddad transitioned to a more experimental form of abstraction, marked by bold, vibrant colours and richly textured surfaces that invite tactile exploration. Over his illustrious career, he has mounted over 20 solo exhibitions and participated in more than 50 group exhibitions across Europe, the Middle East, and the United States. Currently Professor Emeritus at New England College, Haddad continues to create in his Concord, New Hampshire studio, where his work remains a testament to his enduring influence on contemporary abstraction.

Size:

29.5 x 60 cm

Medium: mixed media on thick paper
Signed and dated on the reverse "1984"

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist

Certificate of authenticity

A certificate of authenticity can be issued upon request.
Please contact us for details.

Estimate:

€1,500 - €2,500

Starting price:

€900



HASSAN JOUNI*Nass (2017)*

Hassan Jouni (b. 1942) is marked by his fascination with urban landscapes, Lebanese architecture, and the vibrancy of city life. Originally from the Southern Lebanese village of Roumin, Hassan Jouni was raised in a bustling Beirut neighbourhood, Zuqaqal-Blat. His early artistic inclinations and childhood sketches were profoundly shaped by a dramatic fall from his family's rooftop, which later imbued his landscapes with a dreamlike aerial perspective.

Educated at the Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts, Jouni refined his craft at the Foster Academy of Fine Arts in Madrid, where he later assumed a professorial role at the San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts. Upon his return to Beirut in 1970, Jouni took on a significant role as a professor at the Lebanese University, eventually leading the drawing and painting department. His return marked a transformation in his practice, capturing Beirut's golden age with a nostalgic yet critical lens.

Jouni has exhibited works worldwide and has participated in a handful of biennales such as the ones in Sao Paulo, Alexandria, and Kuwait. Residing in his Manara atelier, which he established in 1980, Jouni continues to evoke a profound dialogue between past and present, rendering a Beirut both cherished and elusive.



Size:
30 x 40 cm

With frame
36 x 46 cm

Medium: oil on canvas

Signed on the front lower right "H.jouni".

Signed and dated on the reverse "H.jouni 2017".

Titled in Arabic on the reverse

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist

Certificate of authenticity

This artwork is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity.

Estimate:
€900 - €1,500

Starting price:
€500

MOUSTAFA FARROUKH*Jenah Beirut (1940)*

Moustafa Farroukh (Lebanese, b. 1901 - d. 1993) is a pivotal figure in the development of Lebanese Modern Art. Educated at the Royal College of Fine Arts in Rome and receiving his diploma in 1927, he subsequently pursued further studies in Paris under several renowned French painters. Upon his return to Lebanon in 1932, Farroukh took up teaching and dedicated himself to creating remarkable works of art, including landscapes, portraits, and still lifes, all of which genuinely encapsulated the essence of his surroundings. His significant impact and contributions to the foundation of a unique Lebanese Modern visual lexicon were acknowledged through prestigious accolades such as the first prize from the President of the Lebanese Republic, the Lebanese Order of Merit, and the Order of the Cedar in 1955, marking achievements few have realised. He authored five books, and was considered a Modern theorist, holding many conferences for the Beirut public.

Size:

60 x 80 cm

Medium: oil on canvas

Signed on the front lower right "M.Farrouk"

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon.

Certificate of authenticity

This artwork is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity.

Estimate:

€5,400 - €7,000

Starting price:

€3,000



BAHRAM HAJOU

Paar (2010)

The striking blue dress of the central figure, turned away from the viewer in Paar (2010), exemplifies Bahram Hajou's distinctive style, where understated yet emotionally charged figures emerge against minimalist grey backgrounds. The vibrancy of the garment contrasts with the quiet restraint of the composition, reflecting Hajou's ability to imbue simplicity with profound depth. The central figure's tense posture, coupled with the disjointed, bodiless face of the second figure, evokes a sense of emotional isolation, highlighting the fragility of human connection.

Bahram Hajou (b. 1952) is celebrated for his evocative, introspective paintings that explore themes of solitude, identity, and the human condition. Born in Amouda, Syria, the Syrian-Kurdish artist pursued his formal training at the Fine Arts Academy in Münster, Germany, where he honed his distinct style and later obtained German citizenship.

Hajou's work is featured in prestigious collections worldwide, including Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art in Qatar, ArtHall Oldenburg, Deutsche Bank, as well as the private collections of Sheikh Rashed Al Khalifa in Bahrain and Albert O'Hayon in the U.S. In 2014, he was awarded the coveted Henri Matisse Prize from Château Musée Grimaldi, earning significant recognition in the French press, including a feature in Le Monde. After a brief teaching tenure in Gelsenkirchen, Hajou has dedicated himself exclusively to his artistic practice since the early 1990s. He now divides his time between Germany and his studio in New York, continuing to produce his large-scale, poignant works.

Size:

140.5 x 80 cm

Medium: mixed media on canvas

Signed and dated on the front lower left "Bahram, 010".

Signed, titled and dated on the reverse "Bahram Paar 010"

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon. Purchased from Aida Cherfan Gallery by the present owner

Certificate of authenticity

A certificate of authenticity can be issued upon request.

Please contact us for details.

Estimate:

€22,000 - €35,000

Starting price:

€15,000



ASSIA MASSABKI*Untitled - diptych (2005)*

Assia Massabki is a Lebanese artist from the Southern village of Jezzine. She is recognized for her intricate colour collages that delve into the nuances of composition and form. Rather than focusing on political themes like many of her contemporaries, Massabki embraced a more introspective approach, exploring abstraction and emotional expression. Her art often delved into themes of nature, with sweeping, vivid strokes that suggested both power and serenity. Her canvases evoke an abstracted world, each piece conveying fragments of life through a delicate interplay of colour and texture. Soft and ornate, her works are visually inviting, encouraging viewers to engage with their layered meanings and subtle intricacies.

After completing her diploma in interior design in 1979 at the Lebanese University, she pursued higher education in painting and drawing, earning distinction in 1990. Massabki's work embodied a unique fusion of sculpture and painting, drawing from her experiences in Beirut's dynamic artistic landscape. Since 1992, Massabki has participated in the Salon d'Automne in Paris, establishing her reputation within the art community. She received the Jury Prize at the 1995 Biennale Al Mahaba in Syria, underscoring her contributions to contemporary art. Her paintings have been exhibited in numerous solo and group shows in Lebanon and abroad, including notable venues in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Bahrain, and Iran. Her works are part of esteemed collections, including the Sursock Museum and the Ministries of Culture in Lebanon and Syria. Until her passing in 2023, Massabki lived and worked between Beirut and other artistic centres contributing to the Lebanese art world through exhibitions and public collections

Size:

18 x 20 cm each

Medium: mixed media on thick paper

Signed and dated on the front lower part "A.H.Massabki 05"

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist.

Certificate of authenticity

A certificate of authenticity can be issued upon request.

Please contact us for details.

Estimate:

€400 - €600

Starting price:

€200



HALIM JURDAK*Untitled (1997)*

Halim Jurdak (b. 1927 – d. 2020) was a pioneering Lebanese artist whose career spanned multiple key artistic movements of his time. After beginning his formal training at the Lebanese Academy of Fine Art in 1953, he went on to study at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris, where he received first prize in engraving. Known for his evolution from academic realism to cubism, and later to both figurative and non-figurative abstraction, Jurdak's work explores form, colour, and composition from a variety of artistic perspectives. His later works focused on the elemental qualities of the human figure.

*Jurdak exhibited widely, participating in international and regional exhibitions across Lebanon, France, Germany, Egypt, and beyond. He began teaching at the Institut des Beaux-Arts at the Lebanese University in 1966, influencing generations of artists. Jurdak also authored several books on art theory, including *The Metamorphosis of Line and Colour* (1975) and *The Eye of Contentment* (1995). His work is held in prestigious collections, including UNESCO Palace in Beirut and the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris. A recipient of numerous awards, Jurdak remains a significant figure in modern Lebanese art.*

Size:
21.5 x 26 cm

With frame
37.5 x 42 cm

Medium: mixed media on paper (pencil, gouache and watercolour)
Signed and dated on the front lower right "Jurdak 97"

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon

Certificate of authenticity

This artwork is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity.

Estimate:
€1,100 - €2,000

Starting price:
€800

SAMIR RAFI*III B (1992)*

Samir Rafi (1926–2004) was a renowned Egyptian Modernist painter, sculptor, educator, and author, whose distinctive style was deeply influenced by the mysticism, superstition, and magical rituals of Ancient Egyptian culture. Born into a prominent family, Rafi began his artistic training in 1942 under Hussein Youssef Amin before attending the School of Fine Arts in Cairo, where he rejected the prevailing Westernised pedagogy in favour of a more indigenous approach. In 1946, he co-founded the Contemporary Art Group (Jama'atal-Fann al-Mu'asir), alongside other pioneering artists, advocating for a modern Egyptian art that was rooted in local life, folklore, and anti-colonial ideals.

Rafi's academic pursuits continued at Ain Shams University before he relocated to Paris on a government scholarship, obtaining a Ph.D. in Art History from La Sorbonne. His career also included a politically charged period in Algeria, where he served as a technical advisor in fine arts for the Ministry of National Education. Ultimately, Rafi settled in France, where he spent the remainder of his life, leaving behind a legacy defined by his unique blend of Egyptian heritage and modernist sensibilities.

Size:
40 x 30 cm

Medium: pastel on paper
Signed, titled and dated on the front lower left "S R III B 6-9-92"

Location
Cairo, Egypt

Provenance
Private collection, Egypt

Estimate:
€1,400 - €2,000

Starting price:
€900



SIMONE BALTAXÉ

*Fleurs et papillons** (1975)

Fleurs et papillons (1975) is a unique tapestry that draws inspiration from Baltaxé's seminal period in Lebanon, during which she became captivated by her surroundings and the vibrant ecology of the landscape. Rendered in bright, bold colours, this highly collectible piece marks her exploration of tapestry weaving, a medium she embraced beginning in 1968. Mirroring the spirited quality of her paintings, Baltaxé's tapestries exhibit a vigorous flow, guiding the viewer's gaze vertically through the triadic composition.

Simone Baltaxé's (French, b. 1925 - d. 2009) distinctive works are celebrated for their depth and texture and remain proudly displayed in prominent collections, including the Sursock Museum in Beirut and the Centre Pompidou in Paris. She began her artistic training at the School of Applied Arts in Paris in 1940. Disrupted by World War II, she relocated to Lyon in 1942, and later continued her studies at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in 1946 under Jean Souverbie's mentorship.

1951 marked a significant turn in her life when she wed Noubar Martayan and moved to Lebanon, a country that became her home until 1978. Baltaxé's work as an artist started gaining wider recognition in 1957 when she began participating in the Salons du Printemps at the UNESCO Palace in Beirut. A pivotal encounter in 1964 with George Audi, a master weaver, steered her towards the world of tapestry-making. This new artistic venture found its way into the prestigious Salons d'Automne at the Sursock Museum.

Size:

156 x 94 cm

Medium: tapestry, hand woven at Atelier G. Audi in Zouk
Signed on the front lower left "Baltaxé".

Dated with annotation on the reverse

Location

Paris, France

Provenance

Private collection, France. Acquired directly from the artist.

Certificate of authenticity

A certificate of authenticity can be issued upon request.
Please contact us for details.

Estimate:

€34,000 - €45,000

Starting price:

€24,000



PAUL GUIRAGOSSIAN*Untitled (1962)*

Born in Jerusalem in 1926 to survivors of the Armenian Genocide, Paul Guiragossian was passionate about painting from a young age. Over the course of his life, his paintings evolved to vividly depict both his complicated surroundings and personal battles. From early separation from his mother at boarding school to multiple forced relocations to processing collective trauma caused by the Armenian Genocide, his flowing and lively paint strokes resonate with a full range of emotions.

Winning a painting contest in 1956 was a major turning point in his career, leading to a scholarship to the Academia di Belle Arti di Firenze. Another grant from the French government followed and enabled him to study at Les Ateliers des Maîtres de l'École de Paris. Guiragossian passed away in 1993, in Rabieh, Lebanon and is still widely regarded as one of Lebanon's most important modern artists.

His works are enshrined in esteemed collections and have been exhibited worldwide. Namely, at the British Museum in London, Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Pompidou and Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art in Doha, the Modern Art Museum of Kuwait, the Barjeel Art Foundation in Sharjah, and the Salama Bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation in Abu Dhabi, among others.

Size:
85 x 65 cm

With frame:
104.5 x 84 cm

Medium: oil on canvas

Signed on the front lower left "Paul G".

Signed and dated on the reverse "Paul Guiragossian 62"

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon

Estimate:
€46,000 - €70,000

Starting price:
€30,000



ZENA ASSI*Bouquet in a to go cup of coffee** (2017)

Zena Assi (Lebanese, b. 1974) manoeuvres her practice by trying to uncover the interactions and clashes that arise between individuals and their surrounding socio-political environment, often focusing on themes of migration and nostalgia. Assi's oeuvre stylizes the historical imprints of Lebanon on its contemporary urban landscapes. She works in a variety of formats including installation, drawing, etching, experimental animations, sculpture, and most predominantly, painting. Her body of paintings portray eccentric depictions of the city, intriguing still-lives, and bouquets composed of strange objects.

She completed her education at l'Académie Libanaise des Beaux Arts (ALBA). After working in the advertising industry for a period, she taught in a number of universities. Assi has won several prizes throughout her artistic career including: the Sunny Dupree Family Award, London, 2020; the Rosemary & Co Award, London, 2018; and the Special Jury Prize of the XXIX Autumn Salon of the Sursock Museum, Beirut, 2009.

Held in several public and private collections, Assi's work has also been exhibited in solo and group shows globally. Some notable mentions include: Galerie Tanit, Beirut; Alwane gallery, Beirut; Artsawa gallery, Dubai; Zoom Art Fair, Miami; Espace Claude Lemand, Paris; Cairo Biennale; Katzen Arts Center of American University, Washington D.C.; CAP Contemporary Art Platform Gallery Space, Kuwait; Art13 & Art14 London Fair; IWM Imperial War Museum, London; Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris; the Royal Academy, London; and the 57th Venice Art Biennale. Today, Assi lives and works in London.

Size:

170 x 170 cm

Medium: oil and mixed media on canvas

Signed, titled and dated on the reverse

"Zena Assi Bouquet in a to go cup of coffee 2017"

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist.

Certificate of authenticity

A certificate of authenticity can be issued upon request.

Please contact us for details.

Estimate:

€15,000 - €25,000

Starting price:

€9,000

ASSADOUR BEZDIKIAN

*Three Figures in a Landscape** (2005-2006)

Assadour Bezdikian, widely known as Assadour, is a Lebanese Armenian artist born in 1943 in a northern Beirut suburb. Assadour's paintings often feature a world seen through a kaleidoscope of geometric forms and algebraic formulas, physics, colour theory and engineering. From a young age, he nurtured a passion for art, pursuing lessons with Paul Guiragossian and winning a scholarship to study classical painting at the Pietro Vannucci Academy in Perugia, Italy. Immersed in Italy's artistic heritage and inspired by the Renaissance, he developed an affinity for drawing and the sciences.

While in Europe, he became interested in art movements such as Constructivism, Abstraction and Expressionism, all responses to the technological and scientific advancement of the modernist period. He currently lives and works in Paris, though the majority of his life is characterised by a nomadic lifestyle, echoing the themes of identity and un-rootedness in his work. He became a prominent figure in the Beirut art scene despite swimming against the current of movements and subjects that inspired his peers.

Assadour has exhibited works in Beirut at the Sursock Museum's Salons d'Automne (1962, 1963, 1964), Gallery One (1963, 1964), Galerie L'Amateur (1966, 1969) and Modulart (1972, 1975). He is the recipient of numerous awards including the Gold Medal at the Terza Biennale Internazionale Della Grafica d'Arte, Florence (1972) and the Grand Prix de la Ville de Paris (1984). In 2022, Osthaus Museum in Hagen dedicated a major retrospective.

Size:

114 x 146 cm

Medium: oil on canvas

Signed and dated on the front lower right "ASSADOUR 2005/2006".

Signed, titled and dated on the reverse

"ASSADOUR Three figures in a landscape 2005/2006"

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon

Estimate:

€20,000 - €28,000

Starting price:

€15,000





SHAFIC ABOUD*Le Tapis*(2002)*

Le Tapis (2002) is a standout piece from an exquisite late-career series by Shafic Abboud, inspired by Middle Eastern textiles and memories of Lebanon. In this work, Abboud masterfully layers vibrant colours and textured forms, evoking the tactile qualities of fabric and light. The blending of his Lebanese heritage with influences from French post-war abstraction is evident, resulting in a richly textured, lyrical composition. Le Tapis highlights Abboud's mastery of colour harmony and his ability to translate the sensory experience of textiles onto canvas.

A master of colour, Shafic Abboud (Lebanese, b. 1926 - d. 2004) stands as one of the most renowned and collected Arab Modernist painters. His mature oeuvre comprises intricate symphonies of shades and textures that consistently appear to emit light, skillfully exploring the possibilities of oil and tempera paint. Abboud's paintings bridge the art worlds of Europe and the Middle East. He was a frequent traveller who consistently returned to his homeland, where he played a significant role in Beirut's cultural and artistic life. Inspired by the Lebanese landscapes and his childhood memories, the artist's practice evolved greatly over time. His work transitioned from a poetic Lebanese figuration towards a lyrical Parisian abstraction and eventually developed into a delicate style that incorporated both traditional and modern techniques. Without any direct reference, his paintings often subtly alluded to the tragedies and conflicts of the Near East. Yet Abboud's paintings also depict the joy of life, exploring themes such as the intimacy of a room, a view from a window or the rhythm of the seasons.



Size:
105.5 x 110.5 cm

With frame:
127.5 x 132.5 cm

Medium: oil on canvas

Signed on the front lower right "ABBOUD". Signed, titled and dated on the reverse "ABBOUD Le Tapis 2002"

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon

Estimate:
€40,000 - €50,000

Starting price:
€28,000



SAMIR RAFI*III A (1992)*

Samir Rafi (1926–2004) was a renowned Egyptian Modernist painter, sculptor, educator, and author, whose distinctive style was deeply influenced by the mysticism, superstition, and magical rituals of Ancient Egyptian culture. Born into a prominent family, Rafi began his artistic training in 1942 under Hussein Youssef Amin before attending the School of Fine Arts in Cairo, where he rejected the prevailing Westernised pedagogy in favour of a more indigenous approach. In 1946, he co-founded the Contemporary Art Group (Jama'atal-Fann al-Mu'asir), alongside other pioneering artists, advocating for a modern Egyptian art that was rooted in local life, folklore, and anti-colonial ideals.

Rafi's academic pursuits continued at Ain Shams University before he relocated to Paris on a government scholarship, obtaining a Ph.D. in Art History from La Sorbonne. His career also included a politically charged period in Algeria, where he served as a technical advisor in fine arts for the Ministry of National Education. Ultimately, Rafi settled in France, where he spent the remainder of his life, leaving behind a legacy defined by his unique blend of Egyptian heritage and modernist sensibilities.

*Size:
30 x 20 cm*

*Medium: pastel on paper
Signed, titled and dated on the front lower right "S R III A 29-9-92"*

Location

Cairo, Egypt

Provenance

Private collection, Egypt

*Estimate:
€1,400 - €2,000*

*Starting price:
€950*



ALFRED BASBOUS*Abstract (1971)*

Alfred Basbous's Abstract (1971) is a sublime sculpture standing nearly one metre tall, masterfully crafted from travertine stone. Celebrated for his skillful approach to sculpting formidable materials, Basbous engages with stone in a tactile manner, where visible chisel marks enhance the speckled, organic quality of the piece. The fluid lines and harmonious volumes resonate with the influences of modernist titans such as Auguste Rodin, Jean Arp, and Henry Moore, reflecting a shared aesthetic sensibility.

Alfred Basbous (1924-2006) and his brothers Michel and Joseph were forerunners in the history of modern sculpture in Lebanon. Since the 1950s, they placed Rachana, uphill the town of Batroun in North Lebanon, on the map of the art and culture scene. They made their native remote village an open sky museum and organised festivals and events, including the International Sculpture Symposium that was held from 1994 to 2004. The Basbous Brothers became highly mediatized profiles and were invited to show their works around the world.

Alfred Basbous started his personal career with an exhibition at Galerie Alecco Saab in 1958. In 1960, he received a grant from the French Government to pursue his studies at the Beaux-Arts de Paris under the tutorship of sculptor and medallist René Collamarini. In 1974, he was awarded the Prize of the Alexandria Biennale.

Size:

h 84 x w 60 x d 30 cm

Medium: travertine stone

Signed and dated on the front lower right "A Basbous 1971"

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon

Estimate:

€34,000 - €50,000

Starting price:

€20,000



Detail: Alfred Basbous, Abstract, lot 31

RIBAL MOLAEB*Untitled (2022)*

Ribal Molaeb (b. 1992, Baissour, Lebanon) is a distinguished painter and classical musician whose dual disciplines harmoniously inform his artistic practice. At the age of 17, he relocated to Salzburg to study at the prestigious Mozarteum University, later continuing his education at the University for Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, where he earned his Master's degree with distinction. Molaeb often reflects that while music took him around the world, painting brought him back to his roots.

Deeply influenced by his upbringing in the studio of his father, the renowned artist Jamil Molaeb, Ribal's paintings often depict serene landscapes that evoke the beauty of Lebanon. His vibrant compositions, distinguished by a masterful interplay of lines and tonal variations, reveal the influence of his classical training, merging the disciplines of sound and colour.

Molaeb has exhibited internationally, with solo exhibitions at Galerie Esther Woerdehoff in Geneva and at the 2024 Volta Basel Art Fair, among others. Deeply connected to his homeland, he is the director of the Molaeb Art Museum and the Molaeb Festival for Chamber Music and Fine Arts. Currently based in Zürich, he serves as the artistic director of the SUMITO Art and Music Association, continuing to contribute to both the art and music worlds.

Size:
90 x 130.5 cm

With frame:
108 x 148.5 cm

Medium: oil on canvas

Signed in Arabic on the front lower right. Signed on the front lower left "Ribal Molaeb". Signed and dated on the reverse "Ribal Molaeb August 2022"

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist

Certificate of authenticity

This artwork is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity

Estimate:
€2,800 - €3,800

Starting price:
€1,600



ZIAD ANTAR*London Bridge (2012)*

London Bridge (2012, Edition 1/3) is a striking work from Ziad Antar's photographic series featuring renowned touristic sites. Captured in Cairo, New York, and London, the series reflects on how these architectural feats convey implicit narratives of power, wealth, and progress.

Utilising a 1948 Kodak Reflex II camera with expired mid-1970s film, Antar's technique complicates conceptions of these locales, rendering the iconic structures as decaying in the resulting grainy images. The C-print was created using a complex chromogenic process. This approach subverts the immediacy typical of contemporary photography, prompting critical reflections on the medium's constraints. Through this work, Antar explores the porous boundaries of memory, time, and geography in today's interconnected world. The work interrogates our spatio-temporal relationships to monumental structures.

Antar is renowned for his use of expired film and outdated cameras, which infuse his work with a sense of nostalgia and an intentional questioning of photographic conventions. His practice often juxtaposes the ephemeral with the enduring in his compositions. Antar's work has been exhibited internationally, with solo and group exhibitions at institutions such as the New Museum in New York, MAXXI in Rome, and the Sharjah Art Foundation. His pieces are held in prestigious collections including the Centre Pompidou and the British Museum. Antar currently divides his time between Saida and Paris, where he continues to expand the boundaries of photographic art.

Size:
50 x 50 cm

With frame:
104.5 x 104.5 cm

Medium: C print, edition 1/3

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist

Certificate of authenticity

This artwork is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity

Estimate:
€4,000 - €6,000

Starting price:
€2,800

FATEH MOUDARRES

Kalamoon - Damascus (1975)

Fateh Moudarres (Syrian, b. 1922 - d. 1999) was a pioneer of the modern art movement in his home country and is widely regarded today as one of Syria's most important artists. Moudarres' grid-like compositions of stacked people or houses often depicted themes from Syrian folklore and mythology, as well as scenes of war or loss. In his lifetime, he experienced both the tragic passing of two of his children and at a young age, his father's murder.

Before pursuing formal study at the Accademia di Belle Arti in Rome, he was self-taught. He frequented the literary circles of his native Aleppo and became increasingly interested in the Surrealist movement. He experimented with painting, but was also active in the fields of writing and publishing. He later studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris for three years in the early 1970s, honing his technical and compositional skills before returning to Syria to teach at Damascus University. This provided him an opportunity to interact with other young Syrian artists. During this time, he was mentored by Syrian artist Wabbi Al-Hariri - deemed "The Last of the Classicists" - with whom he would form lifelong friendship.

Moudarres' works are held in several important private collections including Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha; Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah; and Atassi Foundation, Dubai. He has held solo exhibitions in Beirut, Munich, Rome, Paris, Vienna, and Washington DC among others.

*Size:
75 x 94 cm*

*Medium: oil on canvas
Signed and dated in Arabic on the front lower right.
Signed on the front lower right "moudarres".
Signed, titled and dated in Arabic on the reverse.
Signed, titled and dated on the reverse
"F. Moudarres Kalamoon-Damascus 1975"*

Location
Lebanon

Provenance
Private collection, Lebanon

Estimate:
€8,000 - €11,000

Starting price:
€6,000



NABIL NAHAS*Untitled (1996-1999)*

The present acrylic on canvas, rendered by Nabil Nahas between 1996-1999, features a striking barrage of rich colours and complex textures that draw the eye around the canvas. Painted during a transitional phase, the work marks a pivotal moment in his artistic evolution and foreshadows a significant stylistic shift later in the decade. The dynamic composition showcases Nahas's fascination with the elements and colours of nature, reflecting natural forms in an engaging interplay of the organic and the abstract.

Nabil Nahas (b. 1949, Lebanese) is renowned for his striking three-dimensional paintings that merge elements of geometry and nature. Born in Beirut, he spent his school years in Cairo and summer vacations in the mountains of Lebanon with his grandparents. He moved to the United States in 1969 to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts at Louisiana State University, followed by a Master of Fine Arts at Yale University in 1972. In 1973, Nahas settled in New York City, where he would spend the tumultuous years of the Lebanese Civil War.

Returning to Lebanon for the first time in 1993, he now divides his time between New York and his homeland, drawing inspiration from the iconic trees of Lebanon—cedars, olives, and palms—that permeate his work. Nahas had his first solo show at the Robert Miller Gallery, NY in 1977. He later joined the Holly Solomon gallery in 1986 and has been showing with the Sperone Westwater gallery since 1997.

Nahas has participated in prominent shows, such as the 25th Bienal de São Paulo (2002) and "Glasstress", a collateral event of the 54th Venice Biennale (2011). His work is housed in esteemed collections, including the Tate Modern in London, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and MATHAF: Arab Museum of Modern Art in Doha.

Size:

150 x 180 cm

Medium: acrylic on canvas

Signed and dated on the reverse "Nahas 1996 -1999"

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon

Estimate:

€45,000 - €60,000

Starting price:

€30,000





GAZBIA SIRRY*The Donkey Cart (1997)*

Gazbia Sirry (b. 1925 - d. 2021), born in Cairo, was a pioneering Egyptian painter whose work critically addressed questions of gender equality, social justice, and national identity. Raised by her widowed mother and divorced grandmother, Sirry was deeply influenced by the feminist struggles of her time. Educated in Cairo, Paris, Rome, and London, she challenged modernist conventions, merging local Egyptian art with a vibrant, symbolic style.

Her early work, characterised by bold black outlines and vibrant colours, drew from Pharaonic and Coptic traditions, reflecting a deep engagement with Egyptian heritage and nationalist themes. In the 1960s, following a fellowship at the Huntington Hartford Foundation in California, she embraced Abstract Expressionism, a shift inspired by both political unrest in Egypt and her exposure to American modernism. This period of her work is noted for its exploration of abstract forms and rich, emotive colour palettes.

Despite international recognition, including over seventy-five solo exhibitions worldwide, Sirry's work remains under-studied.

Her paintings, housed in major collections like the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C., and the Egyptian Modern Art Museum in Cairo, are more than aesthetic achievements; they are complex political statements. Gazbia Sirry's legacy endures as a vital voice in modern Arab art, her work continuing to resonate as an urgent and contemporary political act.

Size:

34 x 47 cm

Medium: ink and watercolour on paper

Signed in Arabic on the front lower left.

Signed and dated on the front lower left "Gazbia 97"

Location

Cairo, Egypt

Provenance

Private collection, Egypt

Estimate:

€5,000 - €6,000

Starting price:

€3,600



JAMIL MOLAEB*Untitled (2007)*

Size:
100 x 142 cm

With frame:
125.5 x 127.5 cm

Medium: acrylic on canvas
Signed on the front lower right "Molaeb".
Signed on the reverse "Jamil Molaeb"

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon.
Purchased from Janine Rubeiz Gallery by the present owner

Certificate of authenticity

A certificate of authenticity can be issued upon request.
Please contact us for details.

Estimate:
€10,000 - €18,000

Starting price:
€7,000

FATIMA EL HAJJ*Through Arabic Eyes - Dedication to Jean Genet (2009)*

Fatima El-Hajj (b. 1953) is a prominent Lebanese painter celebrated for her masterful layering of colour and texture on her canvas. Raised in the coastal village of Rmeileh, near Saida, her early surroundings heavily influenced her artistic vision. El-Hajj graduated from the Institut des Beaux-Arts at the Lebanese University before continuing her studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Leningrad and the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris.

El-Hajj's style is rooted in a deep sensitivity to light, form, and texture, influenced by her mentor Shafic Abboud and artists like Matisse and Vuillard. She was awarded the International Picasso Award in 1985 and her works have been widely exhibited across Europe and the Arab world.

*Size:
100 x 100 cm*

*Medium: acrylic on canvas
Signed in Arabic and "Fatima El Hajj" on the front lower right.
Signed and titled in Arabic on the reverse. Dated "2009" on the reverse*

Location
Lebanon

Provenance
Private collection, Lebanon

Certificate of authenticity
This artwork is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity

Estimate:
€3,600 - €6,000

Starting price:
€2,800



WILLY ARACTINGI*La crise du logement. Fable de Geha (1991)*

La crise du logement, Fable de Geha (1991), or "The Housing Crisis, Geha's Fable," showcases Willy Aractingi's unique artistry and nuanced visual story-telling. A self-taught painter, Aractingi masterfully renders a velvety texture across his forms and tones, with shadows that subtly enrich the composition. While his playful, cartoon-like style imparts an initial sense of whimsy, a deeper, more complex narrative emerges beneath the emotional force of his colours. Traces of unease and quiet defiance permeate the work, revealing a layered complexity that contrasts with its lighthearted exterior, making this piece a striking example of the artist's style. Aractingi drew significant inspiration from Lebanese-American author Joseph Geha's short stories, which capture both the anguish and humour of navigating the Arab immigrant experience in America.

Born in New York City, Willy Aractingi (b. 1930 - d. 2003, Lebanese) was quasi orphaned early in life. He grew up in Cairo and moved to Beirut, Lebanon in the late 1940's where he practically abandons his art to take care of his family. A few years before the Lebanese civil war, he opened a modern art gallery exhibiting the likes of Fassianos, Niki De St Phalle and Alan Davies. Inspired, he starts sketching, then painting again. By the mid 1980's, he was painting full time and in 1989 he started illustrating the 244 fables of French poet Jean de La Fontaine which he completed seven years later in 1995.



Size:

81 x 100 cm

Medium: oil on canvas

Signed and dated on the front lower left "W Aractingi 91".

Signed, titled and dated on the reverse

"W Aractingi La crise du logement Octobre 91"

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon

Certificate of authenticity

A certificate of authenticity can be issued upon request.

Please contact us for details.

Estimate:

€14,000 - €20,000

Starting price:

€9,000

BIBI ZOGBÉ*Untitled*

Bibi (Labibeh) Zogbé was a Lebanese painter and sculptor born in Beirut in 1890, in Sahel Alma, Lebanon. She developed an early passion for the fine arts and received formal painting instruction under the Bulgarian artist Dimitrof Bogdan. At sixteen, she emigrated to San Juan, Argentina, to marry her fiancé, Domingo Samaja. During her early years in Argentina, she explored literature, but it was not until the 1930s that she began to exhibit her paintings professionally. Zogbe became closely involved with the Argentinian artist Benito Quinquela Martín, which led to exhibitions across South America and Paris. While in Mexico, she formed a notable friendship with Polish artist Tamara de Lempicka, who painted several portraits of her. In 1947, Zogbe returned to Lebanon at the invitation of the Lebanese government, where she was honoured with the prestigious Lebanese Order of the Cedar, Medallion of Excellence.

Size:
30.3 x 25 cm

With frame:
47 x 42 cm

Medium: oil on masonite
Signed on the front lower right "Bibi Zogbé"

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon

Certificate of authenticity

This artwork is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity

Estimate:
€3,200 - €4,400

Starting price:
€2,200



FARID AOUAD*Retour de barque la nuit (c. 1980)*

Farid Aouad (b. 1924-d. 1982) was perhaps the most Parisian Lebanese artist. He spent most of his life in the French capital, where he painted and drew scenes of daily life, including people walking in the streets, theatres and cafes. Aouad, born in South Lebanon, was part of the first graduate students of the School of Painting (the present School of Visual Arts) at the Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts (Alba) in 1943.

*In the late 1940s, he travelled to Paris, where he spent two years at the Beaux-Arts and worked in the studios of fauvist artist Othon Friesz and cubist painter and writer André Lhote. He returned to Lebanon before settling definitively in Paris in 1959. His path became associated with an image of sickness and misery. Yet as Michel Fani writes in his book *Dictionnaire de la Peinture au Liban (Dictionary of Painting in Lebanon, 1988)*, “the man who coughed and spat blood in his atelier rue des Haies was not a doomed artist”. He notes the great skill and depth in the monochromatic paintings of his later years.*

Size:
25 x 31.5 cm

With frame:
49 x 55.5 cm

Medium: oil pastel on Canson paper

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist

Certificate of authenticity

A certificate of authenticity can be issued upon request.
Please contact us for details.

Estimate:
€2,400 - €3,600

Starting price:
€1,600

HELEN KHAL

Horizon lumineux

Horizon Lumineux reflects Helen Khal's signature emotive style. Eschewing symbolism, Khal's abstract compositions instead rely on colour to evoke a deep emotional response. The forms on the canvas serve as vessels for her masterful exploration of colour. Layers of diluted oil paint are softly applied in multiple directions, creating a luminous surface that immerses the viewer in a meditative experience. Much like Rothko's works, though with her own distinctly softer and more contemplative approach, light and colour become the central narrative of her works.

Helen Khal (b. 1923 - d. 2009) was a Lebanese-American painter, art critic and gallerist. She was born in Pennsylvania in a family from Tripoli, North Lebanon. She began painting at the age of 21. Initially, she had planned on becoming a writer as she was an avid reader and passionate about literature. However, her plans changed after spending six months in a sanatorium recovering from tuberculosis. During her recovery, Khal took on drawing and painting, then enrolled at weekly afternoon art classes in her hometown. In 1946, Khal travelled back to Lebanon for the first time, and began her studies at the Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts, after she married young poet Yusuf Al Khal. In 1960, she had her first solo exhibition at Galerie Alecco Saab in Beirut. Three years later, she and her husband founded Gallery One, which was the first contemporary art gallery in the Middle East. She is the author of numerous articles and publications, including "The Woman Artist in Lebanon" (1987), and she lectured at various universities. She had her first solo exhibitions in Lebanon and the US.

Size:
12.5 x 17.5 cm

With frame:
30 x 35 cm

Medium: oil on paper mounted on board

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist

Certificate of authenticity

A certificate of authenticity can be issued upon request.
Please contact us for details.

Estimate:
€3,600 - €5,800

Starting price:
€2,000



JULIANA SERAPHIM*Untitled (diptych)**Size:**28.5 x 19.5 cm each**Medium: ink on paper**Signed and dated on the front lower left "Juliana Seraphim 99".**Signed on the front lower left "Juliana Seraphim"***Location***Lebanon***Provenance***Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist***Certificate of authenticity***A certificate of authenticity can be issued upon request.**Please contact us for details.**Estimate:***€800 - €1,800***Starting price:***€500**

NAZEM MEZHER*Untitled (diptych) (1996&1994)*

Nazem Mezher (b. 1965) is a Lebanese painter whose work reflects the dynamic cultural and social landscape of 1980s Beirut, shaped by globalisation, the influx of capital, and the pervasive influence of international media. Through his art, Mezher captures the essence of the transformative era of the 1980s and beyond which were marked by the emergence of street culture, graffiti, hip hop, and electronic music, all while navigating the geopolitical tensions of the Cold War. His compelling paintings resonate with the energy and complexity of these pivotal moments in history. He has exhibited extensively in Lebanon and internationally, contributing to the dynamic Middle Eastern art scene with his bold creations.

Size:
44 x 31 cm each

Medium: gouache on thick paper
Signed and dated on the front lower right "N.Mezher 96".
Signed on the front lower left "N.Mezher 94"

Location
Lebanon

Provenance
Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist

Certificate of authenticity
A certificate of authenticity can be issued upon request.
Please contact us for details.

Estimate:
€800 - €2,000

Starting price:
€500



ABDULLAH MURAD*Untitled (portofolio of 7 artworks) (1993)*

Abdullah Murad is a pioneering figure in abstract expressionist Arab art, celebrated for his dynamic layering of styles, brushstrokes, and mixed media. A graduate of the Faculty of Fine Arts at Damascus University in 1970, Murad draws inspiration from arabesque lines and fauvist colours, translating his inner world through improvisational abstraction. In 1984, he was awarded first prize at a tribute exhibition to Miro and Picasso at the Spanish Cultural Center in Damascus.

His work, focusing on abstraction rather than political themes, is known for its layered textures, mixed media, and dynamic compositions. Mourad's work exhibits a captivating interplay between frenetic energy and tranquil repose, featuring asymmetrical compositions that invite exploration. These pieces engage the viewer through intricate textures and layered narratives, characterised by masterfully applied translucent layers.

He has exhibited internationally, with notable presence in public and private collections, including the Sharjah Museum and the National Museum of Damascus. He remains an active member of the Syrian Syndicate of Fine Arts and the Arab Artists Union, continuing to create in his studio in Damascus.

**Size:**

*26.5 x 24.5 cm; 19 x 20 cm; 23 x 32 cm; 23 x 26 cm; 23 x 31 cm;
23 x 23 cm; 20 x 25 cm*

Medium: mixed media on thick paper

Signed in Arabic on the front lower part.

Signed and dated on the front lower part "Murad 93"

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist

Certificate of authenticity

A certificate of authenticity can be issued upon request.

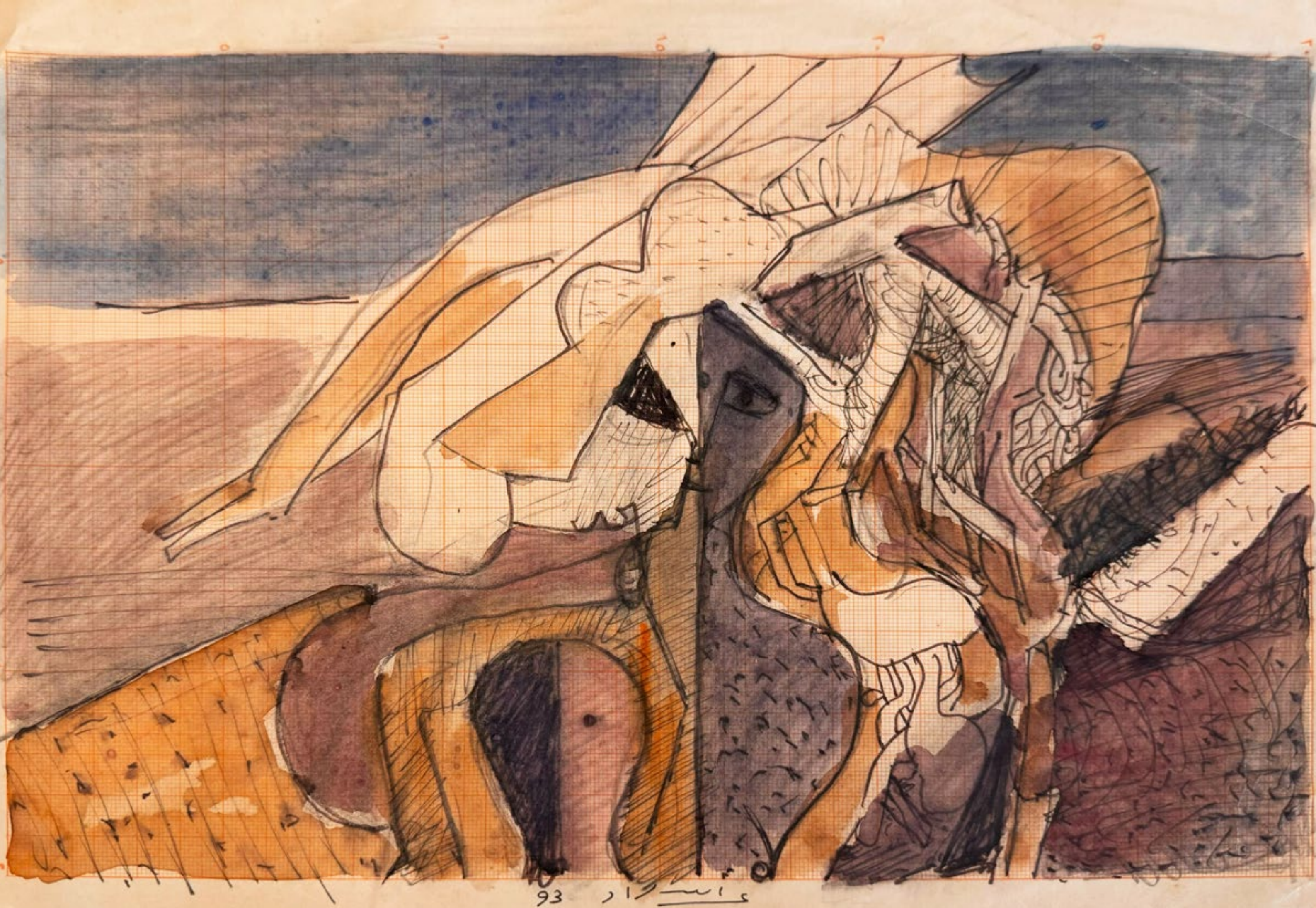
Please contact us for details.

Estimate:

€2,000 - €3,000

Starting price:

€1,400



AMY TODMAN

*Untitled (2024)**Size:**33 x 40 cm**Medium: acrylic on canvas**Signed and dated "2004" on the reverse***Location***Lebanon***Provenance***Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist***Certificate of authenticity***A certificate of authenticity can be issued upon request.**Please contact us for details.**Estimate:***€500 - €1,000***Starting price:***€300**

MARWAN SAHMARANI*Untitled*

Marwan Sahmarani (b. 1970) is a Lebanese multidisciplinary artist based between Beirut and the small Mediterranean mountain village in Spain. He gained international recognition in 2010 as one of the Abraaj Capital Art Prize laureates for a monumental multimedia installation. The same year, he was featured in the exhibition Told/Untold/Retold, curated by Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath at Mathaf, Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha.

Sahmarani is known for his expressive use of textures and colours. His compositions that can reach very large formats are deeply impactful and, as Anna Seaman writes, look like "a seemingly abstract formation of thickly-applied oil paints." His works are, however, rooted in a historical environment of violence. "I want to understand how people can arrive at a point where they attempt to destroy each other. This appetite for destruction spans human history, and our failure to transcend this destructive force constantly haunts me. I try to investigate this failure and to explore the raw emotions at the heart of violence," Sahmarani says.

Size:
66 x 50 cm

With frame:
71.5 x 56 cm

Medium: mixed media on thick paper (pencil, gouache and pastel)
Signed on the front lower right "Sahmarani"

Location
Lebanon

Provenance
Private collection, Lebanon.

Estimate:
€900 - €2,000

Starting price:
€650

CHAZA CHARAFEDDINE

Sheet 13: test no.4, parts of the Arabic translation of "Brief an den Vater" (2021)

Reminiscent of Islamic manuscript layout design, Chaza Charafeddine copies in her own handwriting Franz Kafka's letter to his father, a letter that never reached him. In an attempt to write to her father, the artist traps the viewer into her own doubts, questions the communication between daughter and father, and destabilises the original father/son conflict. As such, the artist touches upon the fears inherent in a long-lost communication. After all, a letter never written is a letter never received but is a letter written always received? Letter to the Father reveals an interest in appropriating visual elements from the past by subverting Kafka's original German letter, copying it in Arabic, and presenting it in different forms.

Chaza Charafeddine is a Lebanese-German artist and writer whose multidisciplinary practice spans visual arts, education, dance, and literature. She studied special education at La Branche | Centre de formation en pédagogie curative et sociothérapie in Switzerland, and Eurythmy dance at the Eurythmieschule in Hamburg, Germany. After dedicating 15 years to education and dance, Charafeddine transitioned to visual arts and writing, where her evocative works have been exhibited in numerous galleries and cultural venues across Lebanon and internationally.

In addition to her visual practice, Charafeddine has made significant contributions to contemporary Arabic literature. Her first novella Flashback was published by Dar Al-Saqi in 2012, followed by her short-story collection Haqibatun Bilkade Tura in 2015. Charafeddine is represented by Agial Art/Saleh Barakat Gallery in Beirut, reflecting her prominence in both the artistic and literary spheres.

Size:

65 x 49.5 cm

*Medium: handwritten with pencil on Hahnemühle Ingres paper,
100 gsm*

Exhibition

Mina Image Centre Beirut, Lebanon 2021

Distant Divides, Halle 14, Leipzig, Germany 2022

Location

Berlin, Germany

Provenance

Private collection, Germany. Acquired directly from the artist.

Certificate of authenticity

A certificate of authenticity can be issued upon request.

Please contact us for details.

Estimate:

€2,000 - €3,000

Starting price:

€1,400



JULIANA SERAPHIM

Études pour une illustration (c. 1975)

Études pour une illustration (circa 1975) epitomises the artist's signature dreamlike aesthetic. In this captivating composition, two opposing female figures ethereally meld into delicate floral motifs alongside chaotic and shadowy elements, reflecting Seraphim's exploration of both the luminous and dark aspects of femininity, sensuality, and fantasy. The fluid transformation of forms imbues the work with a sense of mystery and allure, inviting the viewer into a deeply personal realm. Signed in the lower right, this exquisite early piece by Seraphim exemplifies her unique visual language, making it a striking and desirable addition to any collection. The work was showcased in 2022 at Agial Gallery in "A Search for the fantastic: The Doche, Séraphim and Barrage Group."

Living as a professional artist between Paris and Beirut until she passed away in 2005, Juliana Seraphim leaves behind a rich legacy. Beyond exhibiting widely in Beirut and abroad, she represented Lebanon (having been granted citizenship) in three international biennials: Alexandria (1962), Paris (1963, 1969) and São Paulo (1965). Her work is featured in the Metropolitan Museum of New York; Museum of the City of Viareggio; Musée du Surréalisme, Paris; Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris; Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Amman; Sursock Museum, Beirut; the Ramzi and Saeda Dalloul Art Foundation, Beirut; and the Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah.



Size:
32.5 x 24.5 cm

With frame:
52 x 42 cm

Medium: mixed media on paper (ink and pastel / watercolour)

Signed and titled on the front lower right

"Études pour une illustration Juliana Seraphim"

Exhibition

Showcased in the exhibition *A Search for the fantastic: The Doche, Séraphim and Barrage Group*, Agial Art Gallery, Beirut, July 21 - August 12 2022

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist

Estimate:
€1,200 - €3,000

Starting price:
€800

NAZEM AL-JAAFARI*Untitled (1984)*

Nazem Al-Jaafari is revered as the founding figure of Impressionism in the region, dedicating his artistic career to the portrayal of old Damascus. His works capture the city's architecture, lifestyles, and fashions at the turn of the 20th century, reflecting a deep appreciation for its cultural heritage.

Al-Jaafari's extensive oeuvre, encompassing between 3,500 and 7,000 portraits, largely remains within his personal collection, as he seldom sold his works, preferring instead to establish a future museum dedicated to his legacy. His reclusive nature often placed him at odds with contemporaries, leading him to seek exhibition opportunities abroad, where he showcased his art in South America and Europe.

In 2006, a significant retrospective of his work was held at the National Museum in Damascus, coinciding with the release of two publications celebrating his life and contributions. Al-Jaafari's legacy continues to resonate in public collections, including the Museum of Damascus, with select pieces having been auctioned at Bonhams Dubai and Ayyam Auctions in Beirut.

Size:
73 x 53 cm

With frame:
89 x 68.7 cm

Medium: oil on canvas
Signed and dated in Arabic on the front lower left

Location*Lebanon***Provenance***Private collection, Lebanon*

Estimate:
€800 - €1,800

Starting price:
€600



OMAR ONSI

Portrait de famille Onsi

Portrait de famille Onsi - or "Onsi Family Portrait" - depicts a young woman immersed in painting, hinting at a connection to the artistic and cultural legacy of the Onsi family. While her exact relationship to the artist remains unclear, the shared surname suggests a familial bond. This work exemplifies Onsi's interest in portraying the nuances of daily life at the turn of the twentieth century, reflecting the burgeoning cultural and social landscape of his era. The composition not only showcases the artist's skillful rendering of the figure but also evokes a sense of intimacy and closeness with the subjects he frequently captured in his portraits.

Omar Onsi (b. 1901 – d. 1969) remains a pivotal figure in Lebanese Modernism, profoundly documenting and shaping the region's cultural landscape. Born into a distinguished family in Tallet Khayat, Beirut, Onsi was immersed in a rich cultural environment that catalysed his significant role as an artist. He began under the mentorship of Khalil Saleeby, who scouted him after noticing his works at the Syrian Protestant College (now the American University of Beirut). His early works depicted the natural vistas and daily life of Lebanon's diverse landscapes, inhabitants, and customs.

Onsi's explorations extended beyond Lebanon, capturing sights from Syria, Jordan, and Palestine with exceptional sensitivity. His commitment to his craft took him to Paris, where he honed his technique at the Académie de la Grande Chaumière and the Académie Colarossi.

Onsi co-founded the Lebanese Association for Artists, Painters, and Sculptors and served as a board member of the Sursock Museum. His enduring legacy was commemorated in a 1997 retrospective at the Sursock Museum, underscoring his profound impact on Lebanon's artistic history.



Size:

67.5 x 57.5 cm

Medium: oil on canvas

Signed on the front lower left "O Onsi"

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon

Certificate of authenticity

This artwork is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity

Estimate:

€5,500 - €8,000

Starting price:

€4,000

FADI BARRAGE*Untitled (1987)*

Painted in 1987, just one year before his passing, the present work by Fadi Barrage presents a striking juxtaposition of light and dark paint, dramatically dividing the canvas into two contrasting halves. The tension-filled contrast evokes a sense of duality, inviting both presence and absence as thematic considerations. This mature work encapsulates Barrage's enduring quest to express profound emotional and existential themes.

Fadi Barrage (Lebanese, b. 1940 - d. 1988) played a significant role in Beirut's burgeoning art scene from the late 1960s to the 1980s. Educated in the United States at Chicago University and the Art Institute of Chicago (1960-1964), he later moved to Paris before returning to Lebanon, where he actively engaged in the local and international art community with exhibitions in Lebanon, France, Saudi Arabia, Tokyo, and Jordan. His artistic endeavours were widely recognized at the Contemporary Lebanese Artists exhibition in London's Kufa Gallery in 1988.

Barrage's style, influenced by an eclectic mix of naturalism, impressionism, abstract expressionism, and cubism, reflects his interests in ancient languages, literature, science, and admiration for Paul Klee. His work often blurs the lines between realism and abstraction. The Lebanese Civil War posed significant challenges for Barrage, destroying his Beirut studio and many of his works. Despite these hardships, he continued his artistic pursuits while living in various countries, showcasing the resilience and adaptability of his creative spirit.

Size:
20 x 19 cm

With Frame
32 x 32 cm

Medium: mixed media (pencil and gouache / watercolour on paper)
Signed and dated on the front lower part
"F Barrage, 10 May 11 May 87"

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist.

Estimate:
€1,500 - €2,500

Starting price:
€950



FADI BARRAGE*Untitled (1988)*

Size:
20 x 28 cm

With frame:
44 x 52 cm

Medium: watercolour on cardboard
Dated on the front upper right "16.8.88"

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon

Estimate:
€3,800 - €5,000

Starting price:
€2,000

HRAIR DIARBEKIRIAN*Le léopard (c. 1970)*

Beirut-born Hrair Diarbekirian (b. 1946) swiftly established himself as a leading figure in the contemporary art scene in Lebanon, celebrated for his distinctive painting style and charismatic presence. Educated at the Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts (ALBA), his background in interior architecture imbued his compositions with a sense of spatial harmony and structural balance. Diarbekirian's prodigious talent was recognized early, notably at the Sursock Museum's Salon d'Automne, where esteemed critics like Helen Khal singled him out as a rising star. By the age of 18, he had already garnered significant acclaim, earning prestigious awards, including a gold medal for his tapestries designed for the Presidential Palace in Beirut.

Diarbekirian's work is held in esteemed collections, including those of Queen Elizabeth II, King Fahad of Saudi Arabia, Liza Minelli, and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, among others. With a distinguished exhibition history across Europe and the Middle East, he is celebrated for his lyrical deconstruction of traditional forms.

Size:
110.5 x 90.5

With frame:
115 x 94 cm

Medium: oil on board
Signed on the front lower left "HRAIR"

Location
Lebanon

Provenance
Private collection, Lebanon

Certificate of authenticity
A certificate of authenticity can be issued upon request.
Please contact us for details.

Estimate:
€1,400 - €4,000

Starting price:
€950



FARID AOUAD*Marin au bar (c. 1980)*

Size:
25.5 x 17.5 cm

With frame:
53.5 x 42.5 cm

Medium: oil pastel on Canson paper

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist

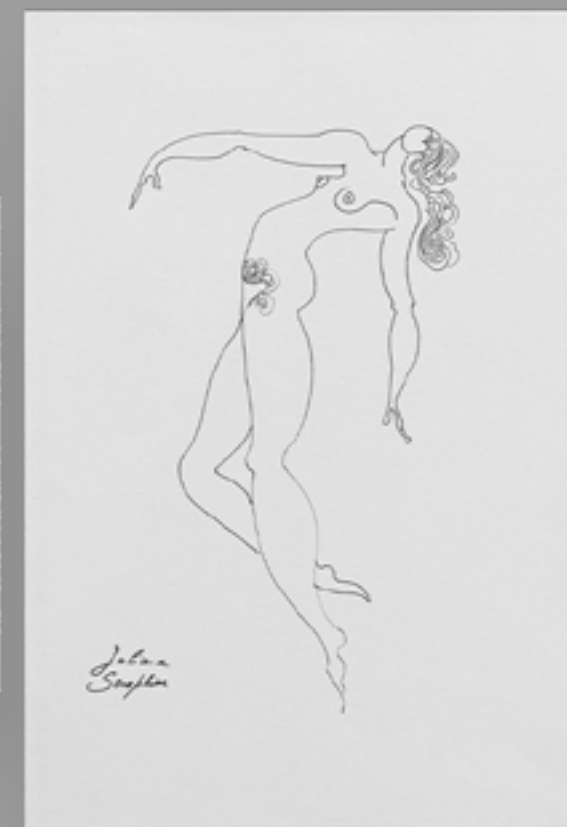
Certificate of authenticity

*A certificate of authenticity can be issued upon request.
Please contact us for details.*

Estimate:
€1,800 - €2,800

Starting price:
€1,000

JULIANA SERAPHIM

Untitled (diptych)**Size:***19.5 x 28.5 cm each***Medium:** *ink on paper**Signed on the front lower left "Juliana Seraphim"***Location***Lebanon***Provenance***Private collection, Lebanon. Acquired directly from the artist***Certificate of authenticity***A certificate of authenticity can be issued upon request.**Please contact us for details.***Estimate:****€800 - €1,200****Starting price:****€500**

SERWAN BARAN

Untitled (2007)

Serwan Baran (Iraqi-Kurdish, b. 1968) is a painter and sculptor adopting both a realistic and gestural expressionist style. His work often explores political themes, focusing on the tumultuous history of Iraq, the complexities of war, and the social struggles of marginalised communities. Baran's art series typically centre around specific social groups, portraying them as protagonists in historical dramas. These groups range from workers and prisoners to wounded soldiers, generals, and nurses.

Baran earned a BFA from the University of Babylon, College of Fine Arts in 1990, receiving a youth prize in Baghdad that same year. He gained further recognition by winning the first and second prizes at the Baghdad International Festival of Plastic Arts in 1994 and 1995. Throughout the 1990s, his work was featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions in Iraq. In 2001, he participated in the Ayloul Summer Academy, a residency program at Darat al-Funun in Amman, Jordan. Following the American invasion of Iraq in 2003, Baran relocated to Jordan, where he continued his artistic journey. Since 2013, he has been residing and working in Beirut.

In 2019, Baran's solo exhibition "Fatherland" represented Iraq at the 58th International Venice Biennale. Other notable solo exhibitions include "A Harsh Beauty" at Saleh Barakat Gallery, Beirut (2020), "Indelible Memory" at Gallery Misr, Cairo (2020), and "Canines" at Agial Art Gallery, Beirut (2018). His work has also been featured in prominent group exhibitions at Saleh Barakat Gallery, Beirut (2018), The Mojo Gallery, Dubai (2015), and the Cairo Biennale (1999, 2019).



Size:
70 x 70 cm

Medium: mixed media on wood
Signed and dated on the front middle part "Serwan B 2007"

Location
Lebanon

Provenance
Private collection, Lebanon

Estimate:
€2,600 - €4,000

Starting price:
€1,200

HALIM JURDAK*Mixed - Media (1995)*

Size:
29 x 25 cm

With frame:
45 x 41.5 cm

Medium: mixed media on paper (pencil, gouache and watercolour)

Signed on the front lower left "Jurdak".

Titled on the front lower middle part "Mixed-Media".

Dated on the front lower right "1995"

Location

Lebanon

Provenance

Private collection, Lebanon

Certificate of authenticity

This artwork is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity

Estimate:
€1,200 - €2,000

Starting price:
€800





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