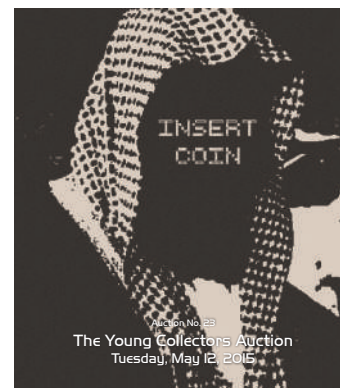


PRESS RELEASE

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 Sun-Thu: 10:00am-6:00pm
 Sat: 12:00pm-6:00pm



THE YOUNG COLLECTORS AUCTION

Tuesday, 12 May at 7:00PM

Viewing: 5-11 May from 10AM - 6PM

Ayyam Gallery Dubai (Al Quoz)

Ayyam Gallery is pleased to announce The Young Collectors Auction, to be held at its Al Quoz location in Dubai on Tuesday, 12 May 2015. Returning in its twenty-third edition, the tri-annual public sale will present works by emerging and established artists from the Middle East and North Africa with a range of painting, photography, and sculpture. In keeping with the aim of the Young Collectors Auction, which seeks to connect young talent with regional collectors and patrons, the forthcoming sale features an extensive lineup of budding artists who were selected for participation through Ayyam Gallery’s submissions program. Works by Ayyam Gallery resident artist Noor Bahjat, a recent graduate of the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus, and Lebanese painter Louma Rabah, for example, are offered at moderate estimates in order to introduce new artists to the auction market.

Several curated selections are also highlighted in the sale, including a spotlight on modern and contemporary Iranian art, and a collection of rare works by Syrian modernist masters. Over a dozen lots are featured in the auction’s special focus on Iran with works by pioneering sculptor Parviz Tanavoli and veteran conceptual photographer Shadi Ghardirian. Mohammad Bozorgi’s *Composition 2* (2014) and Farzad Kohan’s *Lucky 8* (2013) demonstrate the links between the rich literary history of Iran and the ways in which calligraphy and Islamic art continue to inspire artists as they deconstruct reality through abstraction. Sahand Hesamiyan’s *Eastern Sun* (2008) exemplifies the influence of Iran’s built environment and the aesthetic traditions that have shaped it on the country’s foremost sculptors.

Paintings by Nazem Al Jaafari, Nasser Chaura, Adham Ismail, Fateh Moudarres, Louay Kayyali, and Naim Ismail dating from the 1940s through 1960s represent a seminal period in Syria’s art, a time when the country transitioned from academic painting to modernist forms during the initial decades of its independence. A 1946 work by Nazem Al Jaafari, the initiator of Impressionism in Syria, reveals the naturalism favoured among early painters, while a 1964 painting of the ancient town of Ma’loula by Louay Kayyali and a 1965 portrait by Fateh Moudarres display the groundbreaking experiments in art that marked the first phase of modern Syrian painting. Works by a new generation of artists led by Tammam Azzam, Kais Salman, Mohannad Orabi, Hrair Sarkissian, and Ammar Al-Beik indicate the ways in which Syria’s recent strands of painting and photography have furthered succeeded in redefining the boundaries of representation through experimentation.

Also featured in the upcoming sale is a selection of works by leading contemporary artists such as Safwan Dahoul, Nadim Karam, Rachid Koraichi, Hussein Madi, and Chant Avedissian. The somber yet striking commentary of Nadim Karam's *The Lady of the Levant under Fire* (2013) signals a departure from the visionary sense of optimism that is found in the work of the renowned artist and architect. Algerian artist Rachid Koraichi is represented with an engraving and a sculpture that employ the lyrical, text-based abstraction for which he is internationally known. An early floral still life by Lebanese painter Hussein Madi reflects the artist's beginnings in figurative painting, long before he adopted his celebrated expressionist style.

As one of the most robust Young Collectors Auctions to date, the forthcoming sale offers collectors and patrons a broad spectrum of art spanning the region's art history with museum grade works while also supporting the development of young artists.

A catalogue detailing the available artwork can be accessed in PDF format online or a hard copy can be collected from any one of Ayyam Gallery's international locations. Aimed at making the auction experience and the appreciation of art accessible and enjoyable to all, The Young Collectors Auction welcomes the public to a week-long viewing prior to the auction with offered lots on display and specialists on hand to answer any questions. Both bidders and members of the public are encouraged to attend the preview and auction. With the flexibility to bid in person or register for telephone and absentee bids online via www.ayyamgallery.com/auctions, The Young Collectors Auction allows even those abroad to participate in the auction.

Please visit [The Young Collectors Auction website](#), a specialised platform to register, view lots, and place your absentee bids online.

Ayyam Gallery, Al Quoz is located at the Alserkal Avenue. For press information and images, please email press@ayyamgallery.com or call +9714 3236242.