

## New exhibition of Mathaf Collection presenting over 100 years of modern and contemporary art opens in Doha

Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art in Doha dedicates the first floor of the museum to a new display of its permanent collection, opening on **1 November 2014**.

Entitled **Mathaf Collection, Summary, Part 1**, the exhibition presents over 100 artists from the museum's collection of more than 8,000 works, that continues to grow with new acquisitions and commissions from Mathaf exhibitions.

The exhibition includes work from Qatar and the Arab world, Iran, Turkey and other regions historically connected to the Arab Peninsula, reflecting a multitude of artistic directions and contexts. This exhibition also contributes to developing research into the collection and its interconnections with contemporary cultures that is also present online in the **Encyclopedia of Modern Art and the Arab World**, developed by Mathaf.

Among the artists represented in *Summary, Part 1* are:

Farid Belkahia (1934 - 2014)  
Faraj Daham (b. 1956)  
Wafa al-Hamad (1964 - 2012)  
Baya Mahieddine (1931-1998)  
Salman al-Malik (b. 1958)  
Mahmoud Mouktar (1891 - 1934)  
Wafika Sultan (b. 1956)  
Ibrahim el-Salahi (b.1930)  
Hassan Sharif (b. 1951)  
Jewad Selim (1919 - 1961)  
Seif Wanly (1906 - 1979)  
Jassim Zaini (1943 - 2012)

African and Arabic representations meet in the paintings of Ibrahim el-Salahi; the work of Baya Mahieddine exemplifies her unique style of free figuration developed under the limitations of colonial rule in Algeria; Seif Wanly depicts modern Egyptian symbols of social and industrial progress and Hassan Sharif and Farid Belkahia use natural materials, found objects and local languages to express strong statements on the making of art in their contemporary contexts.

The exhibition also presents the work of Jassim Zaini, Jewad Selim and Mahmoud Mouktaf, who were pioneers in establishing the art scene in their own countries.

The exhibition is collectively curated by Abdellah Karroum, Director of Mathaf; Laura Barlow and Leonore-Namkha Beschi, Assistant Curators; and Dr. Yasser Mongy, Researcher.

HE Sheikh Hassan bin Mohamed bin Ali Al Thani, patron of Mathaf and the Permanent Collection, said, "I am proud to see this collection being exhibited at Mathaf. Qatar has a long tradition of collecting works that reflect the inherent art, creativity and heritage in the region. It is my belief this important collection honors the traditions of the past in Qatar and throughout the Arab world, while embracing our future."

Abdellah Karroum, Director of Mathaf, said: "Through this exhibition we are seeking to position modern and contemporary art from Mathaf's collection within the local and global context, and give multiple entry points into the collection, through artistic research, historical moments and aesthetic experimentations on the idea of an Arab modernity."

As part of Mathaf's wider program of research and documentation, in collaboration with Qatar Museums and Qatar Foundation, the Mathaf Encyclopedia of Modern Art and the Arab World is currently in development and will be launched in 2015. The bilingual (English/Arabic) Encyclopedia is a free online scholarly peer reviewed and comprehensive resource that will provide in depth information on modern and contemporary art from the Arab world.

The curatorial concept of **Mathaf Collection Summary, Part 1**, looks beyond traditional linear histories of art to highlight diverse attitudes and contextualize intellectual production within multiple modernities. The methodology of display adopted in this exhibition is informative rather than spectacular, proposing new relationships between works and key moments in history.

[www.mathaf.org.qa](http://www.mathaf.org.qa)

### **About Mathaf**

Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art was founded in 2010

Mathaf is situated in Education City in Qatar Foundation, in a renovated former school building. QF is led by HH Sheikha Moza bint Nasser.

Mathaf is part of Qatar Museums, led by H.E. Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani.

An initial group of works was donated to the public institution by H.E. Sheikh Hassan bin Mohammed bin Ali Al Thani. Holding several thousands works collected over the past 25 years, the collection emphasizes artistic trends and sites of production of modern art.

Mathaf organizes major exhibitions, both historical and experimental, and large-scale education programs performing an important role as a center for dialogue, research and a resource for fostering creativity.

### **About Qatar Museums**

Qatar Museums connects the museums, cultural institutions and heritage sites in Qatar and creates the conditions for them to thrive and flourish. It centralizes resources and provides a comprehensive organization for the development of museums and cultural projects, with a long term ambition of creating a strong and sustainable cultural infrastructure for Qatar. Under the patronage of His Highness the Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and led by its Chairperson, Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, QM is consolidating Qatar's efforts to become a vibrant center for the arts, culture and education, in the Middle East and beyond.

Since its foundation in 2005, QM has overseen the development of the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA), Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, and the Al Zubarah World Heritage Site Visitor Centre. The QM also manages the QM Gallery at Katara and the ALRIWAQ DOHA Exhibition Space. Future projects include the opening of the Fire Station: Artists in Residence in 2014 and the launch of the highly anticipated National Museum of Qatar and the 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum.

QM is committed to instigating Qatar's future generation of arts, heritage and museum professionals. At its core is a commitment to nurturing artistic talent, creating opportunities and developing the skills to service Qatar's emerging art economy. By means of a multi-faceted program and public art initiatives, QM seeks to push the boundaries of the traditional museum model, and create cultural experiences that spill out onto the streets and seek to involve the widest possible audiences. Through a strong emphasis on originating art and culture from within and fostering a spirit of national participation, QM is helping Qatar find its own distinctive voice in today's global cultural debates.

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