

For Immediate Release

July, 2012

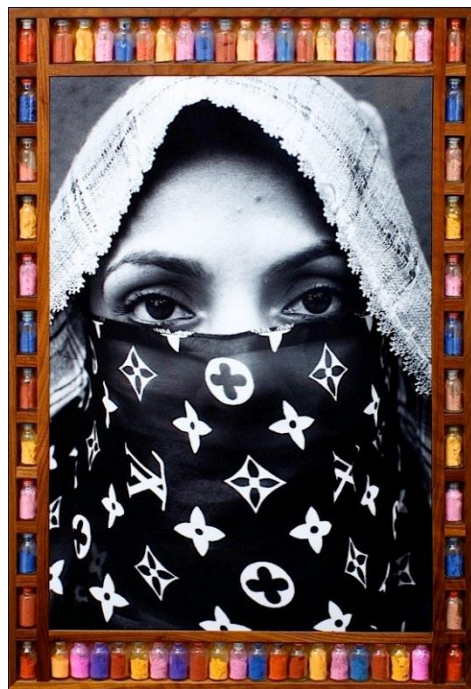
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**EARLY DUBAI OCTOBER SALE HIGHLIGHTS
INCLUDE WORKS BY
GUIRAGOSSIAN, DERAKSHANI, ELHAN & ABBOUD**

**6 LOTS TO BE SOLD TO BENEFIT
CASPIAN ARTS FOUNDATION**



Reza Derakshani (Iran, b. 1952)
Sensibility Green, 2011
Estimate: \$70,000-90,000



Hassan Hajjaj (Morocco, b. 1961)
Eyes on Me, 2000
Estimate \$10,000-15,000

Modern and Contemporary Arab, Iranian and Turkish Art
October 23 & 24, 2012
Sponsored by Zurich

Dubai – Early highlights consigned for the **Modern and Contemporary Arab, Iranian and Turkish Art** sale at Christie's in Dubai on **October 23 and 24, 2012** will include works by Paul Guiragossian, Reza Derakshani, Ahmet Elhan and Chafic Abboud. There will also be 6 lots sold to benefit Caspian Arts Foundation, a new educational initiative that supports art students from

the region to enable them to study abroad. The sale is sponsored by Zurich and will be held at the Emirates Towers Hotel in Dubai with pre-sale viewing from the Sunday prior to the sale.

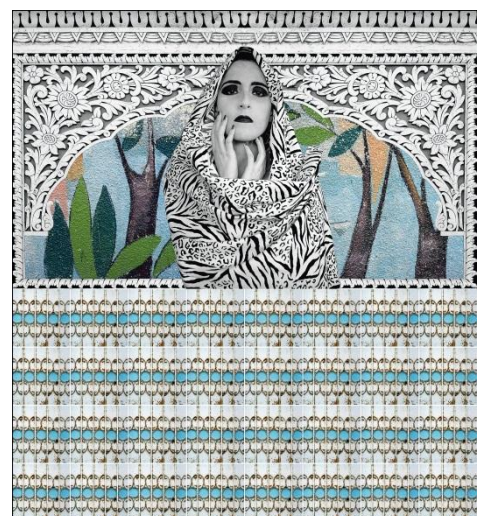


Michael Jeha, Managing Director of Christie's Middle East and specialist in charge of the sale, said: "It is still early days, but the consignments already secured are an encouraging sign for another successful season with a good balance between modern and contemporary works. We will be

repeating the new part I and part II formula once more as it has been so well received by our clients and allows us to offer works by younger, contemporary artists whose work can be viewed beside the modern masters and more established contemporary names."

Among the higher value lots secured so far is *Sensibility Green* by Reza Derakshani (b. 1952), an oil and enamel work created in 2011 with a spectrum of greens across the canvas (illustrated page 1). An acclaimed painter, a renowned musician and an active performance artist, Reza Derakshani evokes his love of nature, poetry, popular culture and harmony through his works. Born in the Northern region of Iran, Derakshani describes growing up on top of a mountain surrounded by trees and fields of wild flowers, often the inspiration, as here, for his work (estimate: \$70,000-90,000).

By the Lebanese master, Paul Guiragossian (1926-1993) is a beautiful composition of yellows and oranges showing a line of figures set against a yellow background which is estimated at \$30,000-40,000 (shown above). Also from Lebanon but by a living artist, Camille Zakaria (b. 1962), is a photomontage / photocollage work from 2010 entitled *The Fortune Teller* (estimate \$5,000-7,000 – shown here). Zakaria left Lebanon during the Civil War and his work explores themes of identity, belonging and home. Beneath the central portrait are 72 flipping cards, each carrying a word of wisdom, a proverb or quote.



This piece was first exhibited in the artist's solo show in Bahrain in 2010 and will be sold without reserve.



From North Africa, is an important work by the Algerian, Abdallah Benanteur (b. 1931) entitled *Le Carnaval Venitien*, painted in 1973. Depicting a group of costumed characters in Venice using striking purple, pink, blue and yellow hues

against a fiery-red background, it is estimated at \$60,000-80,000. Abdallah Benanteur was born in Mostaganem, Algeria and brought up in close contact with Algerian music which is reflected in the rich lyrical tone found in his painting. Having settled in Paris in 1953 and been influenced by Paul Cézanne, he made frequent visits to the Musée du Louvre, where he admired the collection of Old Master Paintings. Representing Morocco is a photographic work by Hassan Hajjaj (b. 1961) entitled *Eyes on Me* from 2000 and set in a walnut wood frame decorated with small glass bottles containing paint in bright colours (illustrated page 1). It shows the face of a woman, her head and face obscured but her penetrating eyes staring straight out. The scarf across the lower part of her face carries the distinctive Louis Vuitton logo, a reference to the artist's preoccupation with brands and packaging (estimate \$10,000-15,000).



A large polyptych *Blue Room* is from 2011 and the last work to be made by Turkish artist Ahmet Elhan (b. 1959) for the series *Places* that he has been producing since 2007. Elhan creates the works in this series by

combining thousands of photographic frames taken of public spaces such as religious locations, bars, underpasses and schools. It is estimated at \$50,000-80,000.

Chafic Abboud (1926-2004) is represented by *Le Roi et la Reine de Café*, from 1978 showing figures picked out against the thick impasto surface in gentle blues and greys. The Lebanese master's paintings do not tell the story of an event or adventure, but focus on modest everyday-life snapshots, which the artist enjoyed and wanted to remember. It carries an estimate of \$40,000-60,000.

Caspian Arts Foundation



Shoja Azari & Shahram Karimi, *Spring (from the Silence Series)*. Acrylic on canvas with video projection. Estimate \$20,000-30,000 – sold to benefit Caspian Arts Foundation / © Leila Heller Gallery

In the part II sale, 6 works have been donated by established international artists and their galleries to be sold to benefit Caspian Arts Foundation. This Foundation was launched in 2011 as a non-profit organisation, sponsoring young artists and students from the Middle East & North Africa to complete their postgraduate studies in the visual arts at University of the Arts London. The first young artist to benefit from a scholarship will begin his or her studies later this year but due to the volume of applications and interest from the MENA region, the Foundation wishes to raise funds for 5 additional full scholarships to be awarded in 2013. It is hoped that they can broaden the programme incorporating other disciplines across the arts to include the performing arts.

Nina Mahdavi, the Foundation's founder, said: "Caspian Arts Foundation has the potential to play its part in connecting the East with the West and bridge the gap between culture, language & tradition."

Among the artists and galleries who have already agreed to participate are Ali Banisadr represented by ROPAC, Shirazeh Houshiary represented by the London-based Lisson Gallery, Shoja Azari & Shahram Karimi (see illustration above) and Hadieh Shafieh from the Leila Heller Gallery in New York and Pouran Jinchi from the Third Line Gallery in Dubai. **Separate press release available.**

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Notes to editors:

- Christie's auction of *Modern and Contemporary Arab, Iranian and Turkish Art*, sponsored by Zurich, takes place at the Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 23 and 24, 2012
- Press Conference and Viewing: Sunday 21 October at 11.00am (TBC)
- Viewing is open to the public at the Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel:

Sunday 21 October:	2pm to 10pm
Monday 22 October:	2pm to 10pm
Tuesday 23 October:	10am to 10pm (selected lots)
Wednesday 24 October:	10am to 12noon (selected lots)
- For catalogues and further information, please telephone +971 4425 5647

View our short film about Christie's in the Middle East:

<http://www.christies.com/features/a-history-of-christies-in-the-middle-east-2400-3.aspx>

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2012 that totaled £2.2 billion/\$3.5 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 auctions annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War and Contemporary, Impressionist and Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £413.4 million/\$661.5 million in the first half of 2012, an increase of 53% on the previous year.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

About Zurich

Zurich Financial Services Group (Zurich) is a leading multi-line insurance provider with a global network of subsidiaries and offices in Europe, North America, Latin America, Asia-Pacific and the Middle East, as well as other markets. It offers a wide range of general and life insurance products and services for individuals, small businesses, mid-sized and large companies, and multinational corporations.

Zurich recently launched a series of bespoke insurance products built specifically for high net worth individuals in the Middle East. The products are designed to meet the unique needs of this niche group of customers, and are aimed at insuring the assets they value most, including their cars, homes, yachts and art & valuables collections.

Zurich employs over 60,000 people, serving customers in more than 170 countries. Founded in 1872, the Group is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland. Zurich Financial Services Ltd (ZURN) is listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange. For further information, please visit: www.zurich.com.

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