

Farjam Foundation to Sponsor Abu Dhabi Art Talks and Exhibition: *Arab Presences: Modern Art and Decolonisation. Paris 1908-1988 - Farjam Collection Close-Up* at Abu Dhabi Art

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Mahmoud Said, View of Sirros (1949)

Abu Dhabi, UAE, 08 November 2024: Abu Dhabi Art has announced that The Farjam Foundation will be sponsoring the Abu Dhabi Art Talks this year and bringing the exhibition *Arab Presences. Modern Art and Decolonisation. Paris 1908-1988 - Farjam Collection Close-Up* co-curated by Morad Montazami and Madeleine de Colnet to the fair. An accompanying catalogue *Arab Presences: Modern Art and Decolonization, Paris 1908-1988* will also be produced in English for the first time, to mark the occasion.

Dr Farhad Farjam, founder of the eponymous Foundation, stated “The Farjam Foundation is pleased to collaborate with Zamân Books & Curating, given our shared interests in research, education and highlighting of Arab, African and Asian modernisms. Thanks to this collaboration, the timely exhibition concept *Arab Presences: Modern Art and Decolonization, Paris, 1908-1988*,

shown at the Paris Museum of Modern Art (3 April-25 August 2024) has been developed and expanded for the exhibition at Abu Dhabi Art 2024.”

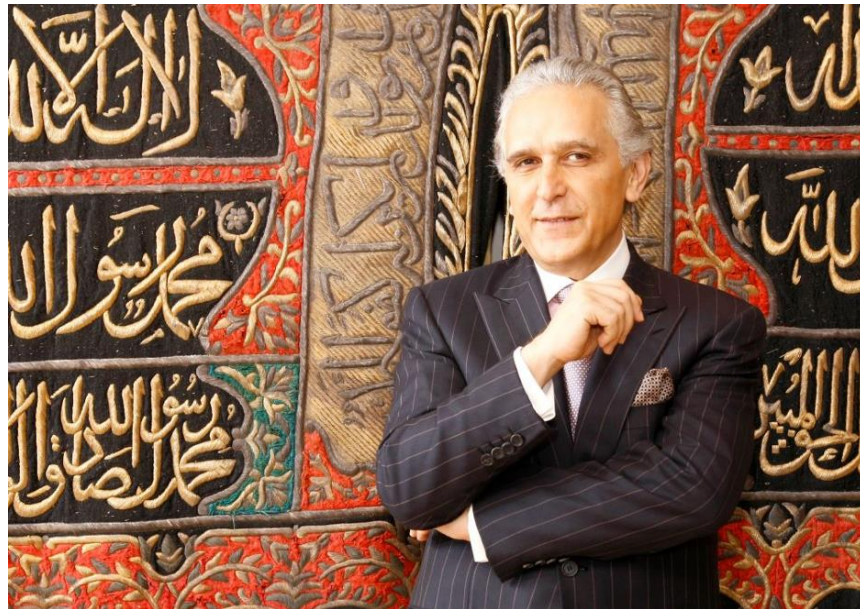
The Abu Dhabi iteration of the exhibition includes nearly 50 artworks on display from The Farjam Collection, including such modern masters and pioneers as Fateh Moudarres, Mehdi Moutashar, Bibi Zogbe, Baya, Mona Saudi, Rachi Koraïchi, Hamed Abdalla. A number of these additions are published in the English translation of the catalogue.



Marwan Kassab Bachi, Marionette (1980)

Curator of the exhibition Morad Montazami added “By offering a new reading of post-colonial dynamics throughout the 20th century amongst artists from Arab countries residing in Paris as a training ground and world capital of the arts for at least the first half of the 20th century, the Abu Dhabi Art exhibition highlights both artists included in the original Paris exhibition and some who were not. This collaboration between The Farjam Collection, Zamân Books & Curating, and Abu Dhabi Art 2024 will be the first ever presentation of this significant historical subject in the GCC.”

The exhibition and its accompanying book traces artistic trajectories from countries including Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, amongst others, revealing stories of exile, undermined legacies, fleeting fame, internationalism, and artistic solidarity. Together they offer a long-overdue mapping of “Paris as an Arab Capital”, using both artworks and archival materials to restore this lost narrative, now ready to be revived and reassessed.



Dr Farhad Farjam's Portrait

Dubai-based Farhad Jawad Farjam is a prominent Iranian-born philanthropist, entrepreneur, and art collector known for his deep appreciation of Islamic art and Middle Eastern contemporary art. Assembled over 50 years, The Farjam Collection is now one of the most comprehensive collections of Islamic and contemporary Middle Eastern art, as well as Western contemporary art in private hands. Spanning centuries of artistic production, the collection features exquisite manuscripts, calligraphy, ceramics, metal works, textiles and rare artefacts from the Islamic Golden Age, as well as notable works by pioneering modern and contemporary artists from the Islamic lands. The Farjam Foundation has hosted exhibitions, educational programs, and collaborations with prestigious international institutions, including partnerships with museums and cultural centers worldwide. The Foundation also actively supports charitable causes aimed at promoting healthcare, and cultural diplomacy. A firm believer in the power of art to bridge cultural divides, Dr. Farjam continues to champion initiatives that promote dialogue and understanding between diverse communities. Since 2008, The Farjam Foundation has proudly presented 28 curated exhibitions in its own space at the DIFC in Dubai. Since its establishment, the Foundation has taken part in significant projects in association with organizations such as the United Nation's World Food Program, the Dubai Cares Foundation, The King Charles III Charitable Fund, and a number of other international charitable bodies, as well as proudly supporting The King's Foundation School of Traditional Arts and sponsoring the role of Farjam Curator of Islamic Arts at the British Museum, London.

The Farjam Foundation is the sponsor of the Talks Programme at Abu Dhabi Art 2024, further extending its support for critical research and knowledge production in the field of art through delivering a dynamic programme of panel discussions, talks and book launches at the Fair this year.

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About Abu Dhabi Art

Abu Dhabi Art expands beyond the notion of a traditional art fair, in placing strong emphasis on a diverse public engagement programme, including art installations and exhibitions, talks and events that take place in different locations throughout the year. The culmination of this year-long programme is the Abu Dhabi Art event in November, which provides an important sales platform for participating galleries whilst also offering these galleries an opportunity to showcase ambitious installations and site-specific works by their artists to a wide audience. abudhabiart.ae

About the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi:

The Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi) drives the sustainable growth of Abu Dhabi’s culture and tourism sectors and its creative industries, fuelling economic progress and helping to achieve Abu Dhabi’s wider global ambitions.

By working in partnership with the organisations that define the emirate’s position as a leading international destination, DCT Abu Dhabi strives to unite the ecosystem around a shared vision of the emirate’s potential, coordinate effort and investment, deliver innovative solutions, and use the best tools, policies and systems to support the culture and tourism.

DCT Abu Dhabi’s vision is defined by the emirate’s people, heritage and landscape. We work to enhance Abu Dhabi’s status as a place of authenticity, innovation, and unparalleled experiences, represented by its living traditions of hospitality, pioneering initiatives and creative thought.

For more information about the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi and the destination, please visit: dct.gov.ae and visitabudhabi.ae