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Personal Readings

The Melisma of the East

Featuring abstract Arab artists from four generations

Eloquence of the Visual

APA Symposium 2022

Hazem Taha Hussein

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Personal Readings

The Intersections

Featuring abstract Arab artists from four generations

Content

Overview

Samples of Intersections

The Generations

Conclusion

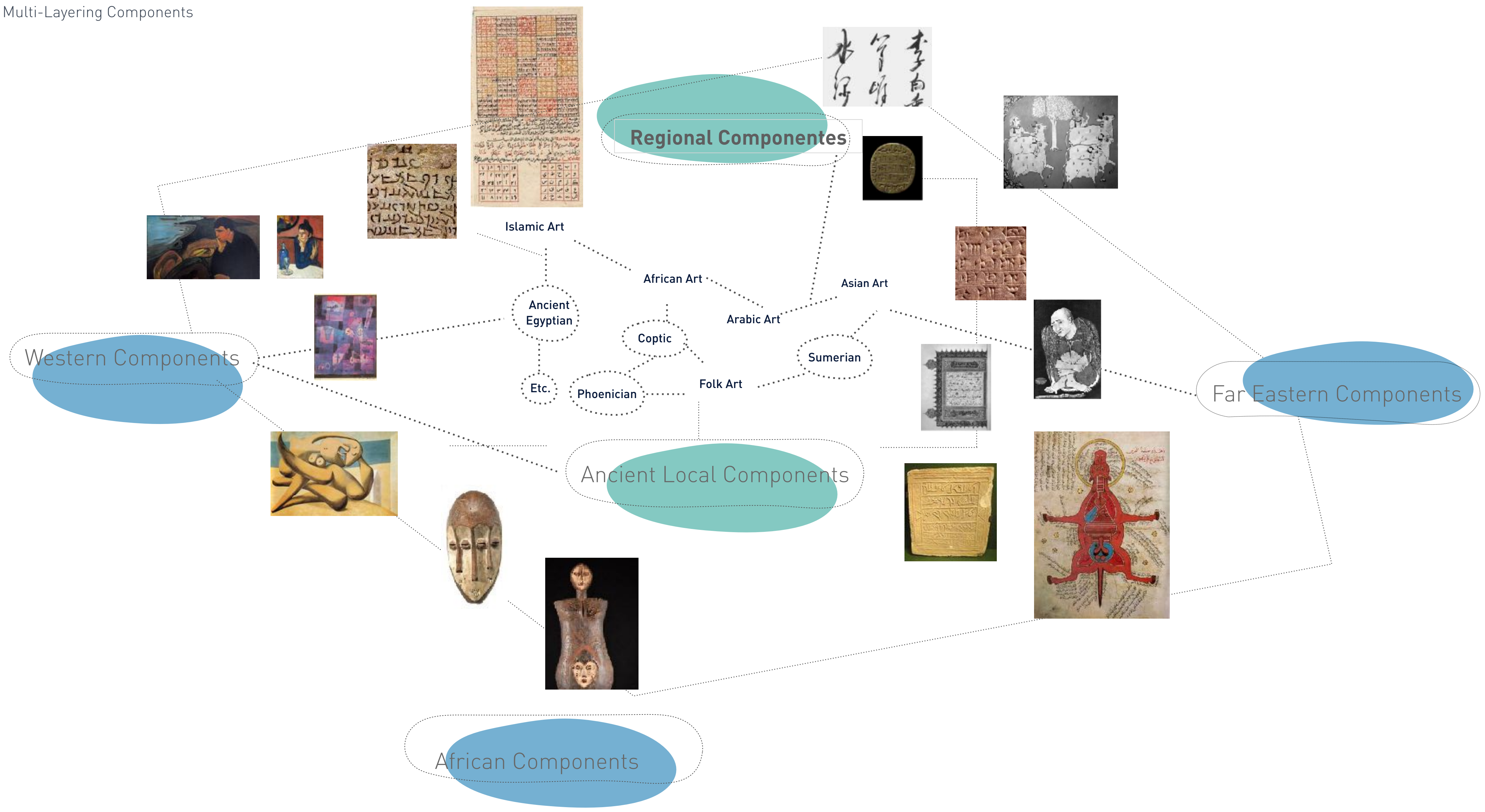
Quotes

**Tawfik El-Hakeem**

(Abu Ghazi, 2007, p. 13)

Art does not live by the aim because it is mortal as its name.
The aim of building the Pyramids has vanished, and the aim of building the Parthenon has vanished.. burying the dead or worshiping the bygone gods has vanished, and the style of art has remained an immortal unity in the Pyramids and the Parthenon.

Intersections Multi-Layering Components



West / East

- **Identity: Modernity vs Tradition**
- **Contemporary: Materialism vs Spirituality**
- **The function of Visuals: Discussing aesthetics vs Non-Artistic analytical matters**

West / East

When the art started to create its language from within, with no reference to the outside world, it responded to a chaotic external condition by trying to find a third way where balance could be restored using the same elements of the chaos. Spirituality was the vehicle, mainly based on religion, such as Kandinsky openly, but occasionally through taking the chaos to its limits by adding to it, such as the Abstract Expressionist movement of Pollack or Cannan in its Egyptian version. My paper shows very clearly that Arab painters have reacted in a similar way to the same Epoque, yet in their versions which have been rich and reflective of their roots and local influences.

Focusing on Egypt

Visual + Verbal

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The Generations

Overview

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Conclusion

1891 - 1934

**Mahmoud Mokhtar**

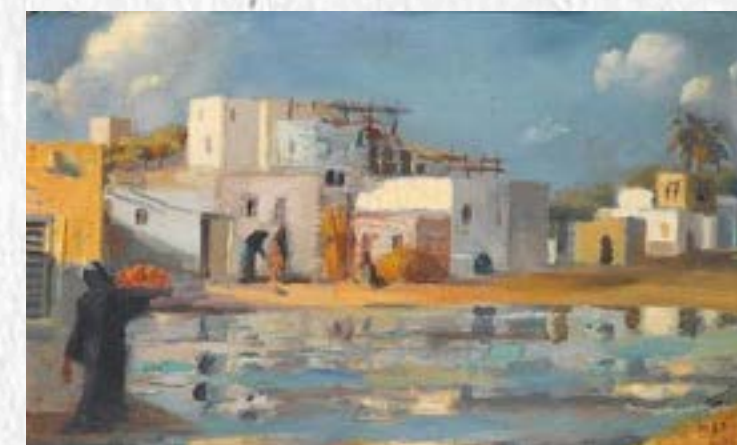
- ▶ Top: Al-Khamaseen (Name of the giant sand storm in Egypt), cast stone, 19 x 39 x 55 cm, 1922.
- ▶ Bottom: Back view: al-Khamaseen.



1897 - 1964

**Mahmoud Said**

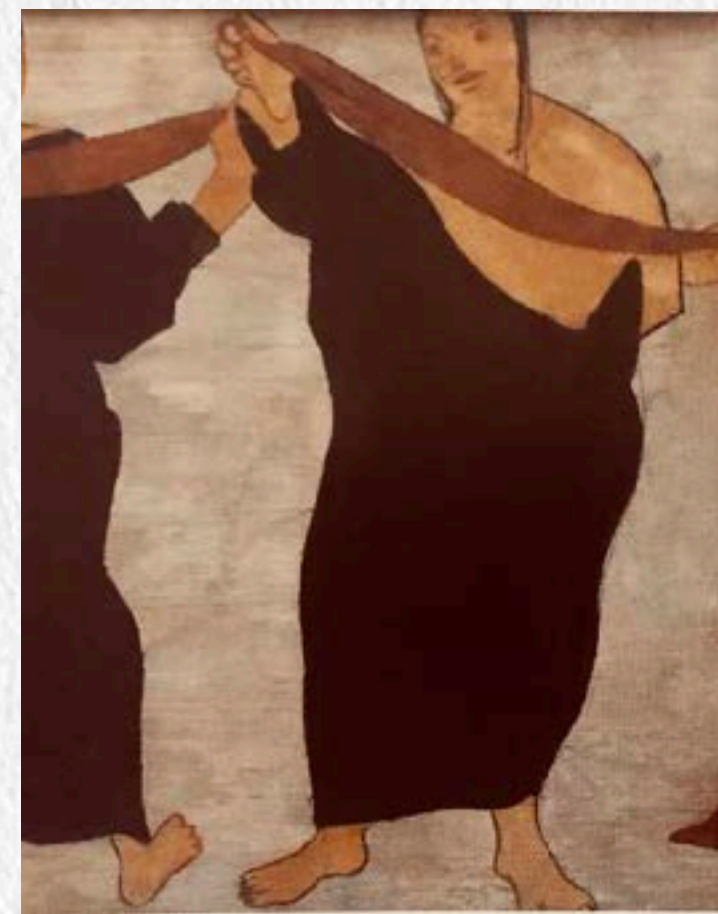
- ▶ Top: Nude leaning on the green sofa, oil on canvas, 1943.
- ▶ The Mahmoudieh Canal, oil on pane, 27.5 x 45 cm, 1922.



1888 - 1956

**Mohamed Nagi**

- ▶ Top: Detail: , Ziyarat al-kabr [Visit the Grave], tempera on wood, 86 x 36 cm, 1937.
- ▶ Bottom: The Abou Homos Family, oil on wood, 1943.



1892-1982

**Ragheb Ayad**

- ▶ Top: Detail: Figures outside a church, ca. 1960-1969
- ▶ Bottom: Detail: Five Monks, oil on board, 51 x 66cm, 1960.



1887 - 1951

**Georges Sabbagh**

- ▶ Top: Venus Anadyomene, 1922, oil on canvas, 116 x 89cm.
- ▶ Bottom: Detail: The Life of Man: The Trios Graces, oil on canvas, 160 x 131cm, 1919.



1891 - 1971

**Youssef Kamel**

- ▶ Top: Soleil d'Hiver (Winter sun), 1938, Oil on canvas, 72 x 125.5 cm
- ▶ Bottom: Untitled, oil on panel, 87.5 x 101.5cm, Painted in Rome in 1928



1908 - 1977



Marguerite Nakhla

- ▶ Top: Le Canal de Mahmoudieh, oil on panel, 27.5 x 45cm, 1922.
- ▶ Bottom: Nu accoudé au divan vert, 1943, oil on canvas, 40½ x 31 7/8 in.



1925 - 2021



Etel Adnan

- ▶ Top: Untitled, oil on canvas, 139 x 31 x 4.5 cm, 2014.
- ▶ Autumn in Yosemite Valley, oil on canvas, 51 X 51 cm, 1964.



1916 - 2017



Saloua Raouda Choucair

- ▶ Top: Rhythmical Composition with Red, 1951, oil paint on canvas, 61 x 78.7 cm.
- ▶ Bottom: Detail: Composition in Yellow, oil on fiberboard, 20 1/4 x 32 in, 1962-1965.



1919 - 1999



Mounir Canaan

- ▶ Top: Portrait De Mademoiselle A.C., oil on board, 80 x 65 cm.
- ▶ Bottom: French Revolution Bicentennial No. 5. © Robert Motherwell 1987, acrylic, enamel and pasted papers on paper.



1925 - 2004



Shaker Hassan al-Said

- ▶ Top: Detail: Space Exploration/Universe, oil on canvas, 123 x 123 cm, 1973.
- ▶ Bottom: Detail: Outpatient Clinic, oil on canvas, 66 x 80cm, 1958.



1917 - 1985



Hamed Abdalla

- ▶ Top: Stolen people, 1975, acrylic on paper, 28,4 x 20,4 cm,
- ▶ Bottom: Meditation, acrylic on board, 53 x 43 cm, 1969.



1930-

**Ibrahim El-Salihi**

- ▶ Top: The Prayer, oil on masonite, 61.3 x 44.5 cm, 1960
- ▶ Bottom: Detail: Self-Portrait of Suffering, oil on canvas, (?), 1961.



1929 - 2018

**Mohamed Taha Hussein**

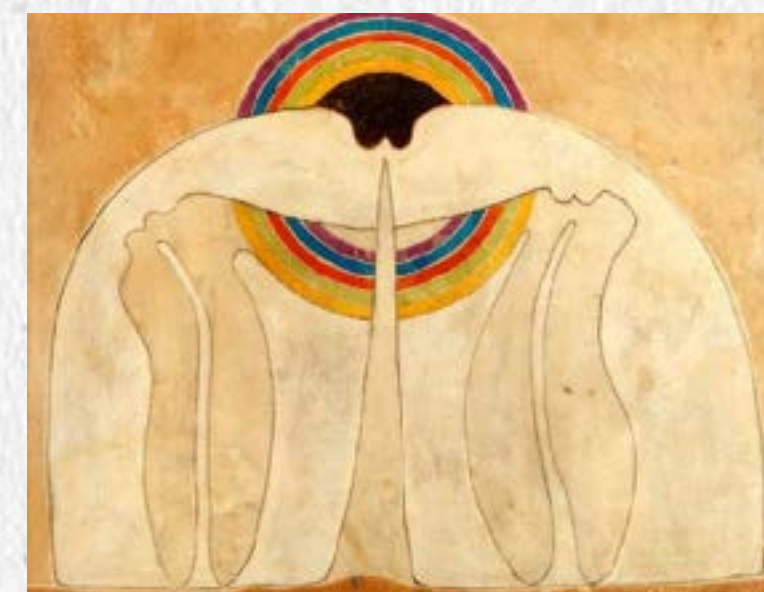
- ▶ Top: The Awake, lacquer colors on wood, 81 x 101 cm, 19608.
- ▶ Bottom: Basmalah (it is the Islamic phrase "In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful" used before starting "good deeds"), acrylic on canvas, 100 x 100 cm, 1980-82.



1934 - 2014

**Farid Belkahia**

- ▶ Top: Cuba Si, Detail: oil paint on paper on plywood, 62.6 X 44.6 cm, 1961.
- ▶ Bottom: "Aube (Dawn)", pigment on vellum, 11 3/4 x 14 1/8 in, 1983.



1926 - 2004

**Shafic Abboud**

- ▶ Top: Kurdish Family, oil on board, 46.5 x 29.5 cm, 1950.
- ▶ Bottom: Detail: Chambre vertical 1 ; Chambre vertical 2 ; Chambre vertical 4, oil, acrylic, tempera and sand on canvas; in three parts, 144 x 72cm, 1983.



1936-

**Mohammed Omer Khalil**

- ▶ Top: It Ain't Me Babe, Etching, Soft-ground, Photo-transfer, 61 X 91.4 cm, 1986
- ▶ Bottom: Desert Music, oil and collage on canvas, 91.5 X 122 cm, 2003.



1939-

**Dia al-Azzawi**

- ▶ Top: Untitled (No. 14), oil on canvas, 92 x 71 cm, 1984.
- ▶ Bottom: Oh Ali!, oil on canvas, 78 x 82 cm, 1963.



1958 -



Hanaa Malallah

- ▶ Top: Shroud V, Burnt folded canvas and mixed media on canvas, 155 X 154 cm, 2012.
- ▶ Bottom: Mysticism II - Seamed cotton and string on canvas, 100 x 100 cm, 2012 (?).



1950 -



Fouad Bellamine

- ▶ Top: Untitled, oil on canvas, 89 x 76 cm, 1984.
- ▶ Bottom: Untitled, oil on canvas, 160 x 140 cm, 1999.

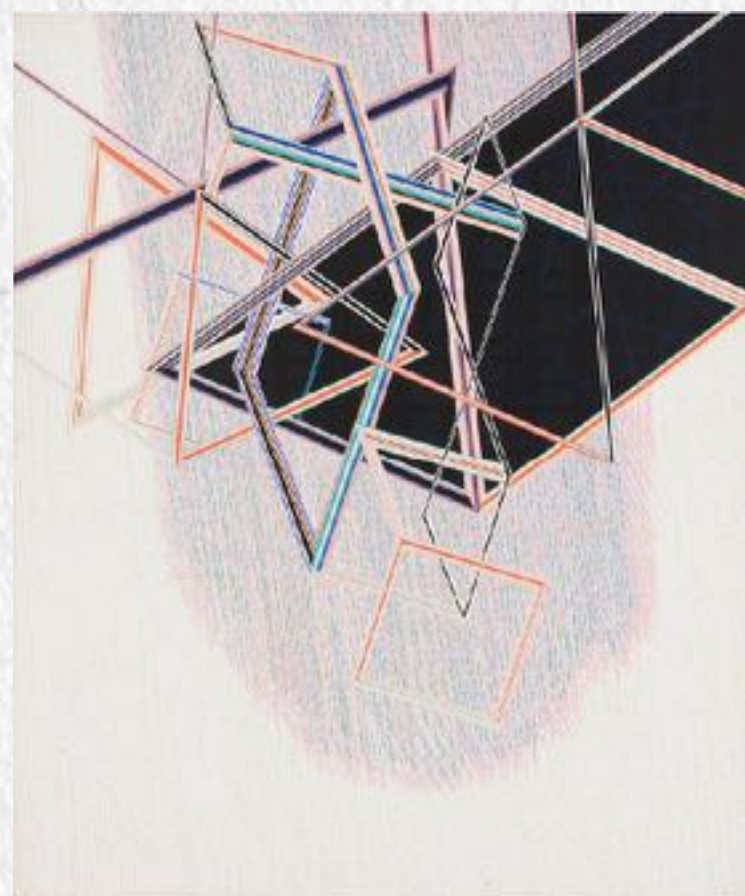


1949 -

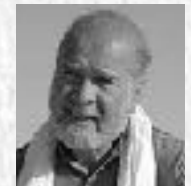


Nabil Nahas

- ▶ Top: Eclipse, Acrylic on canvas, 83.8 x 71.1 cm, 183 x 152 cm, 1978.
- ▶ Bottom: Untitled, Acrylic On Canvas, 59 x 54 cm, 2010.

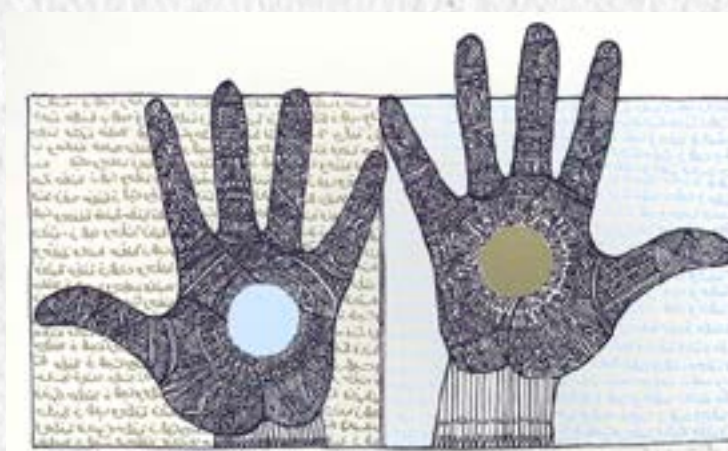


1947 -



Rachid Koraïchi

- ▶ Top: Without you and me or the Nostalgic Hallucination, Ink on clay on panel, 64.5 x 49.5 cm, 1986.
- ▶ Bottom: "With a hand of gold and a silver", screen-print, 41,5 x 25,5 cm, 2009.



1963 -



Nazar Yehia

- ▶ Top: Detail: Rubber Mat, Multiple of rubber silicon, 2.5 x 79.5 x 59.5 cm, 1996.
- ▶ Bottom: LOVE DIJLA 1, Triptych, Acrylic on Chinese paper, 198 x 81 cm each, 2010.

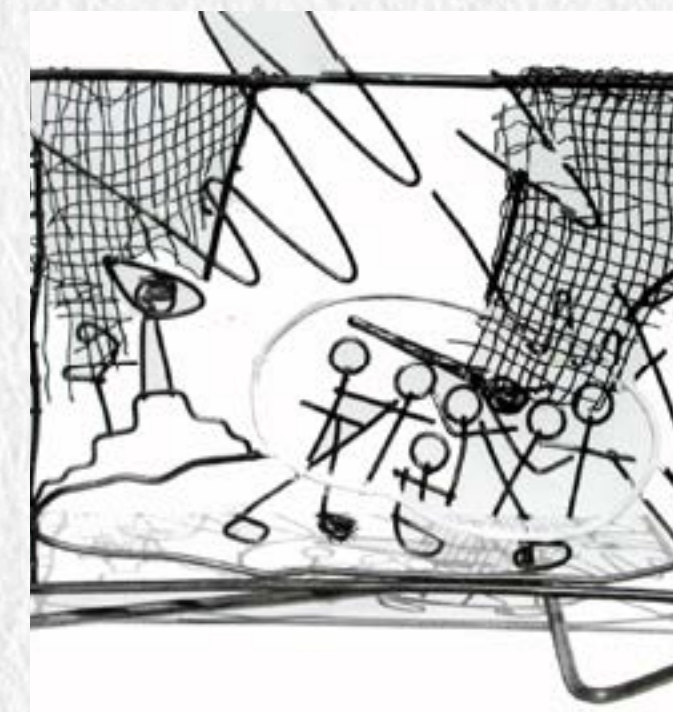


1961 -



Hazem Taha Hussein

- ▶ Top: Face, mixed media on canvas, 120 x 150 cm, 2009.
- ▶ Bottom: Detail: Noah Boot, steel wires



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1920 - 2020

Intersections

Focusing on Egyptian Abstract Art

Overview

Melisma and Kasheeda

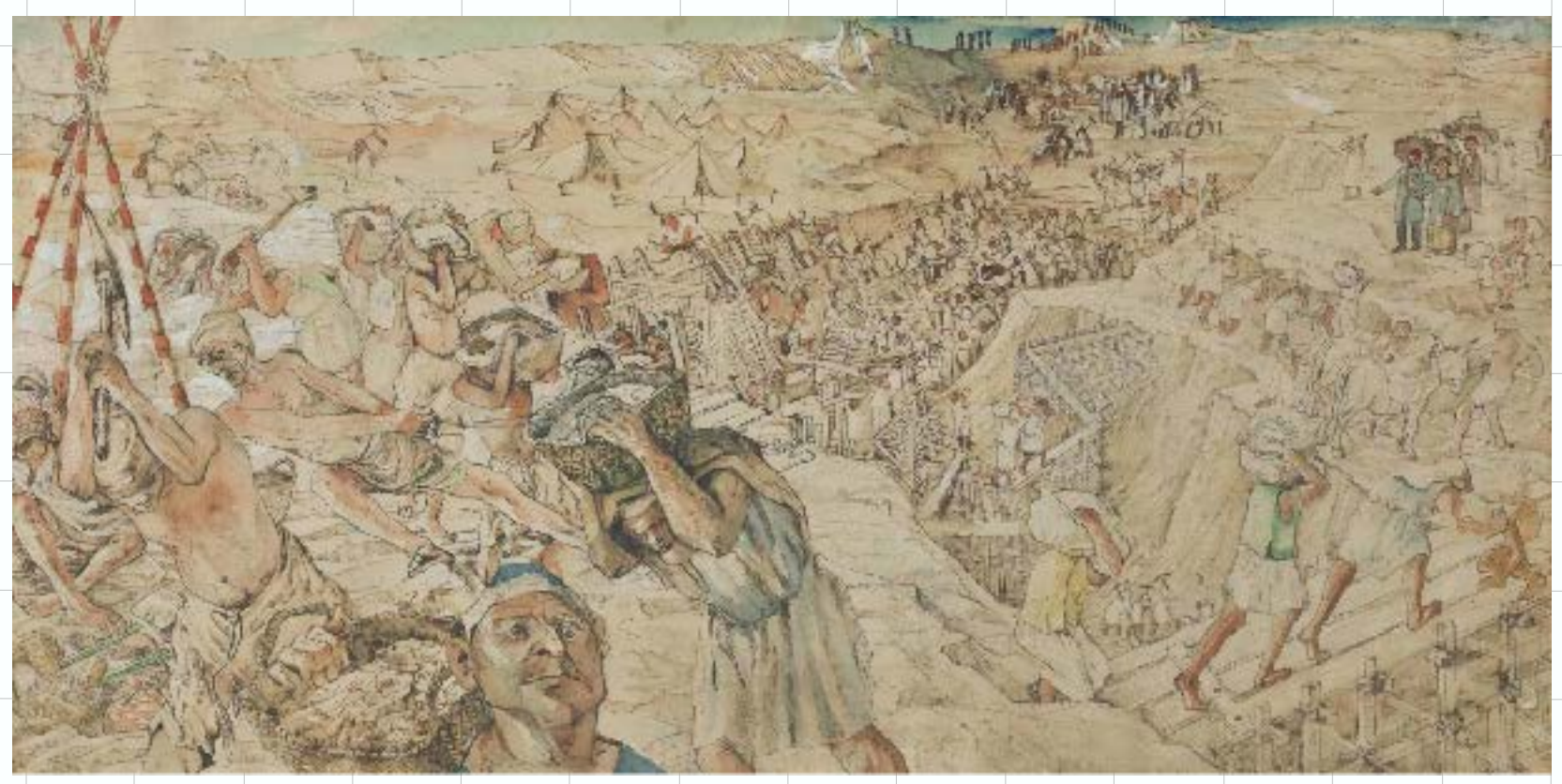
Migration of Sura

Conclusion

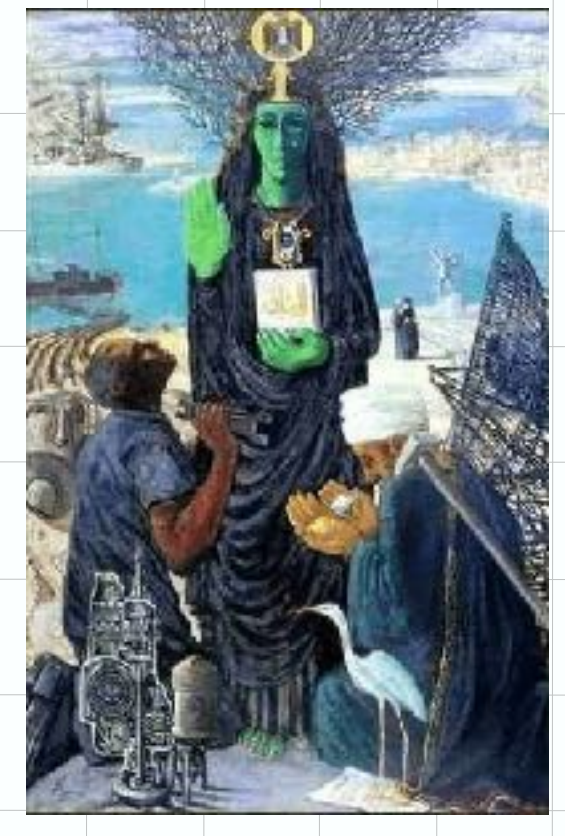
Symbolism + Expressionism
Inspirations



A. Paul Klee: WI (In Memoriam), 52 x 45.5 cm, 1938, Private Collection.
B. Edvard Munch: Workers Returning Home, 1913-15.



1. Construction of the Suez Canal (1965) by Abdel Hadi El Gazzar (Image from Christie's)
2. Hamed Ewais: Homat al Hayat (The Protector of Life), oil on canvas 132 x 100cm, 1967-1968
3. Hamed Ewais: Workers Resting, oil on canvas, 99 x 129cm, 1975.
4. Gazbia Sirry: An Egyptian Family, oil on canvas, 68.4 x 113.8 cm, 1955.



C. Che Guevara with Egyptian farmers in 1960.
D. Ancient Egyptian wall paintings of an Egyptian peasant in the field.
E. Ancient Egyptian wall paintings of an Egyptian peasant in the field.
F. A recent image of an Egyptian peasant in the field.

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Surrealism + Local Narratives

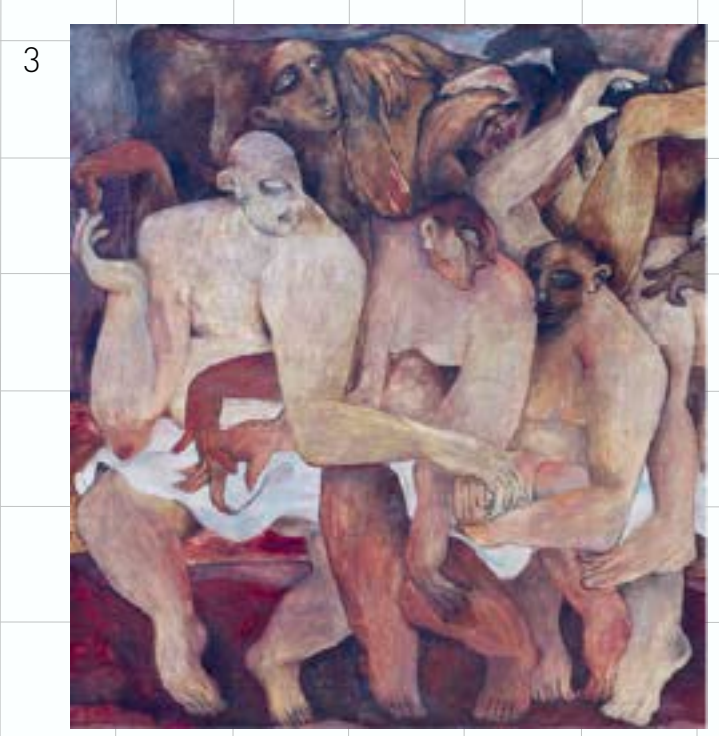
Inspirations



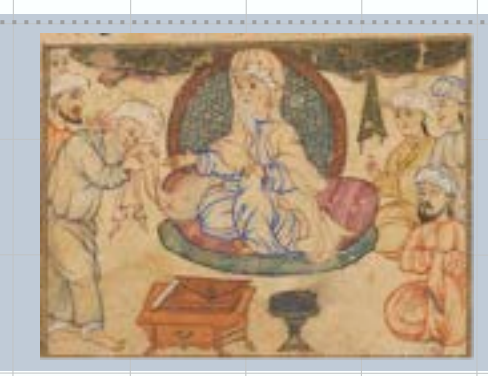
A. Pablo Picasso: Figures at the Seaside, Oil on canvas, 130 x 195 cm, 1931.
 B. Paul Klee: "Analysis of Various Perversities, watercolor and China ink on paper on cardboard, 31 x 24 cm. 1922.
 C. Paul Klee: "Untitled (Still Life)", oil on canvas, 100 x 80.5 cm, 1940.



1. Hassan El-Telmisani, Untitled, 1946, 50 X 39 cm.
 2. Abdel Hadi El-Gazzar, Mahasseeb Il-Sayyidah, 1952. 61 X 92 cm.
 3. Rateb Siddik, Untitled, c.1940. 120 Å- 220 cm.
 4. Inji Efflatoun: Untitled (from the Girl with Monster series), 50 X 43 cm, oil on canvas, 1941.
 5. Mayo, Portrait, 1937. 46 X 36 cm.
 6. Mayo, Coups de Bâtons, 1937. 167 X 243 cm.
 7. Abdu Hadi el-Gazzar: The Talisman Bowl, oil on card laid on board, 69 x 37.5cm, 1951.



D. Sufi dhikr at the Maison des artistes, Darb el-Labbana, Citadel. Early to mid-1940s.
 E. Some of the Art and Liberty group members at their second exhibition of independent art in Cairo 1941 Luster-painted ceramic bowl with figure holding a cup, Iraq, 10th century.
 F. Joshua ordering the property taken at Jericho to be destroyed. Illustration from the Jami' al-tawarikh (Compendium of Chronicles) of Rashid al-Din, c. 1306 or c. 1314/15.
 G. Lion and gazelle playing a board game (detail of BM reg. no. EA10016), illustrated papyrus, Deir el-Medina, Ramesside period.
 H. Portrait of a Sufi first quarter 17th century, Persian (?).
 I. FA talismanic mystical imagery



Abstract Art + Hurufyyia

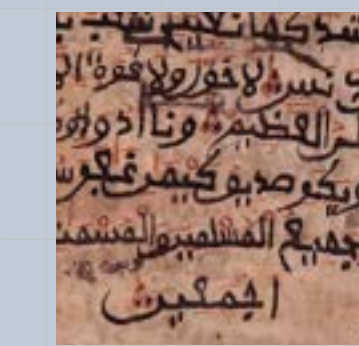
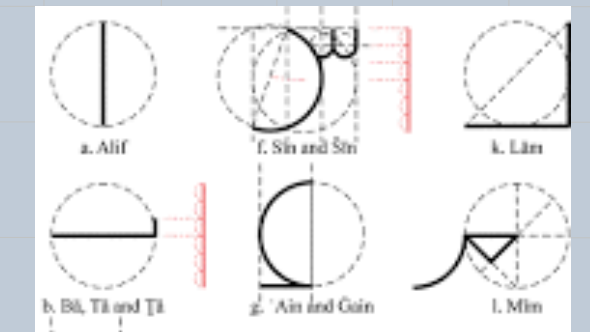
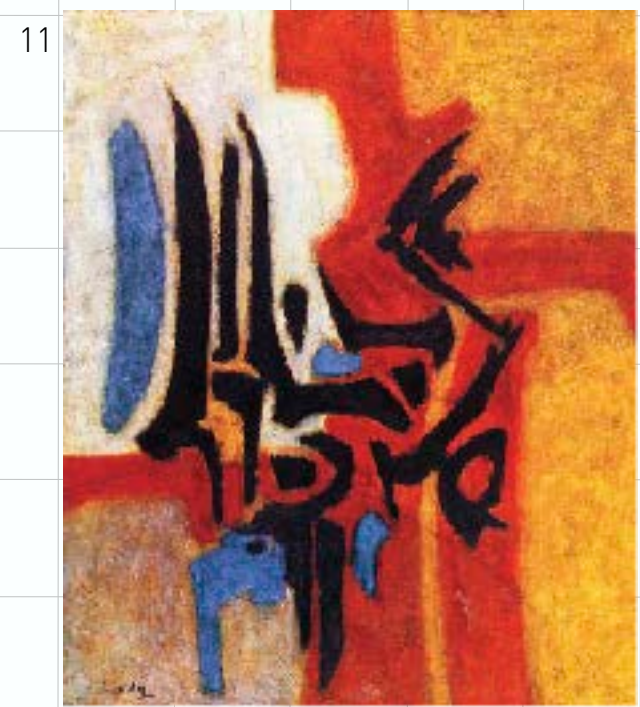
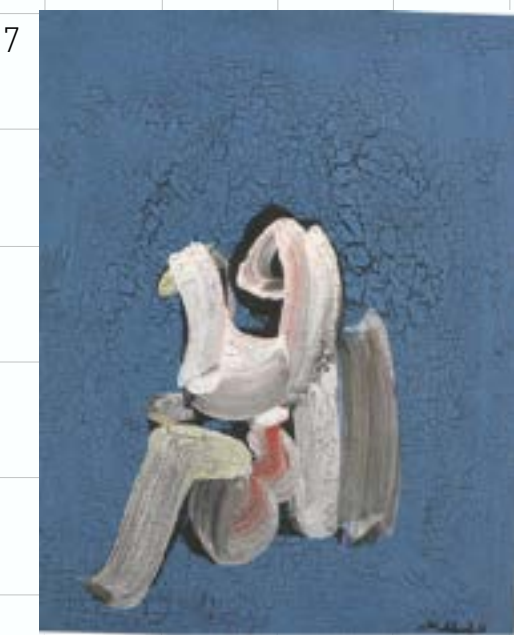
Inspirations



A. Paul Klee: The vase, 88 x 54.5 cm, 1938.
 B. Paul Klee: WI (In Memoriam), 52 x 45.5 cm, 1938, Private Collection.
 C. Jean Fautrier: Head of a Hostage, 1945.
 D. Elisabeth Stoffers: The Intention of the Father is to Surround His Child with Love and to Protect and Overshadow Him with His Fidelity and Justice, pastel on paper, 31.5 x 24.7 cm, 1917.



1. Shaker Hassan al-Said, oil on carton paper, 41 x 51 cm, 1950.
 2. Mohamed Taha Hussein: Sketches for lithography print: Arabic writings, Gouache colors, and wax colors on paper, 60 x 43.5 cm, 1958-1960.
 3. Mohamed Taha Hussein: Untitled, 40 x 100cm, Lithograph print, 1960.
 4. Gamal El-Sagini: Untitled 1, mixed media on canvas, 48 x 33cm, 1962.
 5. Madiha Umar: Untitled, oil on board, 59 x 59cm, 1966.
 6. Ahmad Shibrain: Untitled, ink on paper, 76.3 x 45.8 cm, c. 1960s.
 7. Hamed Abdalla: Al-Tamazzuq (The Rupture), 1975, Acrylic and mixed media on canvas, 34 1/4 x 28 3/4 in. (87 x 73 cm).
 8. Jamil Hamoudi: Untitled, Oil on canvas, 87 x 129 cm, 1985.
 9. Rachid Koraichi: Without You, or Me, or the Nostalgic Hallucination, ink on clay on wood, 64.5 x 49.5 cm, 1986.
 10. Omar El-Nagdi: Untitled, mixed media on wood, 119.5 x 119.5 cm, 1970.
 11. Mohammed Khadda: Calm Noon, oil on canvas, 66 X 53 cm, 1983.



E. Arabic Letterforms: Proportions.
 F. Name of a Sura in Quran.
 G. Book page
 H. Book page
 I. Arabic Kufi style

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1920 - 2020

Conclusion + Questions

Overview

Melisma and Kasheeda

Migration of Sura

Conclusion

Quotes



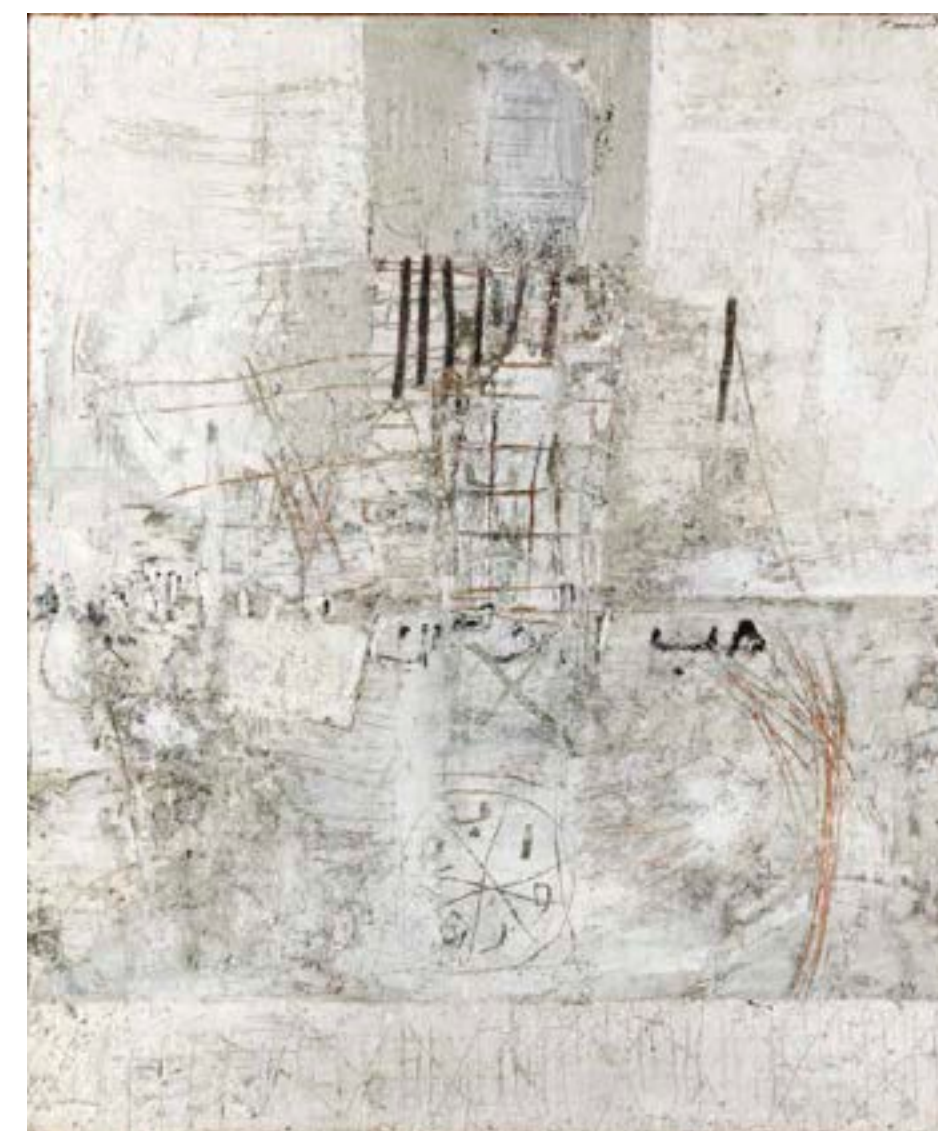
Tawfik El-Hakeem

(Abu Ghazi, 2007, p. 13)

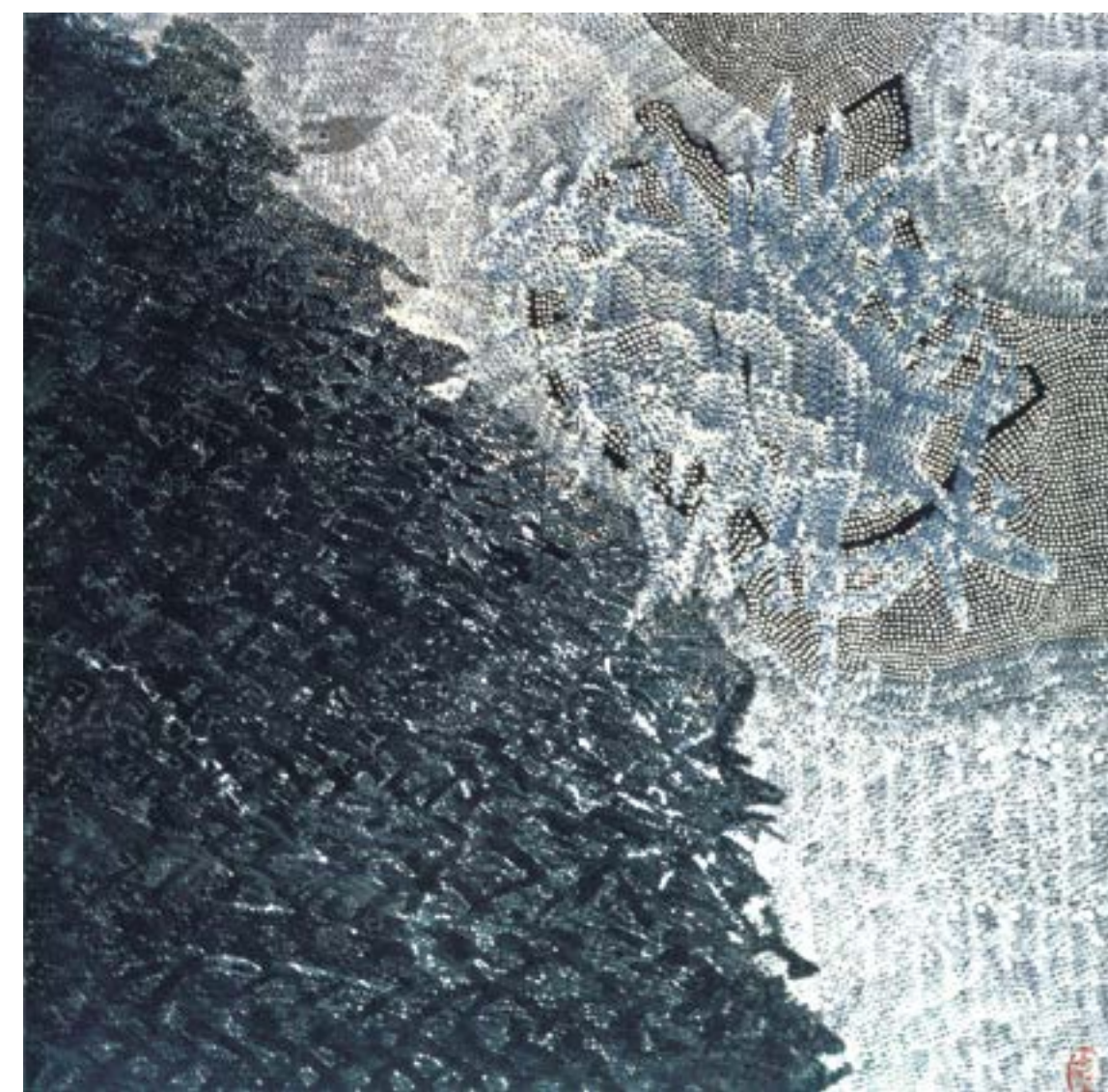
Any expatriate (person, style, idea, thought, etc.) needs the appropriate climate to embrace it.



1. Spaces, mixed media (collage, ink, color), 1987.



2. Untitled, oil color on canvas, 90 x 120 cm, 1982.



3. No Peace, acrylic on canvas, 145 x 145 cm, 1984.



4. Les maîtres du temps 6, Oxide on white earth, 27 x 27 cm, 2018.



5. Figures, acrylic color on canvas, 101 x 126 cm, 2021.

Questions

- **Can abstract language still create a world that embraces artistic and cultural diversity?**
- **What is the function of art if the artist's intentions are immediate and shocking if this is not the case?**
- **What should the artists do to prevent accusations that directly challenge their intellectual, historical, and technical knowledge?**

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thank you