## Visual and Literary Culture in the Middle East

Standing in between a strong classical Middle Eastern tradition and influences from European modernist ideas, the modern art and literature of the Middle Fast evolved unique specific styles. Initially looking for a synthesis between those contrary influences, the Middle-Eastern culture, triggered by the turbulent historic events, turned into a more political and social subject, including links to daily life, religion, war, refugees, globalization and the oil industry.



Buildling on the long and rich

of ther predecessors.

tradition of Arabic poetry, poets

perpetuate the highly ornate style



magama literary genre of rhymed prose dating to the 10th century with in-tervals of poetry in which rhetori-

al-Muwavlihi

Georgy Zeidan

Ahmad Shawqi

Hafiz Ibrahim



Nasif al-Yaziji Neoclassical school of poetry

Emulating the style of the odes of

Abbasid poets but adressing the

public issues of the present.

Muhammad Hafiz Ibrahim (1872-1932)



Jamil Az-Zahawi (1863-1936) Ma'ruf ar-Rusafi (1875-1945) both Iraq

Forcing a critical view on the Western culture and civilization and its influence on the Islamic world. Condemning unre-flected absorbtion of European ideas.



Pattern

Poem II (1963-65)

Monir Farmanfarmaian (\*1924) Iran

Saloua Raouda Choucair (\*1916) Lebanon





Suad al-Attar (\*1942) Baghdad

Farah Ossuli (\*1953) Miniature



Photography ing a romantic image of Orientalist photographers intro duce photography to the Middle Orientalism



Khalil Raad (1852-1957) Lebanon "Marine" school

brahim Sarabiyye Ali Jammal Hassan Tannir Salim Haddad from Abayh Muhammad Said Mer'i Nalib Bekhazi



prose style magama some writers

ideas to the sceptic public.

(1882-1952) Iraq View in Baghdad

Abdul Oadir Al Rassam

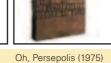
Influenced by the Orientalist movement but also by Turkish tradition. Focus on important historical events in the scenery of the



Calligraphy

At the Concert (1948) Madiha Umar (\*1908) Iraq

Lines on a Wall (1978) Shirt (1960) Shakir Hassan Al Said (1925-2004) Iraq Focusing on the exploration of Arabic Siah Armajani (\*1939) Iran



Parvis Tanavoli (\*1937) Tehran/Vancouver

Mohammad Ehsai (\*1939) Iran

Jidan Ali (1939) Jordania

1973 October War

1798 Napoleon Bonaparte invades Egypt 1800

1918 End of the Ottoman rule 1900

1920s-1940s French mandate in Lebanon and Syria

1930s Oil discovered in Iraq 1925 British mandate in Iraq and Palestine

1952 Nasser in Egypt - Panarabism 1963 Ba'ath party in Syria and Iraq 1964 Foundation of the PLO 

1831 College Jedaidet-Ghazir Beirut

1911 Academy of Fine Arts Tehran

1938 College of Fine Arts Tehran

script in modern art

1950 La Société Primitive Bahdad 1959 College of Fine Arts Damascus

1952 Institute of Music and Painting Amman

1971 Congress of Plastic Arts in the Arab World Damascus

1931 First Arab modern art exhibit in Iraq

1937 Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts Beirut

1962 The Sursock Museum Beirut

1958 United Arab Republic (Egypt and Syria)



Habib Serour (1860-1938) Lebanon First generation of modern Lebanese artists

Classical style with clas- Khalil Saleeby sical themes and subjects - Natives types in national costumes, most characteristic landscapes

Nimetallah Maadi



Having studied in Rome,

introduce the basic prin-

ciples of art technique to

Daoud Corm (1852-1930) Lebanon Strong influence by he was the first teacher to

western schools but with emphasis on own original Youssef Hoyeck identity.

Second generation



Georges Corm (1896-1971) Lebanon Mahmud Said (1897-1964) Egypt Neo-Pharaonic style

> Third generation Youssef Ghossoub Gibran Kahlil Gibran

from Lebanese life

Nasib Arida

Kahlil Gibran

Ameen Rihani

Mikha'il Na'ima

The Prophet (1923)

lar Lebanese writers. Having emigrat-

with spiritual and everyday subjects

ed to the United States his topics dealt

Being on of the best-sold works

of 20th-century literature, in 26

Moustapha Farroukh (1901-1957) Lebanon Saliba Douaihy (1915-1994) Lebanon

Manifesting a greater spirit of freedom Cesar Gemayel than their elders, they contributed to- Omar Onsi wards the awakening of a national feeling in Lebanon by representing scenes

After World War II Expressionist Realist art trend gets established in Irag, focus sing on village and city scapes

Faig Hassan (1914-1992) Iraq

Expressionism



Then What? (1965) Louay Kayali (1934-1978) Syria

Artists reacting to the burst of the

the 1967 defeat.

Poetry as a means of

enforcing his strongly

anti-Arab ideologies.

Lebanese-nationalist and

Sa'id 'Aql (\*1912) Lebanon

pan-Arabic bubble in the aftermath of



War of 1967 (1967) Gazbeh Sirry (\*1925) Egypt

Men in the Sun (1963)

Telling the dramatic voyage of three

Palestinian refugees having left their

reach Kuwait in hope of finding work.

Ghassan Kanafani (1936-1972)

refugee camps and attempting to

Fateh Moudarres (1922-1999) Syria

Marginal Notes on the Book of Defeat (1967)Stinging self-criticism of Arab inferiority

Nizar Qabbani (1923-1998) Syria "My master Sultan, / You have lost the war twice // because half of our people have no tongues. / And what is the worth of a voiceless people?



Takhlis al-Ibriz fi Talkhis Bariz (1834) scription of Western cieties from a Muslim wpoint in a self-confint, but open-mindendly odern approach.

Rifa'a el-Tahtawi (1801-1873) Egypt Faris al-Shidyaq (1804 - 1887) Egypt



Cultural renaissance starting in Egypt and

Lebanon and spreading to other Arabic-

Lebanon.

e story of a village girl narried against her will is id to be the first novel in rabic language 13 - William William William Muhammad Husayn Haykal

(1888-1956) Egypt

Romanticism

In contrast to the neoclassical poetry especially emigrant poets start focussing on more radical initiatives and expression of personal emotions.

al-Fajr (The Dawn) 1925

Weekly literary journal with

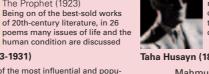
great influence on Arabic

as well as Syrian nationalism al-Mahjar (The Pen League) 1916-

Gibran Kahlil Gibran (1883-1931)

Arab-American literary society. Promotion of new generation of Arab writers.

Lebanon/New York One of the most influential and popu-



Misr (1938) Placing Egypt in a mediter ranean instead of an oriental context, Husayn advocates the assimilation of European culture.

Mustagbal al-thagafah fi

Taha Husayn (1889-1973) Egypt

MahmudTaymur Ibrahim Abd al-Qadir al Mazini The novel gets established as popular form of writing by a series of established writers in the 1930s.

Al-Sa'ih (the Traveler) Journal communicating the ideas and poetry of emigrant writers to the Middle East



Ahl el-Kahf (1933) Inspired by the Qur'an, the Thousand and One Nights and Greek myths and thus touches the major intellec tual concerns of the time

Tawfiq al-Hakim (1898-1987) Egypt After his return from Paris he became the first Arab artist to give drama and theater a recognized place among literary arts.



Focusing on themes of Pales

tinian liberation and struggle.

Kanafani had a strong stylisti

influence on Arab literature

Resistance poetry

Sayyid Qutb (1906-1966) Egypt Islamist theory Milestones (1964)

Setting out a road to the reviv-

al of Islam, the book has been a major influence on islamist

Palestine Record! I am an Arab/ And my identity card is number fifty thousand/ I have eight children/ And the ninth is coming after a summer/ Will you be angry?/ Record!/ I am an Arab/ I have a name without a title/ Patient in a country/ Where people are enraged . . . I do not hate people/ Nor do I encroach/

But if I become hungry/ The usurper's flesh will be my food. Beware../ Beware../ Of my hunger/ And my anger!

Mahmoud Darwish (1941-2008)



introduces new genres

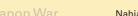


Traces of war, 1994-1997

Pioneer of modern Arabic poetry, First favoring Syrian-nationalist and

Fouad Elkoury (\*1952) Beirut

Elias Khoury (\*1948) Lebanon



between 1975 and 1991 Nahia Hassan Beirut

Scaled model of all detonations in Beirut

Etel Adnan (\*1925) Lebanon/France

The Atlas Group Lebanon

Hoda Barakat (\*1952) Lebanon

The Stone of Laughter (1998)

The Thin Neck Files (2003-present) A Series of dossiers doc that exploded during the 1975-91 civil war in Lebanon.

more than 3600 car b

Akram Zaatari (\*1966) Beirut Tafiq Awwad (1911-1988) Lebanon Rafik Schami Amin Maalouf (\*1949) Lebanon

Saida - June 6h 1982 (2006)

Lamia Joreige (1972) Beirut

Rabi Alameddine

The Rock of Tanios (1994) Dealing with experiences of migration and civil war, his characters traveling between lands, languages and religions.



was evacuated in the 2006 conflict

Marwan Rechmaoui (\*1964) Beirut Walid Sadik (1966) Beirut Spectre (The Yacoubian Building) (2006- Mourning in the presence of the corpse (2007) An exact replica of Rechmaqui's former apartment building, which

I am Baghdad (2008) Price of a Barrel (2008)

Ayad Alkadhi (\*1971) Baghdad/USA

Let the dead pass on. Let them depart and with them be gentle, "give them build their little ship of death... like departing mariners, lovingly

pan-Arabist views he later became a less political author. The Little Moutain (1977)

Telling the story of a group of Palestinian fighters in West Beirut during the civil war, a long war which destroyed everything" initially seeing it as a catalyst for progressive

"To what year will historians date this war? Did the war begin in 1975, 1973, 1967, 1958 or 1860? I do not know. All the dates can be ssen as the eve of



Sitt Marie Rose (1978) Based on the life of Marie Rose Boulos who was executed by Christian milita during the

Death in Beirut (1984) Following a Shia girl leaving for Beirut and experiencing the I ebanon war.



The Atlas Group - Walid Ra'ad (\*1967) Lebanon

1979 Iranian Revolution

Experimental documentary on the crisis about the abduction and detention of Westerners by "Islamic

militants" in the 80s. 1980-1988 Iran-Iraqi war

1991 Second Gulf War 1987-1993 First Palestinian intifada

in Israel illustrate aspects of life under occupation in the Shrit zone in southern Lebanon.

Akram Zaatari (\*1966) Beirut

Three staged interviews with Lebanese prisoners

documentaries capture both the stark realities and the hopeful spirit within the Palestinian camps.

Mai Masri (\*1959) Palestine/Lebanon

Rabih Mroué (\*1967)/ Elias Khoury Beirut Told from the viewpoint of Palestine children, the

An actor, a resistance fighter and a politician seek to etch their 'last' images in front of a camera before heading towards their own death.

2000- Second intifada

2000 9/11/2001 Terrorist attacks in the USA 2005 Cedar Revolution Lebanon 2006 Lebanon War

2007 Lebanese pavillion at the 52nd Venice Biennale (Robert Storr)

Sound-Installation (2006/7)

Mounir Fatmi (\*1970) Tanger/Paris

1987 Institute du Monde Arabe Paris 1993 First Sharja Biennial 1997 Documenta X with artist from Iran and Lebanon (Catherine David) 2002 Contemporary Arab Representations, Rotterdam (Catherine David) 2009 Unveiled: New artists from the Middle East, Saatchi Gallery London 1973 First Congress of Arab Artists Baghdad 2001 Iranian Contemporary Art, Barbican Centre London 2005 Iranian artists at the 51st Venice Biennale (Maria de Corral and Rosa Martinez)

Women of Allah (1997) Like Everyday Serie (2000-2001)

1975-1990 Lebanese Civil War

1975

1974 First Arab Art Biennial Baghdad 1979 Jordan's Royal Society of Fine Arts Amman 1988 Naguib Mahfouz wins the Nobel Prize for Literature

Hanan al-Shaykh (\*1945) Lebanon

Terrorist (2004)



Nosefall (2007) Tala Midani (1981) Iran-USA

Ramin Haerizadeh (\*1975) Tehran

Untitled (2008) Ahmed Morshedloo (1973) Tehran

2003- Iraq War

Children of peace (1995) Leila Shawa (\*1940) Palestine

2002 Documenta 11 (Okwui Enwezor)



Embrace (2006) Samia Halaby (\*1936) Palestine



Mona Hatoum (\*1952) Beirut Installation of a sparse bedroom, associating the conflict between dreams and desires of a Palestine refugee and the harsh reality

Lamia Joreige Beirut - Paris

Nawal El Saadawi (\*1931) Egypt Alia Mamdouh (\*1944) Iraq/France Contemporary women authors challenging the roles of women in the traditional social structures of the Middle East around notions of sexuality, obedience, modesty and

familiar relations

Shirin Neshat (\*1957) Iran

Voman at Point Zero (1979) A female prisoner telling her sychiatrist the story of her fe including stories of sexual

Ghost (2007)

Kader Attia (1970) French-Algerian

Shadi Ghadirian (\*1974) Tehran Women in Islam Khosrow Hassanzadeh (\*1963) Tehran

The Open Door (1960) struggling to fight colonialism as well as middle class values and stifling patriarchy

Just like a river (1984)

A convincing portrait of Syr-

an society with the Western

influence set against tradi-

Latifa al-Zayyat (1923-1996) Egypt

Sahar Khalifa (\*1941) Palestine Considering both the political situation of the Palestinians in Israel but also the life of women inside the Palestine society.

Beirut Blues (1995) Involving a woman struggling to make sense of her life in war ravaged Beirut, tieing together the the peaceful past with the present war time



Breaking Knees (2002) series of short stories questioning visit men." emes of authority and oppression ical, social, sexual and religious.

Farhad Moshiri (\*1963) Shirin Aliabadi (\*1973) Iran

Zakaria Tamer (\*1931) Svria

"My mother went to visit our neighbor, Umm Bahaa, but refused to take me with her, on the pretext that women visit women and mei



Refugees





The Atlas Group - Walid Ra'ad (\*1967) Lebanon Naguib Mahfouz (1911-2006) Egypt Yusuf Idris Muhammad Kamil al-Khatib Social-realism

Cairo Trilogy (1956-1957) perations from World War I to the 950s, creating a panorama of Egypts contemporary society and its influent on the daily life of the protagonists.



Beirut Caoutchouc (2004-2008) Marwan Rechmaoui (\*1964) Beirut

(1980)

Damascus - the Smile of Sadness

Growing up in Syria during French

and deprivations both by the French

occupation, a girl faces injustices

Rokni Haerizadeh (\*1978) Iran Ulfat Idilbi (1912-2007) Syria Abd al-Rahman Munif (1933-2004) Jordan/Syria

Dagger Dance (2008) Orie

ities of Salt (1984)



Osama Esid (\*1970) Damascus/Minneapolis

n & Nostalgia (2006) Operation Supermarket (2006)

The Yacoubian Building (2002) An apartment building in Cairo serving as metaphor for contemporary Egypt and unifying location for most of the primary characters, forming a portrayal of modern Egyptian society

Isma'il Fahd Isma'il Alaa al Aswani (\*1957) Egypt



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