

TEFAF | ART BASEL HONG KONG | ARMORY WEEK | NORMAN LEWIS

BLOUINART+AUCTION

THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR ART COLLECTORS

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MIDDLE EASTERN ART: INSIDER PICKS

WORLDWIDE EXCLUSIVE
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GUTAI SCRAPBOOK

AT HOME WITH
COLLECTOR
CHRISTOPHER TSAI

MULTIPLES MARKET
MUSHROOMS

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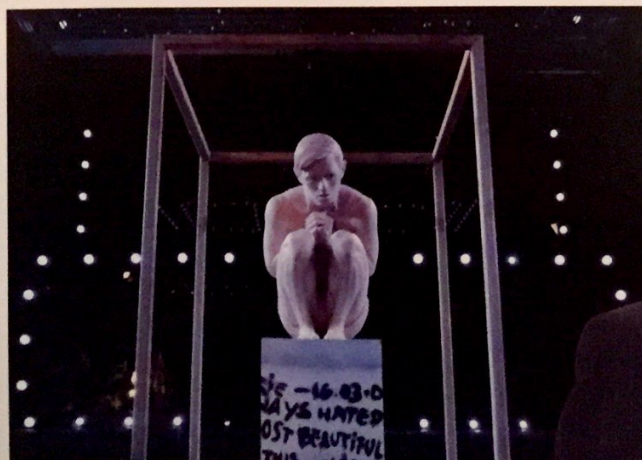
NIMA SAGHARCHI heads the department of modern and contemporary Middle Eastern art at Bonhams in London. In April the house will hold, alongside its regular sale in the category, "A Century of Iraqi Art," an auction of important works by artists from the region active in the 20th century, including Jewad Selim, Shakir Hassan Al Said, and Dia Azzawi.

Ninety-two-year-old Iranian painter **Manoucher Yektai**, who has lived and worked in New York most of his life, is finally getting the recognition he deserves in the international marketplace. A New York School Abstract Expressionist, he exhibited at the Stable Gallery and elsewhere in the mid 1950s, alongside artists like Willem de Kooning, Jackson Pollock, Barnett Newman, and Franz Kline. Yektai is known for his dramatic gestural impasto and soft, flaxen palette. His recent auction records are beginning to reflect his importance.

Sculptor, painter, and installation artist **Reza Aramesh** is one of Iran's most promising up-and-coming talents, most recently exhibiting in the Frieze London Sculpture Park last October. Aramesh's photography and sculptures blend Classical aesthetics with dramatic figurative representations of conflict and torture. His work has been featured in London at the Royal Academy of Arts, the Barbican Centre, Tate Britain, and the Institute of Contemporary Arts.

Lorna Selim is an artist with a remarkable story. Born in Sheffield, England, in 1928, she met and subsequently married Jewad Selim—who would become one of Iraq's most prominent modernists—while they were studying at the Slade School of Fine Art in London in 1946. Joining him in Iraq, she exhibited her work with the Baghdad Modern Art Group and the Pioneers Group, of which she was an important member. The artwork of her husband, who passed away in 1961, has fetched up to half a million dollars at auction in recent years. Lorna's work can be acquired for a fraction of that price but is gaining notice. ☐

From top: Manoucher Yektai's *Still Life with Fruit*, 1953, sold for \$112,500 in October 2014 at Christie's Dubai. Lorna Selim's market is just beginning to take off. Her oil-on-board *Three Spirits*, 1966, fetched \$8,400 at Bonhams London in 2010. In 2013 Reza Aramesh used New York nightclubs as the backdrop for a series of sculptures of soldiers from various modern conflicts, including *Study for Action 123: Korean prisoner of war awaiting execution*, 1950, 2011, seen here installed at Marquee.



Nima Sagharchi