

Publication: Gulf Today

Country: UAE

Date: 16 July 2012

Page: 4

Circulation: 46,200

Article: Artwork Sale to Support Art Pupils

## ARTWORK SALE TO SUPPORT ART PUPILS

BY A STAFF REPORTER

**DUBAI:** The Modern and Contemporary Arab, Iranian and Turkish Art sale at Christie's, which will be held in Dubai on Oct.23 and 24, will include works by Paul Guiragossian, Reza Derakshani, Ahmet Elhanand and Chafic Aboud.

There will also be six lots sold to benefit Caspian Arts Foundation, a new educational initiative that supports art students from the region to enable them to study abroad.

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, an oil and enamel work created in 2011 with a spectrum of greens across the canvas. Lebanese master Paul Guiragossian's beautiful composition of yellows and oranges

shows a line of figures set against a yellow background. Another masterpiece is Lebanese artists Camille Zakaria's photomontage / photocollage work entitled The Fortune Teller. His work explores themes of identity,

belonging and home.

From North Africa is an important work by the Algerian Abdallah Benanteur entitled Le Carnaval Venitien, depicting a group of costumed characters in Venice using striking purple, pink, blue and yellow hues against a fiery-red background. Representing Morocco is a photographic work by Hassan Hajjaj entitled Eyes on Me from 2000 and set in a walnut wood frame decorated with small glass bottles containing paint in bright colours. 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.

Another masterpiece is a large polyptych 'Blue Room,' the last work to be made by Turkish artist Ahmet Elhan for the series Places that he has been producing since 2007.

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 and tradition."



Moroccan artist Hassan Hajjaj's artwork entitled 'Eyes on Me'.