

EXHIBITION

100 MASTERPIECES OF MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ARAB ART

The Barjeel Art Foundation

28 February – 2 July 2017

Press exhibition preview on Monday 27 February: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



Ahmed Cherkaoui, *Alea*, 1965, oil on hessian canvas.
Courtesy Barjeel Art Foundation



Kader Attia, *Demo(n)cracy*, 2010, neon installation.
Courtesy Barjeel Art Foundation

For the first time in France, the Arab World Institute (Institut du Monde Arabe) will be presenting one of the finest collections of modern and contemporary Arab art, that of the Barjeel Art Foundation, located in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. This incredibly rich collection is a tribute to the creative dynamism of the Arab artistic scene, by bringing together the major artists, from Baya to Kader Attia.



AN EXCEPTIONAL COLLECTION

Created in 2010, Sultan Al Qassemi's collection brings together the major artists in the modern and contemporary Arab art scene. Managed by the Barjeel Art Foundation, a private foundation in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, the collection will be presented for the first time in France in the Arab World Institute. The selection of around a hundred pieces retraces the history of Arab art since the second half of the 20th century. Installations, photographs, paintings, figurative and abstract works ... the artists have explored every form of expression. Adel Abdessemed, Marwan, Kader Attia, Ahmed Cherkaoui, and the young Iraqi artist Hayv Kahraman caught the attention of the collector, who was looking for masterpieces. The curator Philippe Van Cauteren explores the genesis and development of this quest in the exhibition.

THE SCENOGRAPHY: THE COLLECTOR'S EYE

In three sections, the curator Philippe Van Cauteren—the artistic director of the S.M.A.K., the museum of contemporary art in Ghent (Belgium), and the curator of the Iraq Pavilion in the last Venice Biennial—will offer visitors an opportunity to immerse themselves in the collection. The exhibition opens with a traditional museum gallery containing modern and contemporary masterpieces, followed by a mise en scène of Sultan Al Qassemi's reserve collection. The presentation gives visitors a chance to see the works up close, giving them some insight into the collector's passion for collecting. In the third and last section, official documents, correspondence, and archive images shed light on the work of the collector, who has carefully searched for, selected, and documented the pieces in his own *œuvre*—his collection.

THE BARJEEL ART FOUNDATION

Based in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, the private Barjeel Art Foundation is responsible for managing, preserving, and exhibiting Sultan Al Qassemi's private collection. Through the presentation of this major collection to the general public, the Barjeel Art Foundation is contributing to the development and promotion of the Arab artistic scene in the world. The foundation's publication policy and policy of holding exhibitions abroad attest to its desire to promote the Arab artistic heritage and contemporary art.

100 Masterpieces of modern and contemporary Arab art, The Barjeel Art Foundation

28 February – 2 July 2017

Floors -1 and -2

Press exhibition preview in the presence of the artists, the collector and the curator:

Monday 27 February 2017 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Opening hours:

From Tuesday to Friday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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*This exhibition has been organised in close
collaboration with the Barjeel Foundation*

