

The Ministry of Culture and Guidance wishes to express
its gratitude to every one whose cooperation has made
this exhibition possible.

## JEWAD SELIM THE MIRACLE OF IRAQI ART

New concepts in art were born in the 19th. Century and with the advent of the 20th.. Century, new violent movements in style and form appeared as a result of the great changes still overwhelming the societies of today.

One of the most outstanding developments was the artist liberating himself from the old style in the use of colours. The influence of Japanese printing and African sculpture gave birth to new movements with a new style that included painting, sculpture and architecture.

In the light of these developments, what was the state of art in Iraq? This question can be answered if we are acquainted with the conditions prevailing in Arab society and Middle Eastern society in general. These societies had remained undeveloped for centuries and thus were more or less impervious to the new concepts.

While some painting in Iraq did exist, concerned with copying from nature, a new group of talented young men began to feel the change around them, and in World war II, through-a group of Polish painters who took refuge in Iraq in 1942 and had their influence on these young men, the art movement got going with considerable energy.


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Among these young men was Jewad Selim. He was brought up in an artistic family and the signs of his artistic genuis were readily recognized ever since he was a small boy. He went on a scholarship to France and Italy but was not able to finish his studies because of the war. He came back to Baghdad to work in the Department of Archeology.

It was at this stage that Jewad met these Polish painters and started, at first, imitating them, soon to develop his own personal style. He was also greatly influenced after the war when he went to England on another scholarship by the vigorous movement in Art which sprang from the very sufferings of the English people during the war. Thus Jewad was swept by this current, and his style and traditions were moulded to produce several beautiful paintings, notably a portrait of his wife, which is one of his greatest works.

After his return to Baghdad, a new stage in his career began in which his style was inspired by ancient Mesopotamian sculpture, 13th Century Wasiti drawings and Iraqi folk arts.

Jewad was almost the first painter to discover his country's colours, which in time became a characteristic of his art.

Inspired by ancient Iraqi history and new movement of construction in Baghdad, he produced his stone sculpture 'The Master Builder'. Its style reminds us of Assyrian sculpture, but its general outlook is Arab.

Jewad was for some time influenced by Henry Moore, as is apparent in his wood sculpture of The Mother, but this influence had been digested by the time he came to work on The Monument of Revolution.

After his return to Baghdad, Jewad Selim participated in forming the S.P. Group, and later the Baghdad Modern Art Group. His purpose in forming this group was to create such forms as would characterize Iraqi Art and give it a special personality while keeping it within the international artistic development in style and thought. Thus, Selim started his new style by adopting the crescent, the bull and mother-and-child as symbols and leit-motifs. His most outstanding work at this stage was the Political Prisoner, a piece of sculpture with which he participated in an international competition and won an award.

The crescent recurs in his work when dealing with popular subjects. He also used the fresh, vivid colours of al-Wasiti in his crescent-like forms, as in his painting, Music in the Street.

His theories about Arab art and popular subjects produced a number of paintings he called "Baghdadiat" ("Of Baghdad") ininspired by Old Arabic drawings and the 'Thousand and One Nights'. They are a portrayal of his reactions to his environment-filled with love, humour and pain.

One of his best paintings, a result of long experience, study and development in style, is "Siesta".

Jewad Selim wavered between painting and sculpture.
As for sculpture, which Selim desired to make his sole preoccupation, it created in him ambition and a challenge to accomplish a great work of art even if it were to threaten his life*. Such noble ambition is usually born in the artist when he has full mastery over his art. Selim was, thus, challenged after he designed two of his works for the railway station of - Baquba in 1945: financial difficulties prevented the designs from execution. Also, another piece he designed in bronze, called Man and Earth,

to decorate the front of the Agricultural bank, was abandoned in 1953 for similar reasons.

Hence, in 1958 Jewad Selim accepted a commission from the Government, although it was not a generous one financially. But he was given complete freedom in the choice of subject and style to portray the Iraqi Revolution. It took him only two years to accomplish this great work, which was called The Monument of Revolution. Iraq has witnessed no such monument ever since her ancient times. It relates the story of the Iraqi individual in the pre-Revolution period in his pain and suffering, and portrays the prosperity in agriculture and industry that awaits him. The

## artist did


artist did not live to see this marvellous monument installed at South Gate. While erecting the various bronzes, he suffered a heart attack, and he died on 23rd January 1961, aged 41.

Jewad Selim was able in his short life to create an Iraqi style that would not have been accomplished without his talent, education and his strong attachment to his fast-developing country. His art, absolutely his own, is influenced by Arab and Mesopotamian traditions.

When I first entered his house right after his death, I realized the secret of his rapid growth. In addition to his originality and inborn talents, he was a constant reader in many

fields of knowledge and had constant interest in theatre, design and music.

I saw his large library occupying a room-cum-studio decorated with paintings and sketches and a small Puppet theate designed by himself for his two daughters. His guitar was there, as he had left it with his musical notes open on a stand, in order to continue his work on the monument on site. There was also a box filled with studies and sketches of great value, had he cared to turn them for profit, whjch he did not. He lived and died for his art and his country, exerting all his efforts to produce an art that represented both today's life and our old heritage, preserving a happy balance between modern art on the one hand and Arab, and ancient Iraqi taditions, on the other.

With his insight Jewad Selim reconstructed the essence of things into art and spread light through the darkness around him.

Laman Bakir

* He was suffering from ill health.
** Jewad Selim was advised several times to include Abdul Karim Qasim in the Monument, but this only infuriated the artist and caused him a nervous breakdown for which he had to go to hospital. He stuck to the following principles:

[^0]


Haidarkhana Mosque $\quad$ جامـع الـيدرنانات

## EXHIBITION LIST



Still Life
حـاة جامدة

## Coll. Said Ali Madhloom

1. Baghdadiat, 1956
2. Prostitutes, 1943
3. Mother and child, 1953
4. Earrings, 1953

## Coll. Rifat Chaderchi

5. Illustration for 1001 nights, 1957
6. The gardener's son, 1958
7. Two dancers, 1957
8. Sketch for the monument of the revolution, 1959
9. Sketch for the monument of the revolution, 1959
10. Nurenburg, 1948

## Coll. Naziha Selim

11. A girl going to the market
12. Hampstead Heath in winter, 1947
13. Samira, 1941
14. Lorna and Zainab, 1952
15. The Sacrifice, 1957
16. Naziha, 1937
17. Naziha, 1937

Coll, Khalil al-Warid
18. Street musicians 2, 1954

Coll. Faisal Damalouji
19. Haiderkhana Mosque
20. Still life

Oil
Tempera
Oil
Plaster
Copper

Pen and wash Oil
Water colour

Water colour

Water colour
Oil
Oil
Oil
Oil
Water colour
Water colour

Oil
Oil


## Cell. Salwa Husri

21. Salwa, 1938

## Coll. M.A. Wahab

22. Paris, 1948
23. Composition, 1949

## Coll. Bahir Faik

24. Tuileries garden
25. The New Bridge
26. Suad
27. Wajiha
28. Head of a girl
29. Arab dancer

Coll. Ismail Shaikhli
30. Girl, 1941

Coll. Salim Damalouji
31. Family, 1953
32. Laman, 1957
33. Karrada, 1950
34. Sarsang, 1949
35. Hampstead Heath, 1947

## Coll. Saniha Amin Zeki

36. Saniha, 1948
37. Saniha, 1948
38. Kuri, 1957
39. Paris, 1947
40. Ihsan, 1944

Water Colour

Water Colour
Different media

Poster
Oil
Oil
Oil
Wood
Wood

Wood

Oil
Oil
Oil
Oil
Different media

> Oil

Oil
Water Colour
Water Colour
China Ink


Baghdadiat
بغداديات

تصويز نزاي السامزاني
Coll. Yusif Gailani
41. A girl with a bird, 1958 ..... Oil
Coll. Lorna al-Said
42. Lorna, 1949 ..... Oil
43. Lorna, 1955 ..... Oil
44. Kufa Mosque, 1958 ..... Oil
45. Man and wife, 1953 ..... Oil
46. Hampstead Heath, 1947 ..... Oil
47. Caliph and dancer Sketch
48. Zainab, 1955
49. Two pots
50. Head, 1955
51. Monumenf to the Unknown politicalprisoner, 1952
52. Man and Earth, 1953
53. Mother and Child
54. Mother and Child
55. Horse
56. Zainab, 1952
57. Head of a girl
58. Composition, 1960
59. Garden chair
60. Horse, 1957
61. Dish,
62. Earrings
Coll. Mansour Club
63. The Gardner Oil
oil on paper'Sketch
Terra cootta
Pottery
Bronze (Model)
Bronze
Weod
Copper \& Wood
Plaster \& Iron
Plaster
Plaster
PlasterMarble
Plaster \& Iron
Silver
Silver

Coll. Nation
64. Bagh
65. Land
66. Aziz
67. Farm
68. Arbil
69. Café


يوسف الكيلاني

Yousif Al-Gailani

## Coll. National Museum of Modern Art

64. Baghdadiat with Lorry, 1957 Oil
65. Land scape

Oil
66. Aziz Café-Rawandooze
67. Farmer
68. Arbil Market
69. Café in Shaklawa

China ink
China ink
China ink
Sketch


تصويز نزار السامرائي


Two Girls
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تصويو نزار السامرأٌي
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بموعة المتحف الوطني كلفن الحديث

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حبر صيني

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- 19 - مقهى في سقلاوة


Kufa Mosque
بامع الكوة





جهوعة السيد عهمد عبد الوهاب
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باريس

Paris in 1954


بهوعة السيد خليل الورد
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اكتا ج تصنـن

الرار بنائهـا , اله من ظلهد

البكري
! إلإن
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## Children's Games <br> امب الاطفال


 مستمرآ بين الفن المديث والتقاليد العرية والر الية ، لقد تغلغل في الاشياء وفهم السرار بنانهـا فاعاد خلقها بوسائل فينة حدية ، وهكذا نشأصرح بنيانه لينشر الضوء على ما حورله من ظلله . فيـددها
لملمان البكري
 المب الل عبدالكريم ظاسم باعتاده تائدآ ومـلا للؤوة الامر الني هز. عنياً وادخل المتشفى لانه مـم هذا الصب استاداً الى مبدتين :
r- ا- ايايانه اللملنت بورة الثبب لانورة شخص

اللرية النسبية هم التيمنحت له في اختيار الموضوع والاسلوب الذي يمثل ثورُة العراق بالاسلوب الني يريده وهكذا انجز نصبا لم ير العر اق صنوان له الا في عصوره القديمة ، وقد استغرق تصميميه وعمله فترة وجيزة لم تتجاوز السنين فقط ويــدأ هــــذا النصب من المصـان النـافر الى المـأسـاوية التي كان يعيشهـا الفرد

 على اربعة عشر بجموعة من البرونز ) وهو مثبت في عحله في الباب الثرقي بل بل فاجأته نوبة تلبية اثناء العمل فيه لم تدهله سوى اسبوع واحد توفى بعدها مساء بץ كانون الثاني 1971 وعمره(1) (1)عاما .

 متأثر بالفن العربي والفن العراقي القديم .


 بالاضاهة الى ولحه بالموسيقى .
رأيت هناك مكتبة ضخمة تملاُ غرةت مزينة بمختلف الصور والتخطيطـات الفنية ورأيت
 القيثارة التي تر كها يتيمة دون رعاية ، كان قد عزف عليها وتر كها لاتـام نصبه ولـي
 ملينا بالدراسات الفنية التي لو حاول جواد استغلالها من ناحية مادية لأصبح من الاغنياه .

ام وطفلها
Mother and Child



The Caliph's Gathering
بجلس المليفتة








 وبواضيع الف ليلة ولية وتتتل في مــنه الهور عوامل المب والسخرية والالم بـا يراه





جلس الملينة


 الدولة عام 1901 مع انه لم يكن عرضا سخياً من الناحية المادية ، ولكنه كان سخياً من حيث

الشعب الالنكيزي من ويلات أثرت تأيرّر مباشرآ على فناينهم فبرز منهم الـكيرون ، وهكذا لفت
 اروعها صورة لزوجته يظهر فيها الاسلوب المديد والالوان الثرقية الر انئة .


 لقد نفذت عينا جواد اللى الوان بلده الرأثة رغم المستة التزايـة التي تطني عليها ـ ومن التاريخ

باسلوب النحت الاشورى البارز ولـكن مسحتها عرية .




بذداديات
Baghdadiat

ذورا أصالة بـأوا يتحسـون مايدور حولهم وعلى حين غرة بزغ عليهم شــــــــاع خاع خلال الحرب العالمية الثانية ولا سيها عام 19 العا عنــدما حل في بنــــــداد نفر من الفنانين البولونييناللاجيّين التقى بـبرسامورنا الشباب ليرتشفوا السلوبهم وألوانهر الجديدة وهكنا
 بين هؤلاء الثباب جواد سليم اليم الذي لم يكن اللن عليه بجايد فــد ولد لأب فانـانوعاش بين اخوة فنانين وبـــدت عليه علاتم البوغ
 ليتيته وسافر في بيثات الى فرنــــا وايطاليالما لم يستطع بها اكمال دراسته لأندلاع المرب فعاد الى مديتنه بغداد ليعمل في صيانة الآثار
 البولونين فبدأ اسلوبه البديد مقلدآ اولاَّا ثم
 الحرب في بعثة دراسية اللى لندن فواجه هناك



Mother and Child

## جــواد سـليم ..محجـزة:الثن الكحإي"

تصخض القرن التالــــــ عشر عن مغاهيم جديدة في الفن وطلع علينا القرن العشرون


 بين الرسم والنحت والتصيمّ والعارة . فما هو موقف الفن الحراقي المديث من كل ذلك ؟ ه.. سؤال قد يرد ولكن الابجابة عليه

 بيدة عن المفاهيم المديثة .
وينـا كان بعض الرسامين القدامى ينقلون الطيعة ويستشخخون الصور كان هناك شبان




[^0]:    (a) his absolute faith in the revolution of a whole people and not of one man ;
    (b) his faithfulness to his art.

