



Dia Al-Azzawi, Majnun Layla no. 2 (Temptation), 1995. Acrylic on canvas, 161 x 200.7 cm. Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha.

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**DOHA.** - Qatar Museums' [Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art](#) is presenting a major retrospective of the work of Dia Al-Azzawi, internationally recognised as one of the prominent figures of modern and contemporary art in the Arab world, taking place simultaneously at Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art and QM Gallery Al Riwaq in Doha, until 16 April 2017.

The exhibition, entitled *I am the cry, who will give voice to me? Dia AlAzzawi: A Retrospective (from 1963 until tomorrow)*, is curated by Catherine David, Deputy Director at Centre Pompidou in Paris. Work on all scales and media is being featured, including painting, sculpture, drawing, print and artist books, incorporating original and limited editions of artworks on view for the first time.

Conceived for the two venues, Mathaf and QM Gallery Al Riwaq, the retrospective is organised in two parts tracing the trajectory of the artist's practice. One trajectory charts the emergence of a relationship between image and text in Azzawi's work, and its evolution as a solution to an artistic problem of representation; the other trajectory follows the artist's engagement with the key moments in the political history of Iraq and the Arab world. Both routes depart from an encounter with the poet Muzaffar al-Nawwab in 1968.

Dia Al-Azzawi (born Baghdad, 1939, lives and works in London) started his career as an artist in 1964, after graduating from the Institute of Fine Arts in Baghdad and completing a degree in archaeology from Baghdad University in 1962.

In 1969, Al-Azzawi (with Rafa Nasiri, Mohammad Muhridin, Ismail Fattah, Hachem al-Samarchi and Saleh al Jumaie) formed the New Vision group (al-Ru'yya al-Jadidah), uniting fellow artists ideologically and culturally as opposed to stylistically. Through his involvement with the New Vision group Al-Azzawi found inspiration in contemporary subjects and issues, particularly the plight of the Palestinians. He was also briefly a member of Shakir Hassan Al Said's One Dimension group (Jama't al-Bu'd al-Wahid).

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From 1968 to 1976, Al-Azzawi was the director of the Iraqi Antiquities Department in Baghdad. He has lived in London since 1976, where he served as art advisor to the city's Iraqi Cultural Centre, from 1977 to 1980. Al-Azzawi's move to London led him to rediscover artist books (dafatir), an art form that he has encouraged other artists from Iraq and the region to explore.

His work is held in international private and public collections including the Museums of Modern Art in Baghdad, Damascus and Tunis; Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Amman; Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha; Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah; Kinda Foundation, Saudi Arabia; Una Foundation, Casablanca; Arab Monetary Fund, Abu Dhabi; Development Fund, Kuwait; Jeddah International Airport; British Museum, Tate Modern, and Victoria and Albert Museum, London; Institut du Monde Arabe, Bibliothèque Nationale de France and Colas Foundation, Paris; Harba Collection, Iraq and Italy; Gulbenkian Collection, Barcelona; and Library of Congress and the World Bank, Washington, DC.

Dia Al-Azzawi has had a long association with Qatar Museums, featuring in the opening exhibition of Mathaf Arab Museum of Modern Art and QM Al Riwaq in 2010. His work is included in the ongoing Mathaf Encyclopedia of Modern Art and the Arab World, a pioneering online project developed by Qatar Museums, Qatar Foundation and Mathaf, to comprehensively document the work of Arab artists of the 20th and 21st century.



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Chinese ceramics from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art on view at the Vincent Price Art Museum

The Met Breuer opens first major retrospective in the United States of Marisa Merz

Sotheby's New York to offer property from the collection of Ed Cohen & Victoria Shaw

In Memoriam: Auctioneer and TV Personality Don Presley, 71

Wim Pijbes managing director of new foundation to support the arts in Rotterdam

Americana Week 2017 at Christie's realizes \$12.1 million and sets six records

Victoria Miro opens a group exhibition of contemporary and historical paintings

Drout to sell Jacques Volcouve's collection of Beatles memorabilia

Susan Krane stepping down as Executive Director of the San Jose Museum of Art

The Morgan Library & Museum appoints Jessica Ludwig as Deputy Director

**Most Popular Last Seven Days**

- 1.- Priceless Van Goghs or just plain art? Works sent to museum for authentication
- 2.- Exhibition dedicated to the years shared between Pablo Picasso and Olga Khokhlova opens
- 3.- Man faces court for slashing Thomas Gainsborough painting at the National Gallery
- 4.- Art world horrified by President Donald Trump's push to end funding
- 5.- Jane Austen faked her own marriage twice
- 6.- Exhibition chronicles rise of the Ebony Fashion Fair, empowerment of African-Americans through fashion
- 7.- Art world horrified by President Donald Trump's push to end funding
- 8.- Discoveries by Israel Antiquities Authority shine light on life in time of Christ
- 9.- TEFAF's top masterpiece goes to the Rijksmuseum

Collection from now closed Haeger Potteries at auction

[Major retrospective for Iraqi artist Dia Al-Azzawi on view in Qatar](#)

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Bellmans offering a great opportunity to fall in love with Cotswold School furniture

[Imbibe, an exhibition on drinking and culture, comes to the Fleming this winter](#)

Acrylic on wood by Ilya Bolotowsky (Russ./Am., 1907-1982) will lead Bruneau & Co.'s sale

10.- Exhibition devoted to the partnership between Michelangelo & Sebastiano opens

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