



Press release

Catalogue raisonné | Modern Egyptian art

Mahmoud Saïd Catalogue raisonné

This book is the first *catalogue raisonné* of paintings and drawings by one of the catalysts of modern Arab art: Mahmoud Saïd (1897–1964), an artist who more than any other managed to capture the rich tapestry of life in Egypt prior to the 1952 revolution.

Saïd's art was deeply rooted in the authentic character and daily life of his native land. Fused with his Western training, his intrinsically Egyptian style emerged in conjunction with the rise of nationalism in the country, exercising an undeniable influence on the broader search for a national identity that inspired the birth of modern Egyptian art.

Saïd was born into aristocratic circles in Alexandria. His father was former Egyptian Prime Minister Mohamed Saïd Pacha, and Saïd later became the uncle of the future Queen Farida of Egypt. He graduated from the French School of Law in 1919, before working as a lawyer, prosecutor and judge in Mansouria, Cairo and Alexandria, where he attained the office of Justice Councillor of the Alexandria Mixed Court. In 1947 he left the legal profession to dedicate himself solely to his art.

As an artist, Saïd participated in international exhibitions in Venice, Madrid and Alexandria. He staged exhibitions in New York, Paris, Rome, Moscow, Alexandria and Cairo. He was admitted to the French Legion d'Honneur, winning a medal for Honorary Merit in 1951, and in 1960 was the first artist to be awarded the State Merit Award for Arts by Egyptian President Gamal Abdul-Nasser.

Authors

Valérie Didier Hess, sales manager at Christie's Dubai office, has been actively involved in projects with major international institutions such as the Louvre in Paris, the Center for Restoration of Paintings in Museums of France in Paris, and the Princely Collections of the Liechtenstein Museum in Vienna (Austria).

Dr. Hussam Rashwan owns one of the world's foremost collections of Modern Egyptian Art. Through the expertise that he has gathered from his collection and his extensive personal library, Dr. Rashwan has become a leading academic authority on Modern Egyptian Art.

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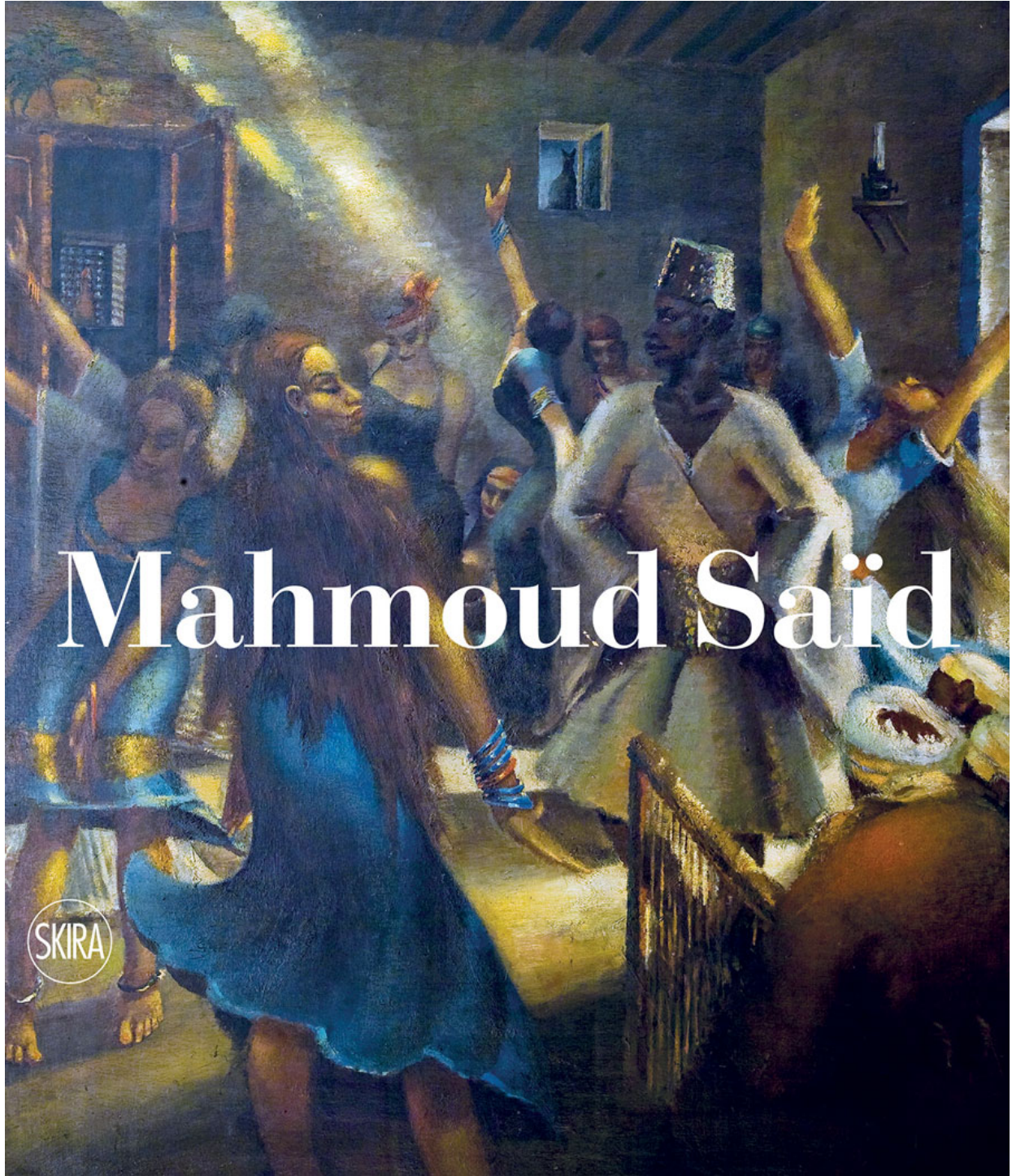
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Mahmoud Said

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