

EYE ON ART

# A RICH LEGACY: THE WORKS OF YASIN MUHAMMADAWI

The late Iraqi artist Yasin Muhammadawi, who died in his prime, journeyed long in the art world through artistic forms that have finally molded his ultimate art form and tools, resulting in works that were both impressive and unconventional. His search took him through a journey of the Iraqi, Babylonian and Sumerian history, and with his piercing vision and high sense of technique, he worked diligently on raw materials and produced striking methods of artistic implementation. He re-created this rich history of the ancient and the ancestors in a contemporary painting that was itself not all too distant from its historical background. Meanwhile, his modern paintings fulfilled all the conditions of artistic technicality and impeccability. This is in its own right an artistic dilemma seldom mastered by artists, but which Muhammadawi, with his expertise and vision, was able to resolve without falling into the folkloric trap of re-producing heritage art as a mere handicraft. He was like someone opening a window onto the rich heritage with great skill, delicate performance and futuristic vision, holding old and new audiences in awe. It was as if the bridge of creativity flowed, just like the waters of the Tigris and the Euphrates continue to flow, creating along their banks grand civilizations that were and continue to be, including our special artist Yasin Muhammadawi. It is a worthwhile experience that deserves great respect and appreciation. No doubt, the works of Muhammadawi will receive more understanding and appreciation in future than now, and will become prominent landmarks in the experience of Arab art and world history. It is evident people of the art world will seek at some point to showcase his art, and each of his works will have their own rightful value that far exceeds the materialistic. It is a completely different experience, entirely marked by the wonderful hands of the great artist, Yasin Muhammadawi. ■

