

LEILA NSEIR (Syria, 1941)

Born in Lattakia, Syria in 1941, Leila Nseir graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Cairo in 1963. Beginning her career during the height of Syrian modernism, she developed a focus in her painting that is akin to the work of the late Louay Kayyali, whose subject matter explored issues of life and death and the experiences of the working class. Finding artistic inspiration in the region's ancient civilizations, she often explored mythology as allegories for reality, delving into realism, expressionism then surrealism (and later utilized abstraction), all while experimenting with various mediums and techniques. Today her paintings have traces of these different periods of her oeuvre, indicating the path of a seasoned artist who has dared to frequently embark on new artistic journeys. Having had an extensive exhibition history, she has participated in countless artistic events throughout the world. A leading painter of her generation, she was honored by the Ministry of Culture for her contributions to local art in both 1968 and 1999. Nseir's work can be found in the National Museum of Damascus and numerous private collections throughout the Middle East, Asia, Europe and North America. She has spent most of her life in her native Syria.