Sarah Rogers

345 words

**Georges Daoud Corm (1896-1971, Lebanon)**

George Daoud Corm was a painter and francophone poet dedicated to the classical tradition of European Humanism and Christian ethics. He attended the Ecole Nationale Superieure des Beaux-Arts (1919-21). His paintings, predominantly oil on canvas and pastel on paper, document the importance of portraiture in Lebanon throughout the first half of the twentieth century. His subjects range from commissioned portraits of society members and royalty to anonymous figures, including several of *fellaheen*, or peasants. A significant number of self-portraits also remain. Corm’s formal language represents a transition from the conventions of the previous generation as witnessed in his use of a lighter palette and looser brushwork. Corm’s oeuvre also includes a substantial number of nudes, the hallmark of European academic conventions and of this generation of Lebanese artists. In 1966, he published his most well known written work, *Essai sur l’art et la civilization de ce temps*, in which Corm articulates an aesthetic position in the midst of a radically divided cold war culture. Critical of both American consumerism and Marxist Communism, Corm advocates a return to a classical European tradition of Humanism, rooted in Christian ethics. Corm’s deep commitment to Humanism and Christianity is evident in his landscapes, which are infused with spirituality, other worldliness, and hidden symbolism.

**References and further reading:**

Barbican Center (1989) *Lebanon: The Artist’s View, 200 Years of Lebanese Painting* London: Quartet, 105-106.

Chahine, Richard (1980) *One Hundred Years of Plastic Arts in Lebanon, 1880-1980, vols. I&II*, Beirut: Chahine Gallery, 7.

Corm, Georges D. (1966) *Essai sur l’art et la civilization de ce temps,* Beirut.

Esanu, Octavian, Curatorial Statement for “Lebanese Painterly Humanism: Georges D. Corm,” <http://www.aub.edu.lb/art_galleries/current/Pages/humanism.aspx>, accessed Jan 8 2014.

Fani, Michel “Corm, Georges,” *Dictionnaire de la Peinture au Liban,* Paris: Editions de L’Escalier, 81-83.

“George Corm,” <http://www.onefineart.com/en/artists/georgesdcorm/index_en.shtml>, accessed Jan 2 2014.

Georges G. Corm, ed. (1981) *Georges Daoud Corm, Peintre et Portraitiste Libanais, 1893-1971*, Beirut.

“Profiles: Collecting in Lebanon—Georges Corm,” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZ4LmiXtfw4>, accessed Jan 2 2014.

Naef, Silvia (1996) A la recherche d’une modernité arabe: l’évolution des arts plastiques en Egypte, au Liban et en Irak, Genève: Slatkine.