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| **Museum of Modern Egyptian Art (Mathaf al-Fann al-Misri al-Hadith)** |
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| The Museum of Modern Egyptian Art (Mathaf al-Fann al-Hadith, or Musée d’Art Moderne) began as a collection initiated in the mid-1920s, paid for by the state, and overseen by the Society of the Friends of Art. The inauguration of the museum on 8 February 1931 represented the achievement of a key component of a wider blueprint implemented by the country’s first state-run administrative body for the arts. The museum’s mandate covered the acquisition and display of both Egyptian and non-Egyptian (primarily European) works of art including oil paintings, watercolours, lithographs, etchings, sculpture, medals, and ceramics. The collection originally included works dating to as early as the eighteenth century up to the contemporary moment. Its expansion was supported by a budget allocated by the state for the purchase of works, as well as private donations. Contemporary Egyptian artists figured alongside the general public as the museum’s original target audience. The museum seemed to guarantee the Egyptian public’s access to important work. Plans devoted to restructuring Cairo’s advanced school of art often treated the museum as an important consideration. While much of the early collection came from Europe and not Egypt, as critics noted at the time, the acquisition of works by Egyptian artists was understood as part of the institution’s mandate, and the museum was seen as central to the realisation of an Egyptian ‘artistic renaissance’. |
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| Further reading:  (Ministry of Culture - Sector of Fine Arts)  (Ministry of Education)  (Musée d'Art Moderne (Museum of Modern Art))  (Gharib)  (Salmawy and Razzaz) |