Sarah Dwider

196 words

**Nagdi, Omar el-** (b. 1931, Egypt)

Omar el-Nagdi began his art education at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Cairo and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in 1953. He received a second bachelor’s degree in 1957 from the Faculty of Applied Arts in Cairo. In addition to his studies in Egypt, El-Nagdi studied abroad in Russia, Italy and Holland. Beginning in 1957, El-Nagdi served as an instructor at the Faculty of Applied Arts in Cairo. Omar el-Nagdi’s early works were primarily figural paintings inspired by Egyptian folk traditions. In the 1960s, he shifted to full abstraction and the calligraphic Arabic letter became a prominent theme in his work. El-Nagdi also created a running series of sculptural works that translated the angular figures from his early paintings into three-dimensional forms.

**References and Further Reading:**

“Omar Salah Eddin Ali al-Nagdy” *Ministry of Culture: Sector of Fine Arts*. Accessed October 30, 2013. http://www.fineart.gov.eg/eng/cv/CV.asp?IDS=746.

(A thorough curriculum vitae compiled by the Egyptian Ministry of Culture.)

Zaoui, Amin (1999) *Omar El Nagdi: Quand le peintre eveille le probable et reveille le possible.* Translated by Eric Metayer. Honfleur: Galerie des arts de l’Enclos.

(An excellent monograph discussing el-Nagdi’s early life and role in Egyptian modernism. English translations provided.)