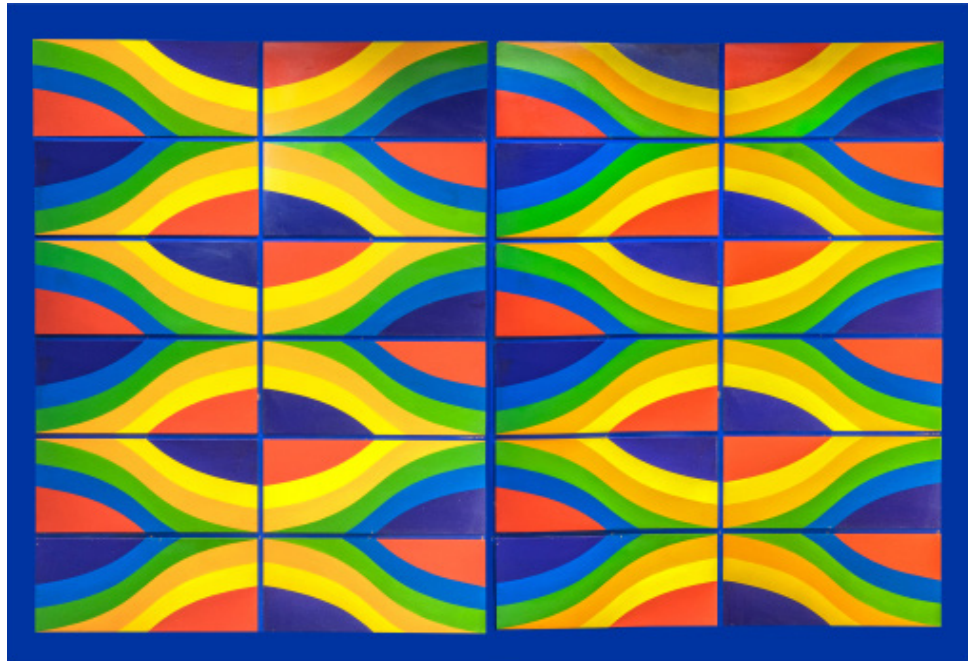


# ARTCURIAL

Press release



*Exceptional works created by  
Mohamed Melehi in 1969  
for the Hotel «Les Roses du Dadès»  
in the Valley of Roses*

Sale on 30 May 2021, at Hôtel La Mamounia, Marrakech

On 30 May, Artcurial Morocco, established a year and a half ago, will hold a special auction at La Mamounia, in Marrakech. Highlights in the sale include two painted ceilings as well as carved cedar wood compositions created in 1969 by Mohamed Melehi for the hotel «Les Roses du Dadès», at Kelaat M'gouna in the south of Morocco. Moucharabieh and ceiling lights by the artist Mohamed Chebaa will also be offered.

MARRAKECH – Artcurial Morocco is proud to present this sale on 30 May 2021. The auction house has chosen to honour Mohamed Melehi who died in October 2020 as a result of COVID-19, and there will be 11 works by this important Moroccan artist starring in the sale.

From the end of the 1960s, talented artists Mohamed Melehi (1936-2020) and Mohamed Chebaa (1935-2013), both major figures at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts de Casablanca, joined forces with the architect duo Patrice de Mazières and Abdesslem Faraoui, instigators of a modern style of architecture inspired by the brutalist movement. They worked together on numerous innovative projects to promote the Great Moroccan South region, incorporating artworks into the buildings. Opening in 1970, the hotel «Roses du Dadès» is a

flagship example of this synergy. The highly modernist building is in Kelaat M'gouna in the Valley of Roses, set in a landscape rich in history and heritage.

Offered in the sale will be two large ceiling works, composed of 48 cellulose painted wood panels (est: 600 000 - 800 000 MAD / 60 000 – 80 000 €/ceiling) and two mural compositions of 60 and 18 carved cedar panels (est: 150 000 – 200 000 MAD / 15 000 – 20 000 € and 100 000 – 150 000 MAD / 10 000 – 15 000 €) both by Mohamed Melehi. The Moucharabieh (est: 16 000 – 18 000 MAD / 1 600 – 1 800 €) and the ceiling lights (est: 30 000 – 50 000 MAD / 3 000 – 5 000 €) were made by Mohamed Chebaa.

***« This will be a special sale. It pays homage to a great artist that we sadly lost last year. Mohamed Melehi illustrated the richness of the Moroccan national heritage. He knew how to establish a relationship between traditional and contemporary art. The painted ceilings and cedar compositions are very representative of his talent and modernity. »***

- Olivier Berman  
Director Artcurial Morocco



Painted ceilings by Mohamed Melehi, Hôtel les Roses du Dadès, © Archives Toni Maraini

Architecture of Hôtel les Roses du Dadès, Kelaat M'gouna, 1971-1972. Architects Faraoui and de Mazières ©Cabinet Faraoui et de Mazières

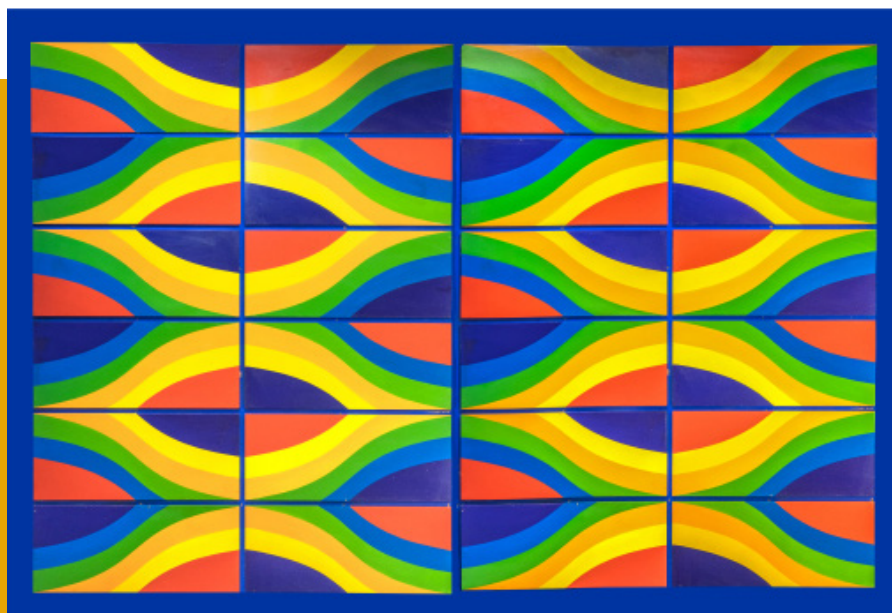


## *Mohamed Melehi (1936-2020)*

Born in Assilah in 1936, in the north of Morocco, Mohamed Melehi was a painter, graphic designer, teacher, muralist and cultural activist. He was a prominent figure in Moroccan art central to the history of modernism. He graduated from the École des Beaux-Arts de Tétouan in 1955 before leaving to study Fine Art in Seville and Madrid, sculpture in Rome and printmaking in Paris. At the start of the 1960s he travelled to the United States where he studied at Columbia University for two years before returning to Morocco in 1964. Melehi explored the cultural heritage of Morocco which was his primary source of inspiration and used a bold palette.

## *Mohamed Chebaa (1935-2013)*

Mohamed Chebaa was born in Tangier in 1935. Having graduated from the École des Beaux-Arts de Tétouan in 1955, he left for Italy to study at the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome between 1962 and 1964. On his return to Morocco, he taught at the Fine Art school in Casablanca before being appointed director of the National Institute of Fine Art in Tétouan. Chebaa is an important figure in the history of modern painting in Morocco.



Mohamed MELEHI  
Composition, circa 1969/1970  
Cellulose paint on panel  
24 panels of 118 cm x 50 cm  
350 cm x 500 cm  
Provenance : Hôtel Les Roses  
du Dadès (Rose M'gouna)  
Kelaat M'gouna, Maroc

Estimate :  
600 000 - 800 000 MAD  
60 000 - 80 000 €



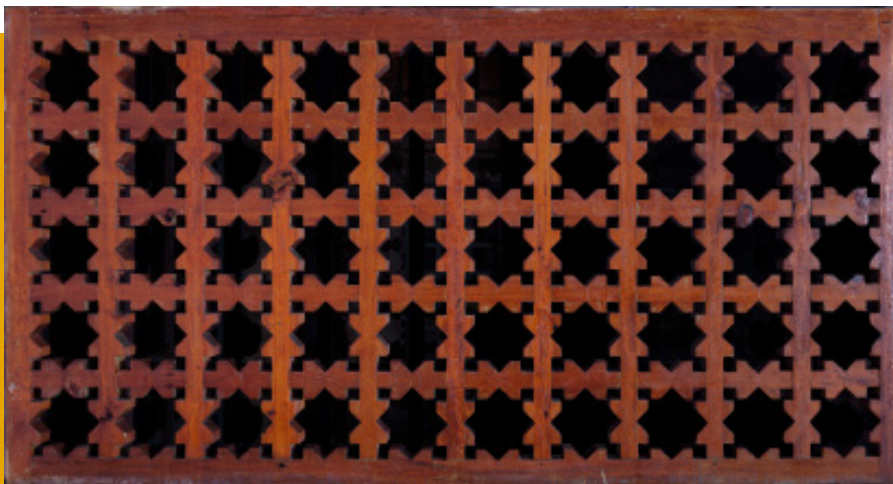
Mohamed MELEHI  
 Composition, circa 1969/1970  
 Carved cedar wood  
 18 panels of de 33,5 x 33,5 cm - 100,5 x 203 cm  
 Provenance : Hôtel Les Roses du Dadès (Rose M'gouna)  
 Kelaa M'gouna, Maroc  
 Estimate : 100 000 - 150 000 MAD / 10 000 - 15 000 €



Mohamed MELEHI  
 Composition, circa 1969/1970  
 Carved cedar wood  
 60 panels of 33,5 x 33,5 cm - 200 x 332,5 cm  
 Provenance : Hôtel Les Roses du Dadès (Rose M'gouna)  
 Kelaa M'gouna, Maroc  
 Estimate : 150 000 - 200 000 MAD / 15 000 - 20 000 €

## *L'inspiration de Mohamed Melehi*

*« As far as I'm concerned, I must say that in discovering the visual side of Moroccan art, I realised I had been working in this direction instinctively. Of course, my rejection of academic art and affinity with modern fine art methods prepared the way for this. In terms of my work, a deeper understanding of our artistic traditions gave a new direction and a new context to my research. »* Mohamed Melehi, extracts from the magazine Souffle (which he helped to create) n°7-8, 1967.



Mohamed CHEBAA  
 Moucharabieh, circa 1969/1970  
 Carved cedar wood - 134,5 x 253,5 cm  
 Provenance : Hôtel Les Roses du Dadès (Rose M'gouna), Kelaa M'gouna, Maroc  
 Estimate : 16 000 - 18 000 MAD / 1 600 - 1 800 €

## USEFUL INFORMATION

Public viewing :  
From Thursday 27 May to Saturday 29 May  
2021, from 11.00 - 20.00  
Sunday 30 May 2021, from 11.00 - 13.00

Sale :  
Sunday 30 May 2021 - 16.00  
At Hôtel La Mamounia, Marrakech

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## PRESS MATERIAL

HR images available on request

The full catalogue can be viewed on  
[artcurial.com](http://artcurial.com)

### *About Artcurial*

Founded in 2002, multidisciplinary Paris based auction house Artcurial confirmed its leading position on the international art market scene in 2020. With three sale venues in Paris, Monaco and Marrakech, the auction house achieved an overall sales total of 149,2 million euros in 2020.

Artcurial covers all the major specialist fields including Fine Arts, Decorative Arts, Collectors' Cars, Jewellery, Watches, Fine Wines and Spirits...

With a strong international bias, Artcurial maintains its presence abroad with offices in Brussels, Milan, Monte-Carlo, Munich and Vienna.

In October 2015, Artcurial held its first sale in Hong Kong and Morocco.

[artcurial.com](http://artcurial.com)

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