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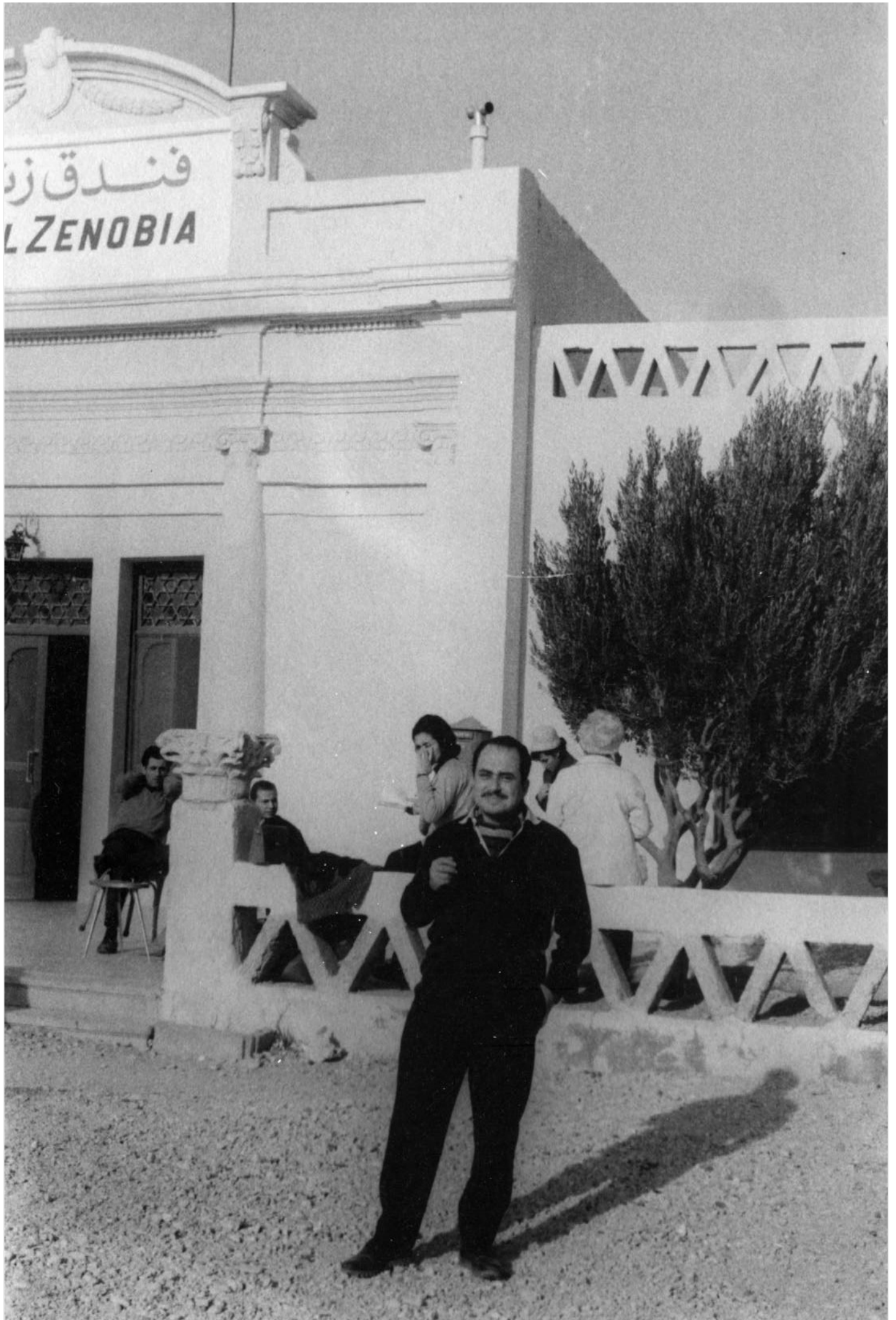
The Art Dubai Blog

The Art Dubai Blog is a platform that shares and promotes exhibitions, projects, new work and ideas from around the world, focusing on the Middle East and South Asia.

ARCHIVE

Elias Zayat's 'After the Deluge' at Green Art Gallery

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Elias Zayat in Tadmor / Palmyra, 1965. Courtesy of Green Art Gallery.

Now in his 80s, Syrian artist Elias Zayat is a cornerstone in his nation's contemporary art movement. His latest exhibit, 'After the Deluge', returns to the ancient Syrian city of Palmyra in Green Art Gallery, Alserkal Avenue, and runs until November 4.

On Wednesday, September 16, the public will be able to hear Zayat speak in person as he converses with curator and historian Salwa Mikdadi on his life and work. The talk begins at 7pm.

'We find it important to not forget all those who laid the groundwork for the regional art scene today,' says Nadine Khoury of Alserkal Avenue's Green Art Gallery. 'It's an especially rare treat to be able to have someone like Elias who, in addition to being a founder of the highly influential Damascus Group, as an educator had an immeasurable impact on the younger generation of Syrian artists working today.'

Salwa Mikdadi, who has been instrumental in the development of the Arab world's modern and contemporary art history, is producing Elias' monograph and was an ideal choice to speak to Zayat. Khoury adds, 'Salwa is intimately versed with both his practice and the broader sociohistorical and aesthetic movements of his context.'



Elias Zayat in Sofia in the University of Sofia courtyard, 1957. Courtesy of Green Art Gallery.

Unlike other talks in the city – which are mostly in English – the artist talk for ‘After the Deluge’ will remain in Arabic, with an English translation throughout.

‘Today, the bulk of critical writing and even programming about regional art takes place in English. Yet with translation—of words, of images, of ideas—there is an inevitable loss of meaning,’ she says. ‘In light of this, we thought it was crucial that this talk be in Arabic while providing live translation for non-Arabic speakers.’

Behind the scenes of Green Art Gallery’s set up of ‘After the Deluge’, Khoury says that the works called for something different than other exhibitions: muted walls and impactful lighting.

‘For this specific show the Green Art Gallery team decided on painting the walls a light grey to allow the vibrant artwork of Elias Zayat to set off,’ she adds.

‘Additionally, we opted to move away from traditional brightly lit gallery by dramatically lighting each artwork. The spotlight effect pulls in the viewer, creating an intimate viewing experience with each artwork.’



‘After the Deluge’ by Elias Zayat at Green Art Gallery, Sept 14 - Nov 4 2015. Courtesy of Green Art Gallery.



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View more of Zayat's works for 'After the Deluge' [here](#).

Elias Zayat in conversation with art historian Salwa Mikdadi takes place on Wednesday, September 16 2015 at 7pm in Green Art Gallery, Al Quoz 1, Street 8, Alserkal Avenue, Unit 28.

Sep 16th, 2015