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Benezit Dictionary of Artists

## GUERMAZ, Abdelkader

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## GUERMAZ, Abdelkader

Algerian, 20th century, male.

Active in France.

Born 1919, in Mascara, Algeria; died 9 August 1996, in Paris.

Painter. Still-lives, landscapes, abstract compositions.

Abdelkader Guermaz grew up in the town of Oran and attended the École des Beaux-Arts there from 1938 to 1940 and showed his works at the Galerie Colline throughout the '40s and '50s. Until the mid-1950s Guermaz worked in the figurative style of the 'Peintres de Réalité poétique'. His early works were landscapes and still-lives, but after 1955 he painted increasingly abstract works, and was drawn to the avant-garde of artists in Paris, where he moved in 1961. In the 1970s Guermaz began painting works with modulated neutral fields punctuated by touches of color and subtle grid-like patterns, conceived as 'abstract landscapes'. He exhibited frequently at the Robert Martin Gallery (1963–1967) and Paris salons (1963–1981).

Guermaz is considered one of the founders of modern art in Algeria, alongside his contemporaries Khadda, Benanteur and Aksouh. This development of a national school is significant in light of Algerian independence in 1962.

## Group Exhibitions

1951, Biennale, Menton, France

1960–1969, Salon, Paris

1963, *Peintres Algériens*, Musée des Beaux-Arts d'Alger, Algiers, Algeria

1964, *Peintres Algériens*, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris

1966, *Six Peintres du Maghreb*, Galerie Peintres du Monde, Paris

1986, *Peinture Algérienne Contemporaine*, Palais de la Culture, Algiers

## Solo Exhibitions

1963, Galerie M. J. Dumay, Paris

1974–1981, Galerie Entremonde, Paris

2009, *Hommage à Guermaz*, Centre Culturel Algérien, Paris

2012, *Guermaz: L'Alliance du spirituel et du sensible*, Galerie Hebert, Paris

## Museum and Gallery Holdings

Algiers (MBA)

Oran, Algeria (Mus. National Ahmed Zabana)

Paris (Fonds National d'Art Contemporain)

Paris (Centre Culturel Algérien)

Paris (Institute du Monde Arabe)

## Bibliography

Bernard, Georges-Michel: 'Algerie, Pientres des deux rives', in *Artension*, no. 10, March–April 2003.

Tio Bellido, Ramon: *Le XXe siècle dans l'art algérien*. AICA Press/AFAA. Paris. 2009.