

Oil paintings, drawings, graphics and sculptures are the latest creations of world-renowned artist **Omar El-Nagdy** currently on display at **Al-Masar** gallery in Zamalek. El-Nagdy is one of the contemporary art icons of Egypt. This show displays the entire oeuvre of the artist whether paintings or sculptures in various sizes. The paintings depict a number of themes, some of them in epic style. In his recent production, technology plays a very crucial role proving that the master makes very good use of his tools, adopting the state-of-the-art techniques. He is one of the rare artists who makes brilliant use of relief, with smooth and rough parts giving the illusion of depth in the work's surface. Most of his art focuses on man and his pain, sorrow and endless suffering; however, he doesn't paint the human figure with his facial features but reflects him and his struggles in his own way that distinguishes him among his contemporaries. His paintings reflect human suffering through an amazingly mixed palette of colours as if they are a colourful caricature.

Interestingly enough, El-Nagdy is the sole Arab artist to have his own museum of art in Paris. In 1961, he participated in a big exhibition with 26 international artists including Monet, Picasso and Salvador Dali in Italy. He graduated from the Cairo Faculty of Fine Arts in 1935, and resumed his studies at the Faculty of Applied Arts in 1957 and at Italy's Academy of Fine Arts in 1963. He is presently head and professor of interior design and fur-



nishing at the Faculty of Applied Arts. A number of El-Nagdy's paintings are part of the acquisitions of some museums, art foundations and private organisations in Italy, the United Kingdom, the United States, Japan and South Korea.

The exhibition is on until 2 May.

Above is one of El-Nagdy's oil paintings.