

## ART

Last week's review focussed on the late philosopher, painter, educator, humanist and founder of the Contemporary Art Group **Hussein Youssef Amin** (1904-1984) and the current exhibition of his works. This week's review looks at the history of two other late artists who are legends in the history of Egyptian contemporary art: **Abdel-Hadi El-Gazzar** and **Hamed Nada**, whose works are exhibited alongside those of Amin at **Al-Masar** gallery in Zamalek. They were cofounders along with Amin of the Contemporary Art Group in 1946. Born in Sayeda Zeinab district, Nada made it a point to live with the common folk and experience their living conditions, which he reflected in his surrealist paintings. Throughout his long artistic journey he relied on symbolism to echo the human experience, and his surrealist works depict brilliantly authentic Egyptian folk rituals.

El-Gazzar, another founder of the group, was mainly concerned with expressing the pain and despair of the poor people who inhabit the Egyptian alleys. He used rough, melancholic, strong lines and brush strokes within a magical metaphysical ambiance.

The painting in the picture is by Nada. The exhibition runs through 21 March.

***Nagwa El-Ashri***

