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This summer Artprice will be presenting the future stars of the art market in the form of a weekly ranking of the thirty top-selling artists aged under 30 in each artistic medium: this week we focus on photography.

Up and coming photographers

Photography is perhaps the most prolific artistic medium of our era and today's young artists are eagerly exploiting the infinite possibilities it offers. It is also a rich vein for collectors and auction houses, which in 2011 sold nearly 14,000 "signed" photographs worldwide, generating a total revenue of around \$150m. In recent years, the sky high prices achieved by [Andreas GURSKY](#), [Cindy SHERMAN](#) and [Richard PRINCE](#) (each of whom has a personal auction record of at least \$3m) have stimulated the secondary market for works by young photographers already bold enough to face the harsh judgment of auction houses although still in their twenties.

Among these young initiates at auctions, we have compiled a selection of thirty artists aged under 30 that above all reflects the incredible advance of the Middle East. In effect, this region of the world stands out sharply from the rest of the world by the number of young artists who are already on the secondary market. Among the 30 highest priced photographs at auctions in 2011, eleven were created by artists from the Middle East!

Top 30 : photography

Rank	Artist	Auction result
1	Sami AL-TURKI	\$22000
2	JR	\$20962
3	Oleg DOU	\$17952
4	Dash SNOW	\$17000
5	Maxwell SNOW	\$15000
6	Marwa ADEL	\$12000
7	Peng ZHANG	\$11344
8	Tim PARCHIKOV	\$7833
9	Lamya GARGASH	\$7500
10	Mourad GHARRACH	\$4772
11	EL PRADINO	\$4285
12	Ido ABRAMSOHN	\$4250
13	Sun MI AHN	\$4225
14	Zineb LAYACHI	\$4175
15	Meera HURAIZ	\$3800
16	Teresa & Alexander HUBBARD & BIRCHLER	\$3462
17	Gozde TURKKAN	\$3298
18	Genevieve CHUA	\$3215
19	Othman ZINE	\$2982
20	Lella ALAOUI	\$2863
21	Benjamin DEROCHE	\$2838
22	Tatiana MACEDO	\$2764
23	Sinem DISLI	\$2198
24	Babak KAZEMI	\$2100
25	Macoto MURAYAMA	\$2056
26	Hazem MAHDY	\$2000
27	Lovis OSTENRIK	\$1980
28	Ida BORG	\$1891
29	Agnes PRAMMER	\$1775
30	Alena ZHANDAROVA	\$1502

A dynamic Middle Eastern market

Christie's Dubai, Sotheby's Doha and the Moroccan Company of Works & Works of Art (CMOOA) have been particularly supportive to young Middle Eastern photographers who subsequently receive a good reception on the Parisian market. The young [Sami AL-TURKI](#), born to a Saudi father and Irish mother, can be proud of an auction debut in 2011 at \$22,000! His large format *Marhaba* (120 x 200 cm, three copies) more than tripled its high estimate at Christie's Dubai on April 19, 2011. As it is often the case for the younger generation of Middle Eastern photographers, the work of Sami Al Turki reflects a quest for identity and the interaction of different cultures.

An auction debut at such a high price level is rare for a young artist, especially for a photographer.

The Egyptian [Marwa ADEL](#) (born 1984) is one of the top-selling young photographers, on 26 October 2011, she earned an auction record of \$12,000 for an *sans titre* triptych (Christie's, Dubai). Already eight of her photographs have been sold between Casablanca, Dubai, Doha (from 2010 to July 2012). Her naked bodies photographed and digitally reworked show the necessary restraint to be successful among her compatriots.

We also note the more than respectable results of three artists born in 1982: [Lamya GARGASH](#) has only sold in Dubai where she was born and where her works today fetch between \$1,600 and \$7,500; [Mourad GHARRACH](#), whose works fetch between \$1,800 and \$5,000 in Casablanca and Paris (where he lives) and [Zineb LAYACHI](#), two of whose works fetched above \$4,000 on 26 November 2011 at CMOOA.

Even younger, the Turkish artist [Gozde TURKKAN](#) (1984) entered the auction market with a print from his series *Pay here* (2010) at Christie's Paris that was acquired for €2,400 (\$3,300). Gozde Turkan uses photography both as a socio-political critical tool and as a medium for a subjective view of the society he lives in, evoking issues relating to politics, identity and domination. Five years younger, [Meera HURAIZ](#) (born 1989) lives in Dubai. Aware of how much fashion is an extension of cultural identity and how the way we dress dictates a certain relationship with other people and with the world, the young artist ironically appropriates cultural codes, especially those related to women (the bourka) and handicraft (Fatto a Mano, a project ordered by the brand Fendi). She draws generously from her traditional culture as well as from Western popular culture (Jean Paul Gaultier or Ridley Scott) to create improbable encounters, such as the mask she wears for her Madonna photo, a mask whose shape takes the form of Jean-Paul Gaultier's pointed cup corset that Madonna exhibited in the 1980s. Sold at Christie's Dubai, *Madonna* (100cm x 150cm, 3 copies) fetched \$3,800 on 26 October 2011, a handsome result for an auction debut.

Sami Al Turki and Marwa Adel are the only Middle Eastern artists who have generated auction results above \$10,000. They are joined in this bracket by two American artists Dash and Maxwell Snow, the Frenchman [JR](#), a Russian, [Oleg DOU](#) and a Chinese artist [Peng ZHANG](#).

American Dynasty: the Snow Brothers

Great-grand-son of the great American collectors John and Dominique de Menil, [Dash SNOW](#) led to a brief and dissolute life substantially dominated by sex and drugs. His nocturnal excesses resulting in daytime losses of memory, he began taking Polaroid pictures as a record. His "unique memories of his nights" are for him cheap souvenirs, but for fans of underground culture they represent raw, violent and alternative photographic records of the low-life of contemporary culture. He was in fact very much in the same tradition as [Nan GOLDIN](#), [Larry CLARK](#) and [Richard BILLINGHAM](#) and was considered one of the most promising artists of his generation. At age 27, he had already exhibited at the Royal Academy of Arts, London (USA Today exhibition organized by Charles Saatchi), the Whitney Biennial and the Palais de Tokyo in Paris. He was found dead in his room following a drug overdose a few days before his 28th birthday. This lightning career went hand in hand with a strong demand for his photographs at auction. In 2011, his *Untitled (Jade B&W Cemetery)* (3 copies) beat all expectations when it sold for \$17,000 against a high estimate of \$12,000 (23 September, Phillips de Pury & Company, New York). A year earlier in London, the same print sold for \$11,000 less (roughly \$6,200) at Christie's London (16 September 2010).

This result of \$17,000 (which is not his best auction record, only his best result in 2011) made him one of the most expensive young artists just ahead of his younger brother, [Maxwell SNOW](#) (born 1984). The latter was presented in a single sale, dedicated to the designer Muriel Brandinoli. Buoyed by enthusiasm for a famous provenance, his three silvered prints more than doubled their high estimates reaching results between \$10,000 and \$15,000 (Phillips de Pury & Company, New York).

Two French competitors: JR and Benjamin Deroche

In France, where the photographic tradition is one of the richest in the world (along with the United States), two artists stand out among the 30 top-selling artists in the under-30 category: the already famous [JR](#) and the emerging [Benjamin DEROCHE](#). For [JR](#), born in 1984, the street is the "largest art gallery in the world." The artist has rapidly made a name for himself by daubing streets and neighborhoods all over the world (Africa, USA, Brazil, France, China, etc.). The photos that art buyers find at auctions are shots of on-site installations, often illegal,

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