

Sheikh Nasser Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah

A tribute by Rachel Ward

Sheikh Nasser will be a huge loss to the field of Islamic art. He was one of the first serious collectors of Islamic art in the Gulf and he inspired many others to follow in his path. He was a particularly knowledgeable and enthusiastic collector who bought interesting, historical objects as well as visual masterpieces to create an enormous collection of superb quality that spanned the Islamic world – and beyond.

Sheih Nasser stood out for his generosity and desire to share his collection with others, in exhibitions (which museum has not benefited from an exhibition drawn from the collection?) and beautiful publications by leading scholars. Like many others, I have personally benefited from visiting and studying the collection in Kuwait and being provided with images of objects to illustrate books and articles.

He and his wife Sheikha Hussa put together a dedicated team to curate and run the collection along the open access principles he established. They are working to prepare a new museum for the collection which will be a magnificent monument to Sheikh Nasser.