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400th Anniversary of the birth of Peter Paul Rubens

The great Flemish painter Rubens (1577 - 1640) went to Rome in 1600 at the impressionable age of twenty-three to study. When he returned to Antwerp in 1608, he had learned everything there was to be learned.



He was very successful, had great organising ability and personal charm. Many gifted painters in Flanders were proud to work under his direction. Sometimes he would paint only a small coloured sketch which his pupils would transfer onto a large canvas, where he would put in the finishing touches.

The greatest secret of his art was his magic skill in making anything alive, intensely and joyfully alive.





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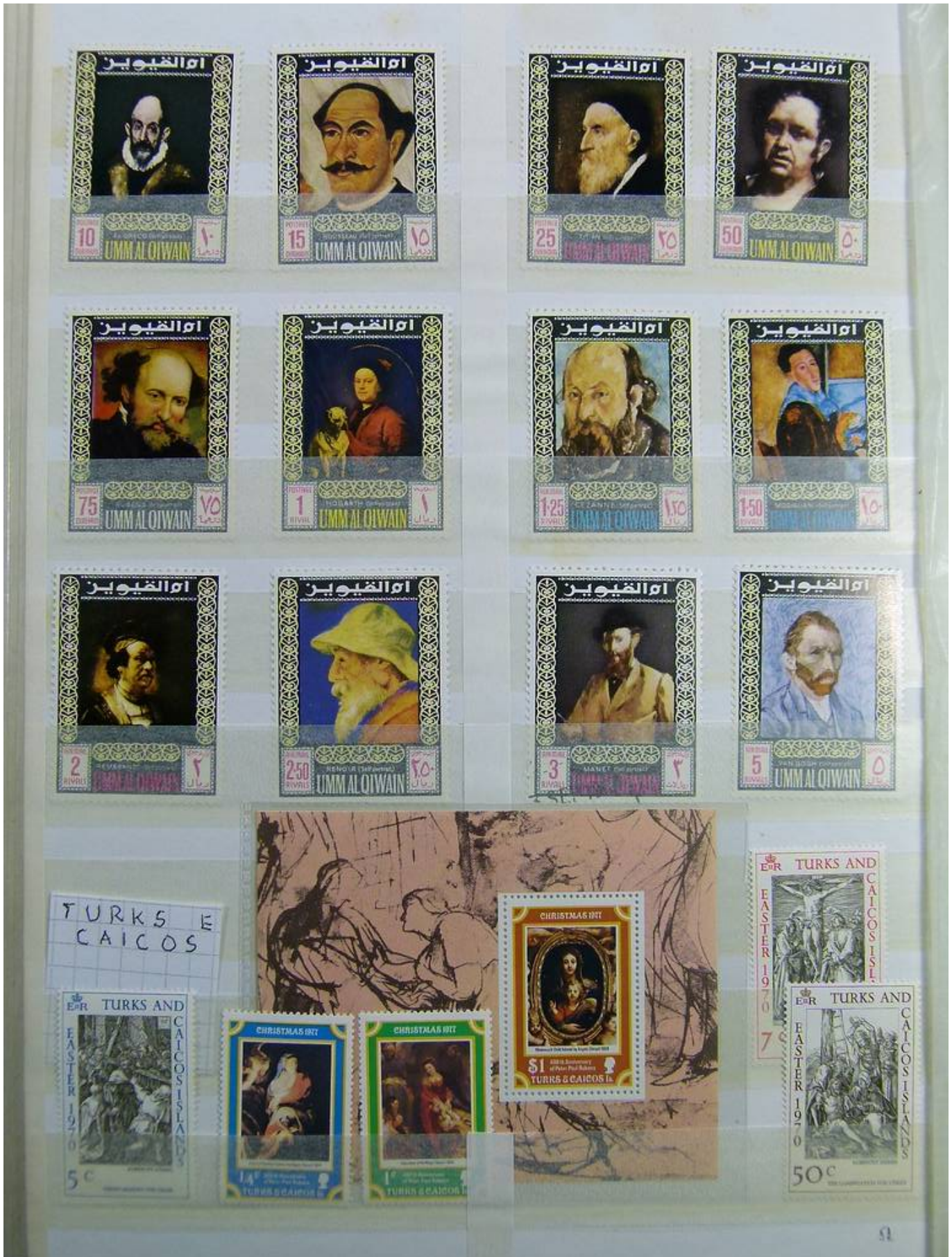




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