beirut LEGAL CLINIC for artists

ROUNDTABLES

2 DAYS OF LEGAL KNOWLEDGE AROUND ARTS AND CULTURE PRACTICES, INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVES, AND REAL-LIFE PREDICAMENTS.

TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER &

WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER

5PM-8PM

BOOK YOUR FREE 1-ON-1 CONSULTATION

FIRST SESSIONS:
NOVEMBER 3 & 17, 2026
ADDITIONAL SLOTS AVAILABLE
DECEMBER 2026 – APRIL 2027

https://beirutartcenter.org/event/beirut-legal-clinic-for-artists/

AFAC ARAB FUND FOR ARTS AND CULTURE
الصندوق العربي للثقافة والفنون

ROUNDTABLES PROGRAM

FROM CREATION TO PROTECTION

For any questions or assistance, please approach a member of our event team. Our team members will be available throughout the programme to help guide visitors, answer questions, and ensure a smooth experience for everyone.

Event Support Team: ***Lara Nuwayhed, Christa Maria Sleiman, Lea Abou Halka, Rita Chibani, Evy Ghazal, Teresia Matta, Tala Darwich***

DAY 1 TUES 27 OCT

5:00 PM | **Welcome Word and Introduction**

5:15 PM – 6:00 PM | **DISCUSSION 1 - Access to Law: Why Legal Clinics Matter for Artists in Lebanon**

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM | **Coffee Break**

6:30 PM – 7:15 PM | **DISCUSSION 2 - The Right to Create: Artists, Censorship and Legal Protection in Lebanon**

7:15 PM – 8:00 PM | **DISCUSSION 3 - Who Gets Paid When Music Is Played? Collective Management, Rights and Royalties in Lebanon**

8:00 PM – 8:20 PM | **Listening Session with Mayssa Jallad**

DAY 2 WED 27 OCT

5:00 PM – 5:15 PM | **Welcome and Introduction to Day 2**

5:15 PM – 6:00 PM | **DISCUSSION 4 - From Conception to Exploitation: The Legal Journey Of An Audiovisual Work**

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM | **Coffee Break**

6:30 PM – 7:20 PM | **DISCUSSION 5 - Protecting and Enforcing Creative Rights**

7:20 PM – 7:40 PM | **DISCUSSION 6 - Closing Remarks**

7:40 PM – 8:00 PM | **Film Projection: Traces by Chantal Partamian**

DAY 1 TUES 27 OCT

5:00 PM – 5:15 PM | Welcome Word and Introduction

FOCUS: Welcome remarks and an introduction to the Beirut Arts Legal Clinic, its mission and vision for the year ahead. The opening session will highlight the importance of legal awareness in the arts, outline the five discussions across the two-day inaugural conference, and introduce the Beirut Legal Clinic's pro bono program. It will cover details such as : who can access the service, how to request a consultation, what the consultations cover, and how the Clinic can offer referrals or further assistance when needed. This will be followed by a presentation of the program assistants for the six-month pilot.

OPENING SPEAKERS

Me Lily Abichahine *– Initiator of the Beirut Legal Clinic*

Ibrahim Nehmeh *– Director of the Beirut Art Center*

Me Walid Abou Farhat *– Chair of the Intellectual Property at the Beirut Bar Association*

5:15 PM – 6:00 PM | DISCUSSION 1 - Access to Law: Why Legal Clinics Matter for Artists in Lebanon. *Making Legal Support Accessible to the Artistic Community*

FOCUS: Exploring what legal aid means in practice for artists, how legal clinics can provide accessible support, and when artists may need to seek formal legal recourse to protect their rights. The discussion will draw on the successful precedent of the USJ Legal Clinic and consider how its experience can inform the development of the Beirut Legal Clinic for Artists.

MODERATOR

Me Lily Abichahine *– Initiator of the Beirut Legal Clinic*

SPEAKERS

Sarah Gharios *– Doctor of Law, Director of the FDSP Legal clinic (le Dispensaire Juridique): The successful experience of the USJ legal clinic.*

Me Ghida Frangieh *– Executive Director of the Legal Agenda - Of the importance of specialised legal clinics.*

Judge President Michelle Mezher *– Judge at the State Council, Legal Counsel to the Minister of Culture – The role of the Ministry in protecting artistic activity and regulating the cultural sector, with an overview of the initiatives and activities currently undertaken by the Ministry.*

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM | Coffee Break

FOCUS : An opportunity for creators, artists, lawyers, producers, broadcasters, publishers and collective management representatives to meet, exchange perspectives.

6:30 PM – 7:15 PM | DISCUSSION 2 - The Right to Create. *Artists, Censorship and Legal Protection in Lebanon*

FOCUS: What happens when artistic expression encounters censorship? The discussion will explore artists' experiences of administrative censorship, the legal framework governing artistic freedom, and the avenues available to artists to challenge or navigate restrictions on their work.

MODERATOR

Me Lily Abichahine *– Initiator of the Beirut Legal Clinic*

SPEAKERS

Roy Dib *- Multidisciplinary artist and film maker*

Bassem Deaibess *– Musician, cultural activist, and founder of Blaakyum (joining on Zoom)*

Me Farouk El Moghraby *– Lawyer – Censorship in Lebanon: A Contested Legal Framework*

Tony Chakar *– The Three cases of the Ashkal Alwan statue in the Ain el Mreisseh area, the participation in an exhibition near the Palestinian Pavilion and the reconstruction of Beirut's southern suburbs*

Jiscar Lahoud *– Representative of the Syndicate of Actors in Lebanon*

Darine Abou Saad *– Cultural Practitioner | Ettijahat – Independent Culture*

7:15 PM – 8:00 PM | DISCUSSION 3 - Who Gets Paid When Music Is Played? Collective Management, Rights and Royalties in Lebanon. *The Role of Collective Management Organisations and SACEM in Lebanon.*

FOCUS: Who owns the rights to a piece of music, who manages them, and who gets paid when that music is used? The discussion will explore music rights in Lebanon, the practical role of collective management, and how licensing, royalty collection, and distribution work for artists and other rightsholders.

MODERATOR

Me Charbel Nassar *– Lawyer and professor at the Lebanese University*

SPEAKERS

Dr. Pierre El Khoury *– Attorney-at-Law / Intellectual Property and ICT Law Specialist / International Consultant*

Jeanette Azar *– Representative of SACEM in Lebanon*

Mayssa Jallad *– Singer-songwriter and urban researcher*

Etyen (Samer Etienne El Chami) *– Musician and producer*

8:00 PM – 8:20 PM | Listening session

Listening session with Mayssa Jallad

DAY 2 WED 27 OCT

5:00 PM – 5:15 PM | Welcome and Introduction to Day 2

FOCUS: Welcome remarks and a brief recap of the key questions raised on Day 1, followed by an introduction to the themes of Day 2 and the Beirut Legal Clinic's ongoing support for artists and cultural practitioners.

OPENING SPEAKERS

Me Lily Abichahine *– Initiator of the Beirut Legal Clinic*

Edward Bouri*– Assistant curator the Beirut Art Center*

5:15 PM – 6:00 PM | DISCUSSION 4 - From Conception to Exploitation
The Legal Journey of an Audiovisual Work

FOCUS

What legal questions arise as an artistic work moves from an initial idea to production, presentation, and exploitation? This discussion will explore ownership, collaboration, contacts, permissions, intellectual property, and the practical agreements artists and cultural practitioners need to navigate throughout the life of a work.

MODERATOR

Me Lily Abichahine *– Initiator of the Beirut Legal Clinic*

SPEAKERS

Me Myrna Saiid *– Lawyer; Partner and Head of Media & Entertainment at Eptalex*

Me Nada Nassar Chaoul *– Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Property Issues in the creative field*

Studio Haroun *represented by* ***Mr. Mike Haroun*** *– Cinema archives and their management*

Joseph Khallouf *– What legal challenges arise when using archival war footage in a low-budget collective film, and what strategies can filmmakers adopt to navigate copyright claims while preserving their artistic vision?*

Taim Karesly *– Artist Creators' rights and the life of a film after distribution.*

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM | Coffee Break

FOCUS: An opportunity for creators, artists, lawyers, producers, broadcasters, publishers and collective management representatives to meet, exchange perspectives.

6:30 PM – 7:20 PM | DISCUSSION 5 - Protecting and Enforcing Creative Rights. *Preventive Measures, Evidence, Enforcement Strategies and Remedies*

FOCUS: How can artists and creators protect their rights before an infringement occurs, and what options are available when their work is used without authorisation? This discussion will examine practical approaches to documenting and protecting creative rights, identifying infringements, and choosing appropriate responses, from negotiation and takedown requests to legal proceedings and other remedies.

MODERATOR

Me Lily Abichahine *– Initiator of the Beirut Legal Clinic*

SPEAKERS

Me Najib Hage-Chahine *– Lawyer: From Rights to Remedies: Making Artists' Rights Effective - Contracts, disputes and practical lessons from Lebanon and other jurisdictions*

Me Karim Elhelaly *– Art in the Digital Space: Copyright Law In Lebanon*

Rolly Dib *– Examples from the practice: loopholes in the application of the law in performative settings*

7:20 PM – 7:40 PM | Closing Remarks

FOCUS: Recapitulation of the main findings of the afternoon debate and recommendations

SPEAKER

Me Ray Yazbek *– Lawyer and Managing Partner of Yazbek Law Firm*

PRESENTATION STRUCTURE

10 minutes of closing remarks.

7:40 PM – 8:00 PM | Film Projection

Screening of Traces **"ﺎﻧﺃ" *by Chantal Partamian*** – 8min 45sec

WHAT IS THE BEIRUT LEGAL CLINIC FOR ARTISTS?

THE CLINIC STARTS WITH CONVERSATION.
Discussion, research, & a closer look at the needs of the sector.

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE CLINIC?

Starting in November 2026, artists and cultural practitioners will be able to book free, private -1on1- consultations with legal professionals at Beirut Art Center.

You can bring your questions, concerns, or experiences from your practice and discuss them in a confidential setting.

WHAT CAN YOU BRING TO A SESSION?

Any legal question that comes up in your practice.

A contract you're unsure about. A question about your rights. An authorship or copyright issue. A licensing question. A situation involving an institution, publisher, producer, or collaborator.

The consultation will respond to your needs while offering general legal guidance relevant to your situation.

WHAT ARE THE ROUNDTABLES FOR?

Before the -1on1- Clinic begins, the roundtables create space to look at the bigger picture.

Legal expertise meets lived experience, bringing together hands-on knowledge and broader insight into the industry.

Through open dialogue, we'll explore the legal gaps and needs affecting artists, as well as the questions that come up across different practices.

AN ONGOING STUDY

The Clinic is designed to keep developing.

The roundtables are part of an ongoing assessment of the needs of the artistic and cultural sector, shaped through conversation with the people working within it.

What we learn will help the Clinic respond to the questions artists have about their practice and continue to grow as a shared resource.

A PRIVATE SPACE

The -1on1- consultations are a confidential space to discuss your legal questions and personal career experiences.

The roundtables will also include an off-record segment and an offline Q&A session, allowing space for your private questions and experiences.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE THE EXISTING GAPS IN LEGAL KNOWLEDGE AROUND ARTS AND CULTURE PRACTICES? ***We asked you to share the legal questions, challenges, and uncertainties you encounter in your work as artists and cultural practitioners. Here's what came up.***

CONTRACTS, RIGHTS & GETTING PAID

What should an artist agreement include?

What happens when work begins before a contract is signed?

Who owns the work? What rights do artists retain? What are they giving away?

How can artists protect themselves against delayed payments, unpaid labour, or unclear payment terms?

COLLABORATION, OWNERSHIP & THE LIFE OF A WORK

What happens when a work is made with someone else?

You asked about joint authorship, ownership, consent, credit, and the right to exhibit or reuse collaborative work, especially when collaborations change or break down.

What happens after a work is sold or delivered?

Resale rights, gallery agreements, consignment, representation, archives, and future use.

Who controls a work over the course of its life?

PROTECTING AN ARTISTIC PRACTICE

You raised concerns around independent archives, documentation, commercial use, social and health protection, institutional relationships, and establishing associations or initiatives.

These questions point to a wider gap:

How can artists access practical, relevant legal knowledge to protect and sustain their practices?

SO, WHAT ARE THE ANSWERS?

The questions we received point to a need for more accessible, practical and locally relevant legal knowledge around artistic practice.

What does this mean for me, my work, my rights, and the way I actually practice?

These are the questions the **Beirut Legal Clinic for Artists** is here to explore.