



BEIRUT ART CENTER
مركز بيروت للفن

Annual Report
2011



2011 has been a full year for Beirut Art Center (BAC), with a program of seven exhibitions, a full schedule of over forty events, four BAC design exhibitions, dozens of school and university tours, and one exhibition at the New Museum in New York. The year also saw BAC develop a new education and outreach program, an initiative aimed at making art accessible to school and university students and teachers as well as community centers. Throughout the year, we have also been learning from the issues encountered in our programming and putting in place new methods for dealing with them.

In 2011, Beirut Art Center presented a rich program of exhibitions and events, always in keeping with our aims of presenting and promoting contemporary art to the Lebanese public. Through the solo exhibitions we presented by Chris Marker and Harun Farocki, we continued our aim of giving the Lebanese public the opportunity to see internationally renowned artists. Our solo exhibitions by Fouad Elkoury and Paola Yacoub also gave these two established local artists the rare chance to exhibit their work to the Lebanese public in a non-commercial space. Beirut Art Center also organised one collective, thematic exhibition in 2011, *Image in the Aftermath*, which placed the work of four international and five regional artists in dialogue with each other. BAC maintained its support for emerging artists from Lebanon or living in the country through the annual exhibition Exposure, which is documented by the publishing of a catalogue, thus creating a permanent record. As part of our aim to develop a network of cultural partners, Beirut Art Center hosted two exhibitions in 2011, *Meeting Points 6*, curated by Okwui Enwezor and *The Beirut Experience*, curated by Jean-Paul Felley and Olivier Kaeser.

Beirut Art Center presented a program of over forty events. It is through our events and activities that BAC establishes itself as a multi-purpose center, supporting a wide range of artistic and cultural activities. Many of the events are organized to complement the exhibition program, and are an opportunity to explore themes, ideas and issues raised in a number of different formats, including screenings, talks, roundtables, presentations and performances. Other events also expand our network of cultural partners, and this year has included collaborations with The Whitechapel and ten other international institutions with Art in the Auditorium III and the Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin/Madrid. BAC also continues to present one concert a month, selected by our music programmer Sharif Sehnaoui, by artists whose music is alternative and might not be presented in traditional theatres and concert halls. Through our events, we continue to cultivate a large and diverse audience

2011 has seen the rapid expansion of our education and outreach program. Beirut Art Center continues to offer guided tours of its exhibitions to universities, but has also expanded to offer guided visits to schools and community centers. Through the launch of educational worksheets, we have moved towards making our exhibitions accessible to teachers by providing the tools to translate contemporary art, as well as directly to students, either visiting with their class or with their parents. Beirut Art Center will continue to develop its education and outreach program in 2012 through a number of new initiatives and the launch of a new program of workshops.

The Mediatheque, a multimedia archive and unique digital resource on contemporary art production in the region, continued to grow in 2011, and remains open and accessible to all members of the public. It went on tour again with a trip to New York's New Museum in November as part of the exhibition organized by Sandra Dagher and Lamia Joreige "Museum as Hub: Beirut Art Center".

Five new BAC design exhibitions were held on the Beirut Art Center's upper floor in 2011, each of which showcased work by one designer or a design collective that follows a specific theme. Beirut Art Center hopes to help increase these designers' exposure to the public, while allowing their work to be viewed in the context of a contemporary art space. BAC design has also contributed to Beirut Art Center's efforts to achieve self-sustainability.

Beirut Art Center continues to develop and expand other initiatives aimed at solidifying its self-sustainability. While attempts to develop our café have encountered some obstacles, we are ready with another new menu and new round of solutions to be implemented in 2012. The bookshop remains a popular part of the center, with a new selection of books tailored for every exhibition.

Beirut Art Center has many plans for 2012. With a new executive director, an exciting exhibition program that includes a solo show for Gerhard Richter, and an ambitious program of events and collaborations, we plan to continue our engagement with international and regional cultural and artistic practices. It is also our aim to continue expanding and diversifying our audience through our educational and outreach program, a new series of workshops and developing tri-lingual audio-guides for our exhibitions.

Programme of Exhibitions 2011

February 10 - April 15, 2011

Drawing with the Things Themselves

A solo exhibition by Paola Yacoub

Curated by Corinne Diserens and Beirut Art Center

Beirut Art Center presented the first solo exhibition by Lebanese artist Paola Yacoub.

Since her investigations and performances for the camera in the early nineties, such as *Fountain and Inundation* (collages and models) and *The Voice* (objects, photographs and texts), and continuing with her current work, Paola Yacoub has produced a series of film clips and photographic essays. These works explore issues such as rituals, the interpretation of photographs from within a specific territorial knowledge and how news dramatizes the image, the city and the portrait through dynamic systems that constantly bring in their unfolding Beirut and Lebanese landscape as a migratory subject. Paola Yacoub's work brings to light perspectives on autobiographical contingencies, and how the perception of a place can change without any alteration to its physical form.

The exhibition at Beirut Art Center will present a selection of works: performative photographs, photomontages, photographs, drawings, objects, models, texts, slideshows and video clips produced by the artist over the last twenty years, underlining her artistic processes and articulating what is at stake in her work today.



Drawing with the Things Themselves - Exhibition View



Drawing with the Things Themselves - Exhibition View



Drawing with the Things Themselves - Exhibition View

February 10 - April 15, 2011

IMAGE WORKS

A solo exhibition by Harun Farocki

Beirut Art Center organised a solo exhibition by the prolific and influential German artist and filmmaker Harun Farocki.

Farocki has produced an immense body of film, video and critical analysis that explores the production, dissemination and reception of images and the cultural and political power they wield. The exhibition at Beirut Art Center presented a selection of Farocki's major video installations, including the earlier works *Interface* (1995), *I Thought I Was Seeing Convicts* (2000) and *Eye/Machine III* (2003), as well as the more recent productions *Workers Leaving the Factory in Eleven Decades* (2006), *On Construction of Griffith's Films* (2006), and *Serious Games* (2009 & 2010).

In his two-channel video installation, *Interface* (1995), Farocki returns to the programme he followed in his early work of making "film scientific and science political". The video shows Farocki at work and sets out a visualised theory of montage, taking its formal inspiration from the design of a conventional video-editing suite. He equates the editing table with a scientific laboratory and a negotiating table, while reflecting the similarities and differences between the aesthetic mechanisms of images and their production conditions.

The installation *Eye/Machine III* (2000) demonstrates how the prolific spread of imaging and simulation technologies has neutralised war and the possibilities for resistance. Recycled imagery shows virtual humans murdered by military simulators as mere pixels on a screen. By extension actual victims of war killed by the impersonal push of a button are dehumanised before death by the war machine's pixilation. This theme of technology and its relationship to war is further explored in Farocki's *Serious Games* (2009 & 2010) series.

Farocki returns to recycled images in *I Thought I Was Seeing Convicts* (2000), this time drawing mainly from surveillance videos taken from US penitentiaries as well as fictional films. The film highlights with clinical boldness the centrality of images in imposing authority as Farocki juxtaposes the use of the camera with the gun.

In *Workers Leaving the Factory in Eleven Decades* (2006), the title of which is taken from the Lumière Brothers' first film, Farocki uses the recurring scene of workers exiting a factory to investigate the history of cinema. The irony of the film rests on the fact that workers have indeed left the factory coinciding with the development of cinema, and prevailing in its wake is image-dominated and service-orientated capitalism.

Farocki continues his commentary on the history of cinema in *On Construction of Griffith's Films* (2006), analysing the innovation of the shot and countershot during a dialogue sequence from Griffith's 1916 film *Intolerance*. Although this technique is now omnipresent in film, Farocki uses the sequence to illustrate an important milestone in the growing independence of cinematography.



Serious Games - Exhibition view



Workers Leaving the Factory in Eleven Decades - Exhibition view

April 28 - May 7, 2011

Meeting Points 6

Locus Agonistes: Practices and Logics of the Civic

Curated by Okwui Enwezor,
and organized by the Young Arab Theatre Fund

From April 27 to May 7, 2011, **Beirut Art Center** be hosted an exhibition within the framework of *Meeting Points 6*. *Meeting Points 6* is a biennial event comprising contemporary art, film, theater, dance, and performance. Curated by Okwui Enwezor, and organized by the **Young Arab Theatre Fund** (YATF), in collaboration with regional and international partners the project of *Meeting Points 6* will take place across a number of historic cities in the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe over a one-year period between April 2011 and March 2012.

Locus Agonistes: Practices and Logics of the Civic, the principal conceptual enquiry of *Meeting Points 6*, is a cultural project conceived as a response to the various scenarios of rupture between antagonistic political camps and civic critical cultures that are presently unfolding in contemporary Arab societies. The responses to these transitional challenges, which have distinct cultural dimensions, cover a broad spectrum of activities, practices, positions, institutions, and social forms that can be felt in diverse pressure points. At the core of these pressure points, at once local and national, global and transnational, secular and theological, regional and geo-political is what may be characterized as a rising dimension of Civic Imagination. Artistic practices and logics as modes of constructing and constituting civitas constantly induce fresh demands for emancipatory civic techniques that advocate the obviation of the simplistic dichotomy between progressivist assumptions of political forums and the seemingly conservative institutions of national cultures that oppose them. In this way civic techniques also take to task strategies of activism and oppositionality around which so-called radical practices have been traditionally perceived within institutional settings.

At a basic level, *Locus Agonistes: Practices and Logics of the Civic* is a project shaped by processes of unraveling, as well as conjunctions. Its immediate forms of enunciation are constituted by a network of unfolding actions, interactions, aesthetic proposals, performances, and public responses by artists, choreographers, dancers, playwrights, filmmakers, and performers. Through the active interaction of the participants, the project endeavors to explore locations of reasoned dissent and reflection, in which it is possible to imagine sequences of activities that are rooted in agendas of struggle, which become spaces of becoming, and possible spheres of global *civitas*. However, such agendas are neither invested in Utopian and progressivist ideals of reformist modernity nor are they inured to the seeming conservatism of fundamentalist cultural politics.

However, *Locus Agonistes* is not only premised on the analysis of the cultural and political topography of contemporary Arab societies. In the present geo-political entanglements, *Locus Agonistes* is equally, a response to the momentous historical forces and the emancipatory logics that are currently reshaping debates on civic identities, political subjectivities, cultural strategies, and artistic practices both in contemporary Arab societies, and localities adjacent to them, for example in Europe. *Locus Agonistes* is deliberately located in the multiple fault lines between these spaces and is therefore conceived as three distinct Flash Points (Middle East and Levant, North Africa, and Western Europe).

The artists exhibiting over the course of Meeting Points 6 are: Adel ABDESSEMED. Jumana EMIL ABBOUD . Omar ABU SAADA . Saâdane AFIF . Mohammad AL ATTAR . Doa ALY . Omar AMIRALAY . Tarek ATOUI . Sammy BALOJI . Tony CHAKAR . Stan DOUGLAS . Hafiz DHAOU & Aicha M'BAREK . Ahmed EL ATTAR . Mounir FATMI . Oussama GHANAM . Fakhri EL GHEZAL . Joana HADJITHOMAS & Khalil JOREIGE . David HARE . Mona HATOUM . Samah HIJAWI . Lamia JOREIGE . Bouchra KHALILI . Sandra MADI . Basim MAGDY . Rima MAROUN . Radhouane EL MEDDEB . Selma & Sofiane OUISSI . Omar RAJEH . Tino SEHGAL . Laila SOLIMAN . Jalal TOUFIC .

نقاط لقاء

مهرجان الفن المعاصر
معرض . مسرح . عروض أدائية . أفلام . موسيقى . رقص

٢٧ نيسان - ٧ أيار ٢٠١١

مركز بيروت للفن

افتتاح المهرجان: ٢٧ نيسان . الساعة ١٠:٠٠ مساءً
كل يوم من الساعة ١٢:٠٠؛ إلى الساعة ٢٠:٠٠ مساءً

MEETING POINTS

contemporary arts festival
visual arts . theater . performance . film . music . dance

27 April - 7 May 2011

Beirut Art Center

Opening on April 27th at 18:00 PM.
Everyday from 12:00 to 20:00 except Sunday

May 18 – July 16, 2011

Image in the Aftermath

with: **Boris Groys • Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige • Hassan Khan • Masao Okabe and Chihiro Minato • Walid Raad • Sophie Ristelhueber • Jalal Toufic • The Nakba Archive • Sahara Occidentale, con poche immagini**

The theme of the exhibition, *Image in the Aftermath*, articulated around specific situations and events that reflect on the production, use and dissemination of images. It was not so much the events themselves that was explored, as much as the way these political situations led to new ways of using and diffusing images as a tool of resistance or as the only possible means to respond to a significant event.

The absence of images – as well as their excess – and the question of representation were at the core of the works presented. These works reflect on turning points in the evolution of the use of images or on historical events including: Hiroshima, the Lebanese wars, the Iraq War, the Sahrawis' struggle for self-determination, and the nakba as a catalyst for the creation of Palestinian representation.

In *Sahara Occidentale, con poche immagini* (*Western Sahara, few images*), similarly to *The Nakba Archive*, images and documentation serve as tools of resistance as they become a proof of an existence that could otherwise be threatened or denied. In relation to the invasion of Iraq, Jalal Toufic brings to mind the symmetry trick, decalcomania, the false mirror, elective affinities, the treachery of images, and boundless recognition. As a means to respond to the significant events of the Lebanese wars, Walid Raad explores “the withdrawal of tradition,” as conceived by Toufic, for whom art reveals the immaterial withdrawal of tradition in the wake of “surpassing disasters”. This concept has echoes in the work of Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige who reveal the physical and mental constraints and implications of resurrecting images from the period of the Lebanese wars. Masao Okabe and Chihiro Minato examine the aftermath of the Hiroshima tragedy through its physical traces by producing frottage drawings. Sophie Ristelhueber creates seamless collages that reconstruct scenes, both real and imaginary, exploring the limits of media images. Boris Groys, using film footage in his video lectures, thematizes the gap between what we hear and what we see and reflects on the relationship between image and word in our media driven world. Hassan Khan presents *Mystery*, a work in process he began in 2010 that takes as its basic medium the act of ‘writing in style’. Its source is the memory of a young boy’s perception of a class based society and the pleasures of reading Arabic mystery tales for boys.



Image in the Aftermath
Exhibition view



Masao Okabe & Chihiro Minato - *The Dark Face of the Light*



Sophie Ristelhueber - *Eleven Blowups*

July 29 - October 1, 2011

Be...longing

A solo exhibition by Fouad Elkoury

Beirut Art Center presented *Be...longing*, a solo exhibition dedicated to the renowned Lebanese artist and photographer Fouad Elkoury. *Be...longing* presented photographs from Fouad Elkoury's forty-year career, many of which had never been shown. From Beirut to Paris, from Cairo to Istanbul, and from other places where he has left part of himself behind, his images form a pictorial autobiography that extends across different cultures. Regardless of his subject – concrete skeletons of skyscrapers under construction, an armed soldier waiting behind a pile of sandbags, a fur drying on a clothesline – Elkoury's photographs convey the ineluctable passing of time.

In *Civil War*, Elkoury presents a series of black and white and color photographs taken in Beirut during the Lebanese Civil War, which are divided into five chronological sections each highlighting important dates from the conflict. The series *Sombres* juxtaposes images from different parts of the world for insights into the subjects scrutinized, beginning with a set of images showing Beirut in the aftermath of the civil war. Elkoury's intrepid travels are also presented in *Monologues*, an array of images from different countries and cultures displaying what he terms 'itinerancies'. *Atlantis* documents the head of the PLO's escape from Beirut by sea, revealing an intimate and often unseen side of Arafat. In *Palestine*, the artist settles down to document the struggle of everyday life under occupation, while *Civilization, Fake = Real?* shows diasecs of Dubai, a civilization of contradictions in the process of boom and formation. *Time Monologues* mixes moving and still images as an experiential study on the passing of time, while *Moments* projects images accompanied by music, exploring themes such as the traces of war and Elkoury's journey in Egypt in the footsteps of Gustave Flaubert and Maxime Du Camp.

Be...longing is an exhibition poised between Fouad Elkoury's wanderlust and his in-depth studies on societies. It is a retrospective that delves into his archive, shedding light on his renowned works by presenting them in the context of never-before-exhibited images.



Fouad Elkoury - *Moments*



Be...longing - Exhibition view



Be...longing - Exhibition view

October 13 - November 19, 2011

The Beirut Experience

with: **Lara Almarcegui . Marc Bauer . Tony Chakar . Marcelline Delbecq . Latifa Echakhch . Eric Hattan . Mark Lewis . Adrien Missika . Estefania Peñafiel Loaiza Dan Perjovschi**

The exhibition *The Beirut Experience* brought together 10 international artists selected for their interest in notions which are essential to the Beirut and Lebanese context, such as architecture, urban planning, memory, history or cultural identity, as well as their capacity to adapt themselves to the very complex but stimulating Lebanese situation.

The subject of the exhibition is precisely Beirut and Lebanon. Every artist produced a new work specifically linked to this context. The title of the show points to the experience of the context, with all the nuances that this word contains. Almost all the artists have stayed at least twice in Beirut, once in November 2010, and then during the installation period, just before the opening of the show. Some went to Beirut to work during the summer of 2011. All works were commissioned and produced by Attitudes (www.attitudes.ch).

A book will be published after the show in three languages: English, French, and Arabic. It will contain an introduction by the curators, documentation of the works, and a long essay by Paris-based German art critic and author Jens Emil Sennewald.

This book will be ready for the second version of The Beirut Experience, planned at Art Center Villa Bernasconi in Geneva / Lancy (CH), in April 2012. (www.villabernasconi.ch)

THE CURATORS & PRODUCERS

Attitudes

Attitudes is an independent art structure based in Geneva, Switzerland, founded in 1994 and directed by Jean-Paul Felley & Olivier Kaeser. Attitudes conceives, organizes and produces projects in the fields of contemporary art, in Geneva, in Switzerland and elsewhere. Among the projects realized elsewhere are, Buenos días Buenos Aires at MAMbA, Buenos Aires in 2003, and Buenos días Santiago – an exhibition as expedition at MAC Santiago de Chile in 2005. Attitudes has worked with about 400 artists, and organised about 250 exhibitions and 250 other special events such as performances, films screenings or lectures.

Attitudes had an exhibition space in Geneva up to the end of 2008. Attitudes is now working on two axes: publishing editions of books, mainly artist's books, and the curating of exhibitions in various places. Attitudes has the status of a not-for-profit cultural association. www.attitudes.ch

Jean-Paul Felley & Olivier Kaeser are also co-directors of Centre culturel suisse (Swiss Cultural Center) in Paris, their main activity from the end of 2008.

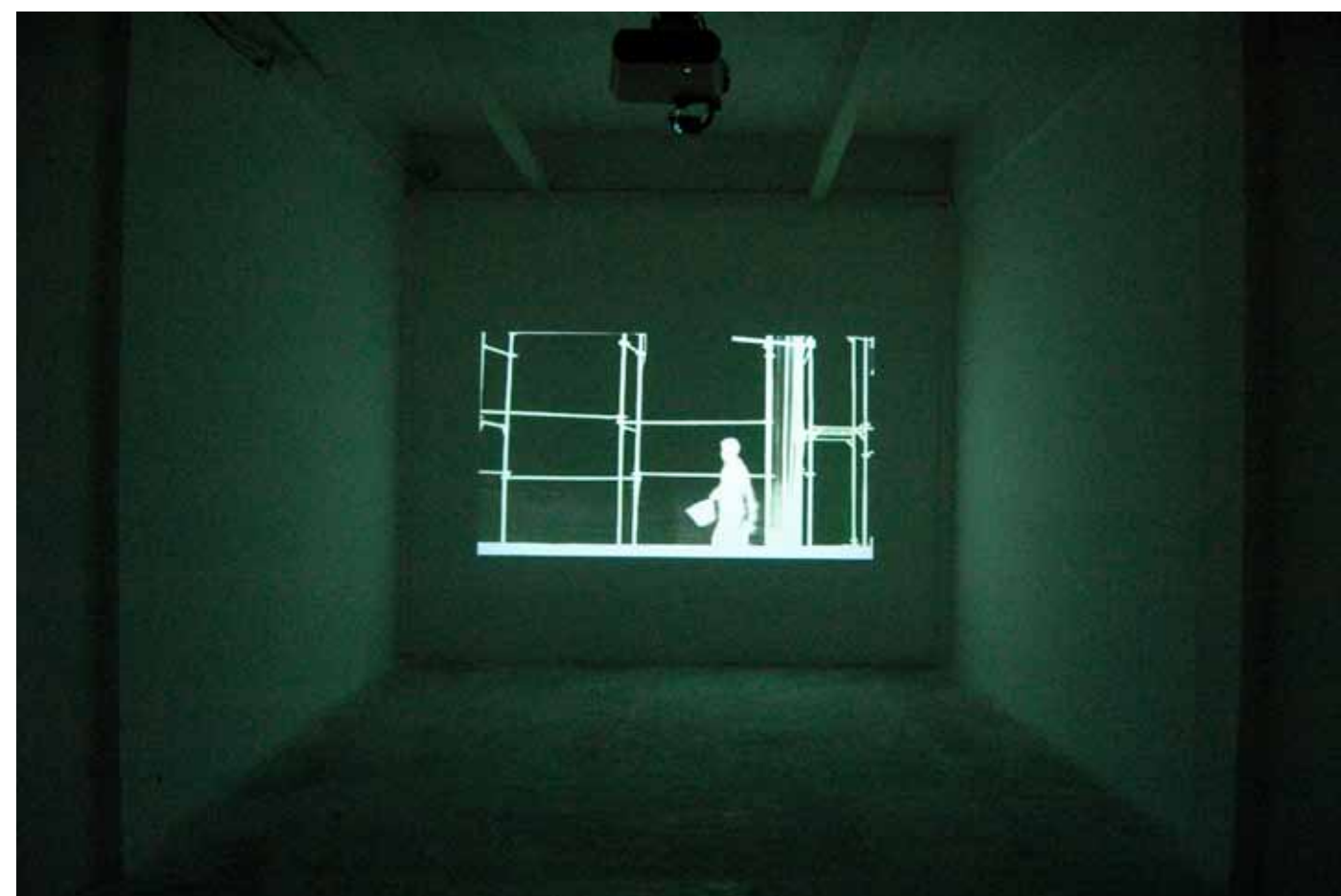
SUPPORTERS

The project The Beirut Experience received the support of the following organisations:

Pro Helvetia – Swiss foundation for culture / Swiss Exhibition Award 2008 given to attitudes by Julius Bär Foundation and Swiss federal Office for culture / Fonds cantonal d'art contemporain, Etat de Genève (Contemporary Art Fund, State of Geneva) / Mondriaan Foundation / Institut français (French Institute) / French Embassy in Lebanon / Swiss Embassy in Lebanon / Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation / Georges Foundation.



The Beirut Experience - Exhibition view



Estefania Loazi Penafiel - No Vacancy

December 1, 2011 - January 21, 2012

Exposure 2011

With: **Nadia Al Issa • Ali Cherri • Laure de Selys • Bassem Mansour & Dana Aljouder • Franziska Pierwoss • Stéphanie Saadé • Setareh Shahbazi**

Beirut Art Center is presented *Exposure 2011*, the third edition of a collective exhibition of works by emerging Lebanese artists as well as non-Lebanese artists living in Lebanon.

Initiated in 2009, Exposure is an annual exhibition organized in partnership with SGBL group to support up-and-coming artists from Lebanon by providing a platform to produce and display work that is not essentially aimed at the market.

Each year, the center issues a call for proposals whereby emerging artists are invited to present a new artwork or an artwork that has not been shown in the country. A jury made up of individuals active in the contemporary art scene is invited by Beirut Art Center to select the artists who will participate in the show. This year's jury was composed of Bruce Ferguson (curator and academic), Sarah Rogers (art historian), Fadi Tufayli (writer and poet) and Paola Yacoub (artist), along with one voice given to Beirut Art Center's artistic board.

Following this year's call for proposals, seven works were selected by the jury. The artists selected are from an eclectic mix of places, from a Lebanese artist living in China to a German living in Lebanon. They present work in a wide range of media, from installation, photography and performance, to video and sound experiments.

A catalogue featuring the work of all participants will be produced and launched at the opening of the show on November 30. The catalogue will serve to document the exhibition and introduce the work of these artists to a wider public.

In partnership with:



Ali Cherri - MY PAIN IS REAL



Nadia Al Issa
Untitled (8km - A Tribute to Danis Tanovic)



Exposure 2011 - Exhibition view

December 14, 2011 - February 5, 2012

Museum as Hub: Beirut Art Center

An Exhibition Curated by Sandra Dagher and Lamia Joreige at the New Museum, New York

With: Ziad Abillama • Tony Chakar • Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige • Rabih Mroué • Kirsten Scheid

“Museum as Hub: Beirut Art Center” is a project which includes an exhibition, the presentation of Beirut Art Center’s Mediatheque and a series of events.

The exhibition entitled “Due to unforeseen events ...”, examines specific cases in which the production or presentation of an artwork in Lebanon was altered from its original idea, hence raising unexpected questions and unfolding new meanings. The exhibition features descriptions of each case in addition to new commissions, in which artists respond to the alteration of their original ideas or intentions, using archival documentation as well as new texts, images, and objects. The aim is to question issues that are relevant to contemporary art practices and the recent history and politics of Lebanon, such as the relation between art and public spaces, the critical reception of works, and censorship. The exhibition features works by Ziad Abillama, Tony Chakar, Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige, Rabih Mroué, and Kirsten Scheid.

In the resource center, Beirut Art Center will also present their Mediatheque, a digital archive that offers public access to works—including video, image, sound, and text—by artists from Arab countries, Iran, Turkey and Armenia. The mediatheque also includes a selected archive of events that took place at Beirut Art Center since its opening.

Beirut Art Center has also organized a series of public performances and screenings in conjunction with the exhibition. Sandra Dagher and Lamia Joreige



Due to unforeseen events - Exhibition View



Due to unforeseen events - Exhibition View



Due to unforeseen events - Exhibition View

Programme of Events 2011

Wednesday January 26	1982 Live at BAC Live Concert
Friday February 11	Screening and Discussion with Harun Farocki On the occasion of the solo exhibition by Harun Farocki, Beirut Art Center presented his film <i>Respite</i> (2007), in the presence of the artist and filmmaker. A rare opportunity to see this unique film and engage in a discussion with Farocki.
February 16 - 18	EXPECTING THE IMAGES Carte Blanche to the Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin/Madrid This programme in three parts, exploring several aspects of the moving image and different audiovisual practices between cinema and contemporary art, a field where a number of aesthetic, cultural and political issues coexist spanning our era and our everyday. The three parts took place in the presence of Nathalie Hénon and Jean-François Rettig, directors of the Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin/Madrid.
Wednesday February 16	EXPECTING THE IMAGES Part 1. Fragments
Thursday February 17	EXPECTING THE IMAGES Part 2. Reenactment
Friday February 18	EXPECTING THE IMAGES Part 3. Aftermath
Thursday February 24	The Edifying Story of Li Guoxing A Performance by Paola Yacoub
Wednesday March 2	AEGRI SOMNIA A Live Performance
March 9 - March 30	Screening Farocki A series of screenings of films by filmmaker and artist Harun Farocki on the occasion of Farocki’s exhibition, <i>IMAGE WORKS</i> , at Beirut Art Center.
Wednesday March 9	Screening Farocki Part 1.
Wednesday March 16	Screening Farocki Part 2.
Wednesday March 23	Screening Farocki Part 3.
Wednesday March 30	Screening Farocki Part 4.
Thursday April 7	Irtijal 11 - XI International Festival of Experimental Music Concerts at Beirut Art Center
Monday April 11	Typographic Matchmaking in the City A Presentation, Film Screening and Book Signing

Wednesday April 13

April 27 - 30

May 18 - 21

Wednesday May 18

Friday May 20

Saturday May 21

Wednesday May 25

June 1 - 3

Wednesday June 1

Thursday June 2

Friday June 3

Wednesday June 22

Wednesday June 29

Wednesday July 6

Wednesday July 13

Wednesday August 10

Thursday August 18

Carte Blanche to Paola Yacoub
A Screening of Films by Elena Kovylna

Meeting Points 6
Program of Events
A series of events by artists participating in Meeting Points 6. The events were run in conjunction with the Meeting Points 6 exhibition, also hosted by Beirut Art Center.

Sahara Occidentale, con poche immagini
Three Events Exploring the Image in the Western Sahara Conflict
Since 1999 an informal collective of writers, philosophers, historians, filmmakers, artists and activists has been looking at photographs and video footage and their use in the Western Sahara conflict. In conjunction with the exhibition Image in the Aftermath, Beirut Art Center and the Arab Image Foundation will present three evenings of events exploring the work Sahara Occidentale, con poche immagini.

The Sahrawi War Museum
A Conversation with Jean Lamore and Fatima Mahfoud

The Occupation
A Conversation with Gianluca Solla and Fatima Mahfoud

The Exile
An Encounter with the Cinema of Mario Martone

Richard Eigner's Denoising Project
Concert at Beirut Art Center

Suspended Spaces
The project Suspended Spaces #1 Since Famagusta was presented at Beirut Art Center. Presentations, exchanges between artists, programs of videos and performances were presented over three days to the public. A roundtable uniting partners and Lebanese artists provided the conceptual and practical basis for the forthcoming steps of the project: Lebanon as a future anchor point for our research?

Suspended Spaces
Part 1.

Suspended Spaces
Part 2.

Suspended Spaces
Part 3.

Image in the Aftermath Part 1
Screenings by Diana Allan

The Imaginary Soundscapes
CD Launch and Live Performance by Frédéric Nogray & Stéphane Rives

Image in the Aftermath Part 2
Screenings by Hassan Khan

Image in the Aftermath Part 3
Screenings by J. Toufic, W. Raad, J. Hadjithomas and K. Joreige

Screening Fouad Elkoury

After My Father's Death
A Presentation by Fouad Elkoury

Wednesday August 24 **The Ruptured Sessions, Volume 4**
CD Release and Live Performances

Wednesday September 7 **Photographers' Films**
Carte Blanche to Fouad Elkoury
Part 1. Robert Frank

Wednesday September 14 **Photographers' Films**
Carte Blanche to Fouad Elkoury
Part 2. Sarah Moon

Wednesday September 21 **Photographers' Films**
Carte Blanche to Fouad Elkoury
Part 3. Lucien Clergue

Wednesday September 28 **Tashweesh**
A Live Performance

Wednesday October 19 **Launch of Kalamon 4**

Wednesday October 26 **Itineraries to Translucency**
Research Presentation by Doreen Mende

Wednesday November 9 **The Tortuous Road to Credibility**
The Incompetents Live

Friday November 11 **Architecture and the Political**

Wednesday November 16 **Conflict, Confluence and Conservation**
Photography and Digital Imaging in Contemporary Art
A talk by Franziska Frey (Harvard Library) and Nora Kennedy (The Metropolitan Museum of Art)

December 7 - 14 **Art in the Auditorium III**
In collaboration with ten other international institutions, Beirut Art Center presented the third edition of Art in the Auditorium, a touring program of video art organized by the Whitechapel Gallery in London. Over a week, the works of eleven international contemporary artists were screened in the auditorium, each artist representing one of the participating institutions. The project aims to offer an overview of contemporary video art and its diverse formats.

Wednesday December 28 **«A» Trio**
CD Release Concert at Beirut Art Center

Wednesday January 11 **Maurice Louca Performs Garraya**

Thursday January 18 **The Foreigner I Know**
A Performance by Mireille Astore



Tarek Atoui - The Ruptured Sessions



OkyDoky - The Ruptured Sessions



The Incompetents Live



Under the Carpet - The Ruptured Sessions



Munma - The Ruptured Sessions



Art in the Auditorium

BAC design

BAC design is a series of exhibitions displaying products by Lebanese designers on the second floor of Beirut Art Center. Each exhibition showcases work by one designer or a design collective that follows a specific theme, helping them reach a wide clientele for their products, which range from furniture to fashion and jewellery to ceramics. Beirut Art Center hopes to help increase these designers' exposure to the public, while allowing their work to be viewed in the context of a contemporary art space.

March 18 - April 15, 2011

Who's living on the 13th floor?

An Exhibition of Ceramics by Mary-Lynn Massoud and Racha Nawam

Beirut Art Center presented *Who's living on the 13th floor?* an exhibition of ceramics by Mary-Lynn Massoud and Racha Nawam as part of its series BAC design. The show presented a city chaotic yet phantomatic born out of the imagination of the two ceramicists.

May 18 – June 11, 2011

STARCH your summer

An exhibition by STARCH designers 2008, 2009, 2010

Beirut Art Center presented *STARCH your summer*, as part of its series BAC design. The exhibition presented specially designed capsule collections by all the STARCH designers for this event. For the first time, STARCH designers from 2008, 2009 and 2010 came together to design products with the 'STARCH' brand codes. A variety of items were presented ranging from fashion clothing, accessories and interior products carrying the signature style of each designer.

Participating designers: Ghita Abi Hanna, Najla el Zein, Racha Abbas, Deena Wassef, Nadine Mneimneh, Rana Mikdashi, Rayya Morcos, Ronald Abdallah, Rami Kadi, Lara Khoury and Missak HajiAvedikian.

Installation created by Najla el Zein.



STARCH your summer

June 15 – July 16, 2011

Seeds

A BAC design exhibition by Nathalie Khayat

Beirut Art Center presented *Seeds*, a ceramics exhibition by Nathalie Khayat. For this exhibition Nathalie Khayat used porcelain to explore sound, gravity and texture, finding her inspiration by looking at seeds through a magnifying glass. The seeds allow Nathalie to improvise freely. Always present, yet almost invisible, they are the source, the carrier; they use the elements to germinate and grow. The seed is the prime vessel.

July 29 - October 1, 2011

Beirutkon

Anastasia Nysten, Carlo Massoud, Joelle Achkar, Marc Dibeh

Beirut Art Center presented Beirutkon, a modern concept on products from Beirut. A collaborative effort by Lebanese designers and created during a workshop in 2009, the concept developed into an effort to offer an alternative to traditional souvenirs with a distinctive perspective on Beirut. All products were motivated by a way of life and created in the designers' neighborhoods.

December 1, 2011 - January 21, 2012

Beirut Rock Center

By Spockdesign - Karim Chaya

Beirut Art Center presented *Beirut Rock Center* by SpockDesign - Karim Chaya. Explaining the concept, Karim Chaya writes: «Rocking evokes a moment of peace. The recurring rhythm of movement creates a retreat from active life. On the balcony or in a living room, the calm is accompanied perhaps by the gentle squeaking sound of the chair beneath. The chain of swings constructs an ode to time—time filled with being, rather than doing.



Beirut Rock Center

The Mediatheque

Beirut Art Center’s digital multimedia library, the Mediatheque, continued to grow throughout 2011. The Mediatheque is an archive of images, videos, sound pieces and texts by artists, writers and theorists that is open to the public. It focuses on artistic production from Arab countries, as well as Turkey, Iran and Armenia. The library also includes video recordings of most of the weekly events hosted by Beirut Art Center.

These archives and other materials are collected and listed in an electronic database that is available for consultation. Two booths specially designed for this purpose, each with an integrated computer and headphones, are placed on the top floor of the center. The Mediatheque is the first of its kind in Lebanon and is used regularly by students, journalists, curators, artists and the general public.

In November this year, a travelling version of the Mediatheque went on tour for the second time as part of “Museum as Hub: Beirut Art Center” at the New Museum, New York.

The Mediatheque currently includes 82 artists, with more to be added soon.



List of Artists in the Mediatheque

Basel ABBAS & Ruane ABOU-RAHME
Jumana ABOUD
Ziad ABILLAMA
Vahram AGHASYAN
Janane AL ANI
Buthayna ALI
Doa ALY
Sawsan AL SARAF
Basma AL SHARIF
Mounira AL SOLH
Ayreen ANASTAS
Ziad ANTAR
Nadim ASFAR
Mireille ASTORE
Tarek ATOUI
Vartan AVAKIAN
Ayman BAALBAKI
Charbel-Joseph H. BOUTROS
Paul H. BOUTROS
Tony CHAKAR
Ali CHERRI
Hassan CHOUBASSI
Fouad ELKOURY
Hala EL KOUSSY
Niner ESBER
Sirine FATTOUH
mounir fatmi
René GABRI
Ahmad GHOSSEIN
Barbad GOLSHIRI
Joana HADJITHOMAS & Khalil JOREIGE
Khaled HAFEZ
Gilbert HAGE
Ziad J. HAGE
Khosrow HASSANZADEH
Mona HATOUM
Emre HUNER
Emily JACIR
Lamia JOREIGE
John JURAYJ
Bengu KARADUMAN

Amal KENAWY
Mahmoud KHALED
Hassan KHAN
Nesrine KHODR
Bernard KHOURY
Lynn KODEIH
Nabeeha LOTFY
Maha MAAMOUN
Randa MIRZA
Rabih MROUE
Nabil NAHAS
Joe NAMY
Ahmet OGUT
Franziska PIERWOSS
Walid RAAD
Rami SABBAGH
Walid SADEK
Sharif SEHNAOUI
Ghassan SALHAB
Jayce SALLOUM
Roy SAMAHA
Lina SANEH
Hrair SARKISSIAN
Zineb SEDIRA
Setareh SHAHBAZI
Wael SHAWKY
SISKA
Mohamad SOUEID
Ashkan SEPAHVAND
Rania STEPHAN
Rayyane TABET
Mitra TABRIZIAN
Jalal TOUFIC
Oraib TOUKAN
Sharif WAKED
Karine WEHBE
Raed YASSIN
Ala’ YOUNIS
Akram ZAATARI
Cynthia ZAVEN

Education and Outreach Program

In 2011, Beirut Art Center aimed to establish and develop a more rigorous outreach programme, which would revolve around its exhibitions, over the course of the next two years. To that end, BAC aimed to target school and university students in Lebanon as well as underprivileged and marginalized communities through working with community centres. The programme would mainly be based around guided visits of the centre and its exhibitions as well as workshops related to the exhibition programme and contemporary art in general.

The first action taken regarding the educational and outreach programme was creating educational worksheets that could be used both by students for working their way through an exhibition alone and by teachers, who could select aspects relevant to their curriculum and their students' abilities. The worksheets are produced in three languages: English, French and Arabic. They include a number of different types of exercises, including discussion topics, activities, questions, fact boxes and points of information on different media. They are made up of sections aimed at children of different ages and abilities, roughly ranging from eight to eighteen.

Following the creation of educational worksheets, an educational and outreach coordinator was hired in June 2011. The intention was to bring to the team someone with experience and expertise in art education of children. Progress was made, such as through the creation of a thorough database of all schools and universities that can be informed of our activities. However, the projects for workshops proposed by the coordinator were largely irrelevant for a contemporary art center, which meant that the collaboration only lasted 5 months.

We have also decided to pursue the idea of workshops as an alternative and immediate vehicle for the outreach and educational programme, in order to engage more schools and community groups over the course of 2012. Unlike guided tours of our exhibitions, workshops can be directly tailored to schools' curriculums. Since contemporary art is difficult to access for children and students, by tailoring our programme of workshops to different curriculums BAC will be able to engage a new audience immediately, while embarking on the long-term process of contacting schools for guided tours, with the ultimate aim of creating partnerships.



Examples of Educational Sheets

Program of Exhibitions 2012

February 3, 2012 - March 30, 2012

Revolution vs. Revolution

Abbas • Vyacheslav Akhunov • Francis Alÿs • Hai Bo • Steven Cohen • Phil Collins • Tacita Dean • Fadi El Abdallah • David Goldblatt • Alfredo Jaar • William Kentridge • Marysia Lewandowska & Neil Cummings • Susan Meiselas • Boris Mikhailov

Since 2010, countries from the Arab world have been going through a period of rapid and radical change. Events from the Atlantic to the Arabian Gulf promise new previously unforeseeable trajectories. A new narrative is unfolding. It is in this context and in the light of these historical events that Beirut Art Center is organizing an exhibition and series of events exploring other junctures from the last fifty years that have led to radical changes, such as revolutions, the rise and fall of regimes and ideologies, as well as social and political movements whose effects were felt around the world and to this day. This includes important movements like the Iranian Revolution of 1979, the dissolution of the Soviet Union and fall of Communism in Europe, the Chinese Cultural Revolution, the end of Apartheid, the student riots in the 60s, as well as Nasserism and the rise of Arab Nationalism.

The choice not to include any works dealing with the actual situation in the Arab world was deliberate, as the narrative is still in progress in our region. The aim of the exhibition is not to be an exhaustive survey of historical events, but to reflect on radical movements and transformations, the context in which they have taken place, as well as their legacy, and more specifically, their resonance in our region today. The exhibition will present a selection of artworks whose significance is at once the historical aspect, and the artistic response to a time of political change.

The title of the exhibition, *Revolution vs Revolution*, suggests the idea that revolution often leads to other revolutions, either in confrontation with previously established systems, or by inspiring similar changes across time and across borders. In this case, the term 'Revolution' should be understood in its broadest sense, as radical social and political change over relatively short periods of time. The exhibition aims to invoke previous revolutions in confrontation with both their present realities and the current changes gripping our region. Some of these works were produced contemporary to these events, forming a record of historical moments and an artistic reflection made in their immediacy. Other works were produced long after, and look back at these radical changes from a new perspective. The title also refers to the idea that these past revolutions should be re-examined now, through the perspective of the current situation in the Arab world.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a series of screenings, lectures and roundtables with the aim of extending reflection on these historical events and reflecting on their present impact. Other events will be dedicated to discussing and reflecting on the actual situation in the Arab world.



Hai Bo, *Three Sisters* (2000)
© Hai Bo. Courtesy of The Pace Gallery, Beijing

April 26, 2012 - June 16, 2012

Solo Exhibition by Gerhard RICHTER

Curated by Achim Borchardt-Hume and Beirut Art Center

Beirut Art Center is organizing a solo exhibition of work by the acclaimed German painter Gerhard Richter, in collaboration with Achim Borchardt-Hume, a German-born curator and art historian based in London.

The exhibition at Beirut Art Center will be developed in close dialogue with the artist. It will present a significant number of Richter's 'Overpainted Photographs', together with a selection of 'Editions'.

For his overpainted photographs, Richter generally uses standard reprints of photographs often taken by him of trips, landscapes and in his private surroundings, which he has pulled through wet paint on a spreading knife allowing the eye to enter into a lively dialogue with the deep spaces, colour correspondences and basic form of the photograph.

Gerhard Richter's 'Editions' are prints often based on his paintings. A technique that was used throughout his career and forms a central part of his artistic practice, and his studies on the relation between photography and painting.

The exhibition will be a unique opportunity for the Lebanese public to engage with the work of one of the world's most important and renowned visual artists, who throughout his long career has explored the language and possibilities of painting and image-making.



Gerhard Richter
Bridge 14 FEB 45

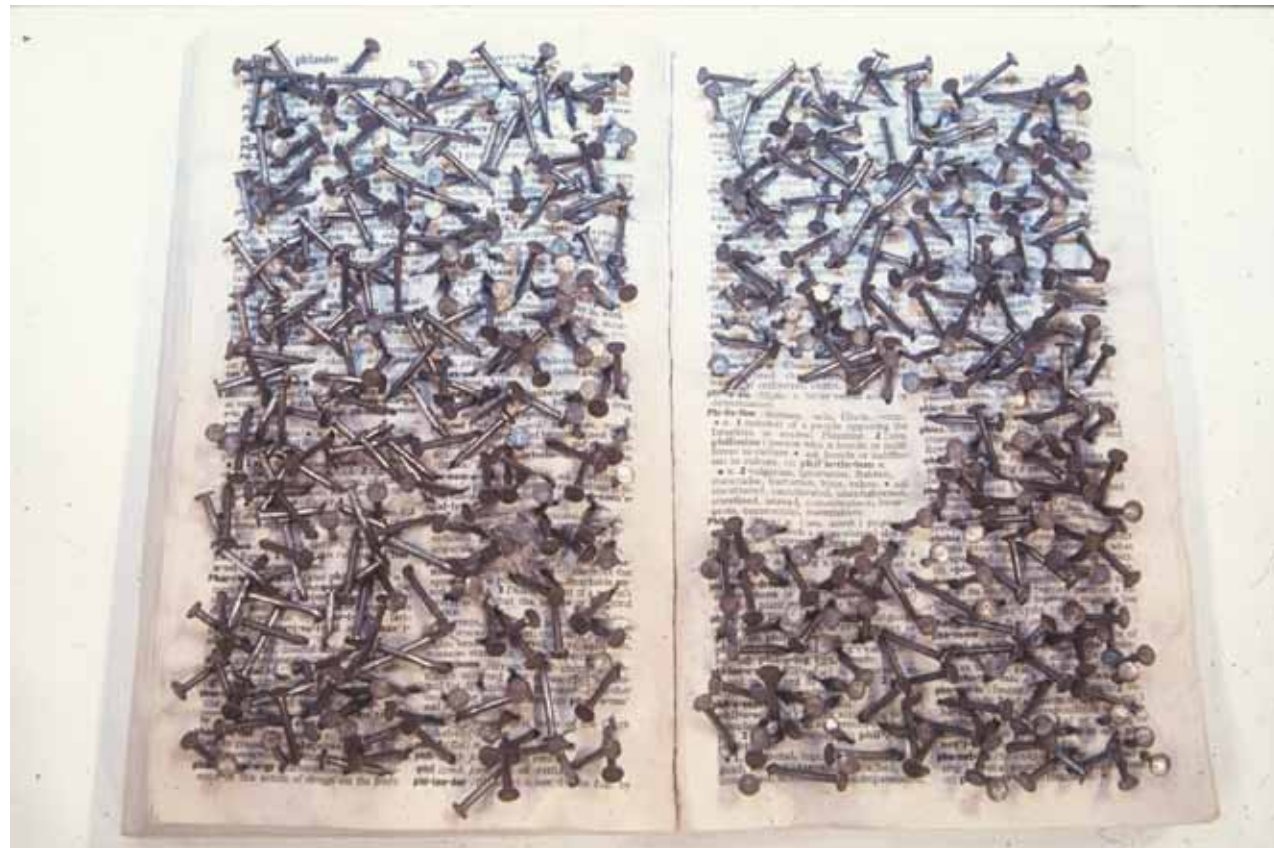
June 27, 2012 - August 18, 2012

Solo Exhibition by Khalil RABAH

Khalil Rabah is a Palestinian artist who lives and works in Ramallah. He was born in Jerusalem in 1961 and gained a BA in Fine Arts from the University of Texas, USA in 1991. He taught at the Department of Fine Art in Bezalel Academy in Jerusalem from 1997-2000. He has had numerous international solo shows and has shown at the Sao Paolo, Sydney, Kwanju and Istanbul Biennales. Rabah is also the co-founder of the Al-Ma'mal Foundation for Contemporary Art in Jerusalem. He utilises conceptual installation, video, photography and performance and incorporates materials emblematic of his Palestinian identity: olive trees, olive oil, stones, silk embroidery threads, soil and lentils.

‘my work involves different methodologies of de-constructing and intervening conceptually and physically with objects, the body, spaces and ideas to formulate new identities.’

-Khalil Rabah



Khalil Rabah
Philistine

September 5, 2012 - November 3, 2012

Graffiti Exhibition

Exhibition hosted by Beirut Art Center

This exhibition, hosted by Beirut Art Center, will see street artists invited from all over the world. They will produce work inside the center specifically for this exhibition, and will also develop workshops and a series of interventions in the city.

November 15, 2012 - January 12, 2012

EXPOSURE 2012

Emerging Artists Collective Exhibition

Beirut Art Center will present Exposure 2012, the fourth edition of a collective exhibition of works by emerging Lebanese artists as well as non-Lebanese artists living in Lebanon.

Initiated in 2009, Exposure is an annual exhibition organized in partnership with SGBL group to support up-and-coming artists from and in Lebanon by providing a platform to produce and display work that is not essentially aimed at the market.

Each year, the center issues a call for proposals whereby emerging artists are invited to present a new artwork or an artwork that has not been shown in the country. A jury made up of individuals active in the contemporary art scene is invited by Beirut Art Center to select the artists who will participate in the show.

BAC in Numbers:

Visitors:

Paola Yacoub & Harun Farocki	1 056 visitors (opening: 200 pers. Average of 22 visitors per day)
Meeting Points 6	1 555 visitors (opening: 350 pers. Average of 43 visitors per day)
Image in the Aftermath	1 086 visitors (opening: 200 pers. Average of 23 visitors per day)
Fouad Elkoury	2 100 visitors (opening: 300 pers. Average of 39 visitors per day)
The Beirut Experience	961 visitors (opening: 188 pers. Average of 32 visitors per day)
Exposure 2011	1 158 visitors (opening: 227 pers. Average of 28 visitors per day)

Total number of visitors: **7 916 visitors**

Number of website visitors:

2009: 24 000 visitors
2010: 35 620 visitors
2011: 44 257 visitors

Members of Facebook group:

January 2010: 1 740 members
January 2011: 2 725 members
January 2012: 2 945 members

Members of Facebook page:

January 2012: 600

Members of Twitter:

January 2012: 800

Number of subscribers to our electronic newsletter:

January 2010: 3 660 email addresses
January 2011: 4 972 email addresses
January 2012: 5 300 email addresses



Financial statement 2011

REVENUES:	
Excess revenues from 2010	45,425
Reimbursement VAT (2010 & 1s&2nd trim 2011)	9,620
Bank Interest	368
Public and Private Institutions	103,100
Private Donors	71,210
Sponsors/Financial support	60,000
Entrance fees for events	2,690
Benefits from the bookshop	7,760
Benefits from the Boutique	33,660
Benefits from the café	-5430
Renting of the space	3,240
Fundraising Auction 2010	68,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$399,643
EXPENSES	
Operating Cost	
Rent of the space	64,000
Electronic Supplies	15,750
Other Space Fees (Electricity, Telephone, Internet, Office Supplies, Repairs and maintenance...)	41,310
Salaries and services	88,950
Communication	3,450
Fundraising activities (dinner)	8,300
Total Operating Cost	\$221,760
Activities	
Exhibition 1: Solo exhibitions Farocki and Yacoub	38,250
Exhibition 2: Thematic	40,610
Exhibition 3: Solo exhibition Fouad Elkoury	36,310
Exhibition 4: Exposure 2011	21,550
Parallel Events	24,750
Outreach program	6,770
Total Activities	\$168,240
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$390,000
BALANCE	\$9,643

Budget 2012

REVENUES:	
Excess revenues from 2011	9,650
Reimbursement VAT (2011 & 1st trim 2012)	7,000
Public and Private Institutions (confirmed funds)	35,500
Private Donors (confirmed)	73,700
Sponsors/Financial support (confirmed)	25,000
In kind support	71,500
Expected donations (expected)	61,500
Donations (to find)	35,000
Entrance fees for events	5,000
Benefits from the bookshop	10,000
Benefits from the café	5,000
Benefits from BAC design	35,000
Renting of the space	10,000
Fundraising Auction	80,000
TOTAL REVENUES	463,850
EXPENSES	
Operating Cost	
Rent of the space	55,000
Electronic Supplies	5,000
Othe Space Fees (Electricity, Telephone, Internet, Office Supplies, Repairs and maintenance...)	30,000
Salaries and services	101,500
Communication	4,000
Fundraising activities (dinner)	6,250
Total Operating Cost	201,750
Activities	
Exhibition 1: Thematic	35,000
Exhibition 2: Solo exhibition Richter	126,500
Exhibition 3: Solo exhibition Rabah	40,000
Exhibition 4: Exposure 2012	20,000
Parallel Events	10,000
Mediatheque	500
Outreach program	20,000
Total Activities	252,000
Miscellaneous	10,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	463,750
BALANCE	100

Donors

FOUNDING DONORS. 2008 - 2009

Private Donors:

Benefactor

Marwan T. Assaf

Patrons

Anonymous
Association Philippe Jabre
Cherine Al Maghraby Tayeb
Ousseimi Foundation

Supporters

Anonymous
Rami Hourié
Laura & Raed Abillama
Lale & Jameel Akhrass
Antoine Boulos
Lara & Michael Fares
Maya & Nadim Kettthaneh
Rabih Keyrouz

Friends

Anonymous	Hoda Baroudi
Nayla Bustros	Joumane Chahine
Heidi & Jimmy Traboulsi	Lina Chammaa
Sybille Dagher Gemayel	May Daouk
Nathalie Khoury	Diala Ezzeddine & Hashim Sarkis
Sarah Trad	

Sponsors:

Financial Support

Banque Libano-Française
Fidus Wealth Management, SGBL Group
Bankers Assurance
Abela Tourism & Development Co.
ABC

In Kind Support

Samsung
Dar El Kotob, 53 Dots

DONORS 2010

Private Donors:

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Association Philippe Jabre
Cherine Al Maghraby Tayeb
Ousseimi Foundation
Foundation for Arts Initatives

Supporters

Anonymous
Rami Hourié
Janine & Antoine Maamari
Young Arab Theatre Fund

Friends

Anonymous	Asma Andraos	Amal Ghandour
Gaby Bayram	Dania Debs Sakka	Nathalie Khoury
Naila Kettaneh Kunigk	Wafa & Farid Saab	Mohamed H. Maktabi
Sarah Salem	Nicole Fayad	May Makarem
Olivier Gemayel	Diala Ezzeddine & Hashim Sarkis	Sarah Trad
Sharif Sehnaoui	Baha Bassatne	Abdullah Al Turki
Joumana Attalah	Lina Chammaa	Racha Nawam
Minnie Tasso	Carole & Georges Choucair	
Frederic Domont	Nada Debs	
May Daouk	Hoda & Elie Baroudi	

Sponsors:

Financial Support

Banque Libano-Française
Fidus Wealth Management, SGBL Group
Abela Tourism & Development Co
Median sarl

DONORS 2011

Private Donors:

Patrons

Association Philippe Jabre
Ford Foundation
Ousseimi Foundation

Supporters

Anonymous
Joumana and Henri Asseily
Wassim Rasamny
Maria & Malek Sukkar
Ana & Nabil Gholam

Friends

Anonymous	Asma Andraos	Joumana & Karam Atallah
Jacqueline & Marco Ayoub	Hoda & Elie Baroudi	Serge Brunst
Joumane Chahine	Lina Chammaa & Namir Cortas	Carla Chammas
Dolly and Georges Chammas	Michèle & Karim Chaya	Hala & Marc Cochrane
May Daouk	Nada Debs	Frederic Domont
Diala Ezzeddine & Hashim Sarkis	Cyn & Johnny Farah	Nicole Fayad
Michèle & Nicolas Garzouzi	Carole & Youssef Kamel	Nathalie Khoury
Naila Kettaneh Kunigk	Carine & Lucien Junior Letayf	Franck Luca
Mohamed Maktabi	Hala & Bechara Mouzannar	Hala & Joe Saddi
Carole & Georges Schoucair	Maroun Salloum	Minnie Tasso
Myriam & Nabil Yared		

Sponsors:

Financial Support

Banque Libano-Française
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