Translating Destruction
Contemporary Art & War in the Middle East

A SYMPOSIUM SPONSORED BY THE AGA KHAN PROGRAM FOR ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE AT MIT

FRIDAY APRIL 27 & SATURDAY APRIL 28, 2018 IN MIT ROOM 6-120

War ravages countries, cities, communities, and individuals. Its destructive effects linger in the collective consciousness for generations. Artists have been at the vanguard of societal responses to war and violence, recording and reflecting on its causes, impacts, meanings, and traumatic consequences and exploring means to deal with them. This symposium will probe the different ways in which contemporary artists are engaging the wars and upheavals afflicting the Middle East today and explore the formal, conceptual, and theoretical dimensions that underpin their work.

PANEL 1
APRIL 27: 2:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Horace Vernet and the Pitfalls of Painting Empire
Katie Hornstein
Dartmouth College
The Afterlife of Destruction: A Case of Resilience in Art Making
Ginane Makki Bacho
Artist, Beirut, Lebanon
Drawing on Erasure
Issam Kourbaj
Artist, Cambridge, United Kingdom
Activating the Past & Acting on the Present: Art in the Age of Perpetual Warfare
Pamela Karimi
University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
Wild Relatives
Jumana Manna
Artist, Berlin, Germany
Border Crossings: Artistic Responses to the War on Immigrants
Shiva Balaghi
Berggruen Institute, Los Angeles
The Making of Disruptive Images
Abed Al-Kadiri
Artist, Beirut, Lebanon
Sharing Wounds: Reconfiguring Trauma through Dissent
Jessica Winegar
Northwestern University

PANEL 2
APRIL 28: 9:30 AM - 12:15 PM
Wild Relatives
Jumana Manna
Artist, Berlin, Germany
Border Crossings: Artistic Responses to the War on Immigrants
Shiva Balaghi
Berggruen Institute, Los Angeles
The Making of Disruptive Images
Abed Al-Kadiri
Artist, Beirut, Lebanon
Sharing Wounds: Reconfiguring Trauma through Dissent
Jessica Winegar
Northwestern University
Antiquities with Agency: Gods and Kings in Recent Arab Cartoons
Jonathan Guyer
Harvard University
Contemporary Art, Cultural Destruction and the Perils of ‘Cyber Archaeology’
Chad Elias
Dartmouth College
This Botany of Death is What We Call Culture
Hannah Feldman
Northwestern University
Dynamic Preservation: Music, Art, and the Maintenance of Living Meaning
Wendy Shaw
Free University of Berlin, Germany

PANEL 3
APRIL 28: 2:00 PM - 5:15 PM
Antiquities with Agency: Gods and Kings in Recent Arab Cartoons
Jonathan Guyer
Harvard University
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Chad Elias
Dartmouth College
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