

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

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

PANEL 3

APRIL 28: 2:00 PM - 5:15 PM

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



ARTWORK BY GINANE MAKKI BACHO