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YEARS

# BEIRUT ART FAIR

18/22 SEPT 2019

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# BEIRUT ART FAIR 2019

## THE CHOICE OF DISCOVERY

**PROJECT, a new section dedicated to international emerging artists**

**BEIRUT ART WEEK  
a unique parallel program**

**Three exclusive exhibitions within the fair focused on the MENA region and Lebanon**

**BEIRUT ART FAIR and Beirut Design Fair, a common experience**



The 10th edition of BEIRUT ART FAIR, the international modern and contemporary art fair with a focus on the scenes of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA region), will take place from 18 to 22 September 2019 in Beirut.

A space for artistic revelations, BEIRUT ART FAIR celebrates its tenth anniversary this year and entrusts its artistic direction to Franco-Lebanese curator Joanna Abou Sleiman-Chevalier.

After a steady decade of growth, BEIRUT ART FAIR has become a major event in the art fair calendar, attracting every year a growing number of visitors from around the world.

For its 10-year anniversary, BEIRUT ART FAIR reaffirms its commitment to the discovery of the local and international contemporary scenes and wishes to celebrate Lebanon and its sometimes little-known treasures by presenting exceptional and never-exhibited-before works from private collections.

# A FAIR CENTERED ON CONTEMPORARY CREATION

BEIRUT ART FAIR reaffirms its commitment to highlight the creations of emerging artists and to shed a new light on scenes sometimes overlooked by the public.

Thus, the brand-new PROJECT space gives selected galleries a young and dynamic platform to put the spotlight on their promising artists, endorsed by the fair's selection committee.

## AN ACTIVE AND ENGAGED FAIR

BEIRUT ART FAIR places great emphasis on freedom of expression, the dialogue of cultures, and tolerance, which constitute its core values.

For this 10th edition, the founder and director of the fair, Laure d'Hauteville, is committed to promoting openness to the world and innovation, notably through a renewal of the artistic program and by showcasing new trends.

Joanna Abou Sleiman-Chevalier, the fair's artistic director, backed by the selection committee, unveiled the list of 55 participating galleries from 18 countries, representing the vitality of the international contemporary scene.



© BEIRUT ART FAIR 2018

# EDITORIAL BY LAURE D'HAUTEVILLE FOUNDER & DIRECTOR OF BEIRUT ART FAIR



**BEIRUT ART FAIR** is turning 10. This momentous anniversary marks a decade of accomplishments and growth, establishing the fair as a flagship event of the MENA region's artistic calendar, one consistently expanding in artistic scope and international reach. This year, while still focused on the MENA, the fair gathers the global art scene, welcoming **55** leading galleries from **18** countries, and featuring artists from **35** nationalities. More than 30,000 visitors from all over the globe are expected, a ten-fold growth in ten years.

But numbers cannot express the powerful human stories that unfolded throughout this past decade — countless artists connecting with new audiences, friendships formed, and collaborations flourishing. **BEIRUT ART FAIR** has continuously taken risks, betting on emerging scenes from the Levant to North Africa, to India and East Asia and launching many an outstanding career. This year, the fair commits to its role of artistic incubator, with an unparalleled artistic selection placed, more than ever, under the sign of the discovery of rising international contemporary art.

This tenth edition above all pays homage to Lebanon. Since the beginning, **BEIRUT ART FAIR** has highlighted Beirut's strategic position as a key cultural node in the Middle East and on the transversal Silk Road, bridging East and West. Rich 6,000 years of History, the city constantly demonstrates its resilience. It prevails today as a hyperactive artistic hub, with a multitude of projects initiated this past decade, stemming from institutions — museums, contemporary art centers, foundations — and from energetic galleries and collectors. **BEIRUT ART FAIR** is proud to galvanize this scene.

Beirut has always been a haven for artists. Its freedom of speech is unparalleled in the Middle East, as are its tolerance, generosity, and cosmopolitanism. Like its host city, **BEIRUT ART FAIR** constitutes a space where all are free to dare, speak up, and experiment, and where artists censored in their countries and those who flee conflict are warmly welcomed.

Most important, celebrating Lebanon means breaking stereotypes. If humankind is more digitally connected than ever, it is also increasingly divided by physical, communitarian and mental barriers. **BEIRUT ART FAIR** is committed to lifting up these walls, and help spur instead the fruitful exchange of ideas among artists, art lovers, professionals, and collectors, in the spirit of intercultural dialogue.

This year's special exhibitions mirror the fair's focuses.

**Revealing by SGBL** unveils groundbreaking artists from the MENA region, while **"Unexpected Trove - the Unseen Works of Hussein Madi (Rome 1964-1970)"** sheds light on a recently rediscovered body of paintings produced by this major Lebanese artist in Italy in the nineteen-sixties. Crowning the homage to the Land of the Cedars, **"A Tribute to Lebanon: An Orientalist Voyage"** showcases historical Lebanon-themed artworks and artifacts made by European travelers, expressive of myriad outlooks on the country.

In line with the fair's vision, the **talks and roundtables program** will see representatives from the world's leading artistic institutions debate artists and noted art professionals on questions surrounding Modern and Contemporary Arab art, and the journey through **Beirut Art Week** will bring international contemporary art to the heart of the city. Opening up further doors to discovery, our partner, **Beirut Design Fair**, showcases an outstanding selection of modern and contemporary creations in parallel with **BEIRUT ART FAIR**. 

# PARTICIPATING GALLERIES

## 55 galleries coming from 18 countries

A&V Art Gallery, Belarus  
Agial Art Gallery, Lebanon  
Aramé Art Gallery, Armenia/Lebanon  
Art on 56th Gallery, Lebanon  
ArtSpace Casablanca, Morocco\*  
BACKSLASH, France\*  
Banzy Gallery, Lebanon\*  
CORE Art and Design Gallery, Greece\*  
Emmanuel PG Gallery, Lebanon/Germany  
Galerie Cheriff Tabet, Lebanon  
Galerie Paris-Beijing, France\*  
Galerie Pauline Pavéc, France\*  
Galerie Rochane, Lebanon  
GALLERIA CONTINUA, France/Italy/China/Cuba\*  
gb agency, France\*  
Galerie In Situ - fabienne leclerc, France  
Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jordan\*  
kamel mennour, France/United Kingdom\*  
Karim Gallery, Jordan\*  
King Abdul Aziz Center For World Culture (Ithra), Saudi Arabia\*  
L'Agence à Paris, France  
La Galerie Nationale, United Arab Emirates\*  
Lebanese Talents, Lebanon\*  
Letitia Gallery, Lebanon  
M Square Gallery, Lebanon  
Marfa', Lebanon  
Mark Hachem Gallery, France/Lebanon/United States  
Mono Gallery, Saudi Arabia\*  
Mustafa Ali Art Gallery, Syria\*  
Nabad Art Gallery, Jordan\*  
Nadine Fayad Art Gallery, Saudi Arabia\*  
OOA Gallery, Spain\*

Orient Gallery, Jordan\*  
Primo Marella Gallery, Italy\*  
Samer Kozah Gallery, Syria  
SEPTIEME GALLERY, France\*  
South Border Gallery, Lebanon  
TAFETA, United Kingdom  
The Corner Art Space, Jordan\*  
Wadi Finan Art Gallery, Jordan\*  
WENTRUP, Germany\*  
WIP Gallery, Lebanon\*

### PROJECT

AFIKARIS, France\*  
Art Scene, Lebanon\*  
CUB Gallery, Lebanon  
Galerie Anne-Sarah Bénichou, France\*  
Galerie Janine Rubeiz, Lebanon  
Galerie La La Lande, France  
Galerie Odile Ouizeman, France\*  
Galerie Tanit, Lebanon  
Ramses Wissa Wassef Art Center, Egypt\*  
Rose Issa Projects, United Kingdom  
Pi Art House, France\*  
Twelve Gates Arts, United States  
ZeeArts Gallery, United Arab Emirates\*

\*33 new galleries  
22 returning galleries

# EXHIBITIONS TAKING PLACE WITHIN BEIRUT ART FAIR

## REVEALING by SGBL

Over the years, SGBL has proven to be at the forefront of the cultural scene in the region and a strong promoter of art in all its forms.

Within this context, SGBL supports, for the fourth year running, emerging artists from across the MENA region with the REVEALING section, in partnership with BEIRUT ART FAIR.

This leading platform offers promising talents a privileged access to collectors and fairgoers and creates professional contacts among the various actors present at this must-attend fair.

To celebrate ten years of BEIRUT ART FAIR, REVEALING by SGBL has invited independent curator Rachel Dedman, who selected an outstanding group of **10 artists from the MENA region** following an open call answered by over **400 applicants**. These emerging artists will showcase their artworks from 18 to 22 September 2019 within BEIRUT ART FAIR.

Joanna Baloglou, Head of Corporate Communication at SGBL:

*"SGBL, as a major player in the Lebanese cultural scene, has always been committed to supporting artistic creation in its many forms in the region. And today more than ever at BEIRUT ART FAIR, we can say that in 4 years, the REVEALING by SGBL platform has succeeded in bringing real expertise in the discovery of the talents of tomorrow. And this 10th edition will prove it!"*

REVEALING by SGBL 2019 is pleased to announce its selected artists:

**Balsam Abo Zour (Lebanon)**  
**Yusef Audeh (Palestine)**  
**Nadim Choufi (Lebanon)**  
**Hadi Fallahpisheh (Iran)**  
**Lynn Kodeih (Lebanon)**

**Cristiana De Marchi (Italy-Lebanon)**  
**Hussein Nassereddine (Lebanon)**  
**Ieva Saudargaite Douaihi (Lithuania-Lebanon)**  
**Ghita Skali (Morocco)**  
**Maya-Ines Touam (Algeria)**



© BEIRUT ART FAIR 2018

## REVEALING BY SGBL



Rachel Dedman, curator of REVEALING by SGBL 2019

*“There is no unifying theme to the platform. However, each artist’s work reflects—and in many case addresses—the range of personal, political and socio-economic conditions in which we live today across the MENA region. In this sense, REVEALING by SGBL bears witness to some of the urgencies and issues governing society, and the interests shaping artistic practice.*

**Hadi Fallahpisheh’s** monumental, long-exposure photographs engage with the contemporary nature of news and its circulation, while making use of fundamental photographic techniques, and the performance of the body in the darkroom. **Ieva Saudargaite Douaihi’s** work addresses age-old questions about photography’s relationship to its referent, using sculpture to make image and object meet tangibly. For **Maya-Ines Touam**, photography is a site to play with the construction of identities: in her work, symbols of contemporary Algeria meet tropes of Western vanitas painting.

**Ghita Skali’s** video work explores tensions between nature and technology in the service of surveillance in Morocco, while **Nadim Choufi** examines how sexuality and identity are mediated through technology, at the intersection of the human and the digital. Notions of national identity are pursued through the tactility of embroidery by **Cristiana de Marchi**, while **Yusef Audeh** and **Balsam Abo Zour** use painting to interrogate the mundane and the dark, the occupation and the allegory. **Hussein Nassereddine’s** graphic work explores the intimate histories of Arabic literature; while **Lynn Kodeih** considers the political potential latent in familiar landscapes.”

## LEBANON MODERN:

### “UNEXPECTED TROVE - THE UNSEEN WORKS OF HUSSEIN MADI (ROME 1964-1970)”

“Unexpected Trove —The Unseen Works of Hussein Madi (Rome 1964-1970)” puts the spotlight on celebrated Lebanese artist Hussein Madi’s (b. 1938) first years in Rome, which saw him steer his artistic practice in the direction that characterizes him today, but also produce a so-far never exhibited, and indeed unexpected, series of bright, figurative Italian scenes.

In 1964, having patiently saved his earnings from selling illustrations to various Lebanese and Iraqi publications, Madi arrived in Rome, which, to him, represented the heart of the art world, and enrolled in the Accademia di Belle Arte, initiating what would be a two-decade-long stay in the Italian capital.

During his first Roman years, Madi notably developed his own rules of abstraction, drawing simultaneously from his Oriental roots, Islamic art, and Western modes of artistic expression. In parallel to this well-known evolution, between 1964 and 1970, Madi produced an exceptional ensemble of close to fifty Italian scenes, in marked stylistic contrast with his renowned practice – a collection, assumed lost for more than three decades, that only recently resurfaced serendipitously. These key paintings in the history of Madi’s career not only frame the artist at a pivotal point in his artistic trajectory, but are also a testament to Italian-Lebanese artistic exchanges during the late nineteen-sixties.

“Unexpected Trove—The Unseen Works of Hussein Madi (Rome 1964-1970)” will expand on the circumstances that led Madi to paint works so remarkably different from the canvases he would produce later in his career, and put them in dialogue with his first experimentations with abstraction realized in Rome concurrently.

Madi’s Roman landscapes are now part of the Mazen & Loulia Soueid collection. As Mazen Soueid remarked, “While tracing Madi’s abstract paintings to Rome, this body of work appeared as a beautiful surprise. It represents the visual diary by young Madi, reacting to his new surroundings after leaving his homeland.”

Curator: Abed Al Kadiri

Works from the collection of Mazen & Loulia Soueid.

“Unexpected Trove—The Unseen Works of Hussein Madi (Rome 1964-1970)” is accompanied by a limited-edition catalogue published by Dongola.

The exhibition is placed under the patronage of the Italian Embassy in Lebanon, and is taking place in collaboration with Christie’s.



Hussein Madi, Untitled, 1967. Oil on canvas (reverse side).  
Collection of Mazen & Loulia Soueid.

## A TRIBUTE TO LEBANON: AN ORIENTALIST VOYAGE

“A Tribute to Lebanon” explores Western creations inspired by Lebanon, from the eighteenth century to the present day, through artworks and historical objects from the eclectic and fascinating collection of **Philippe Jabre**.

A voyage through time and space, the exhibition invites visitors to discover the image of Lebanon filtered through Western eyes. Long before the independence of the Lebanese Republic in 1943, Western artists, travelers, and artist-travelers, already felt the irresistible attraction of this region of the world. In between a fantasized Orient and a truthful recounting of history, straddling reactions to political events and aesthetic inspirations, the works epitomize the multiplicity of foreign points of view on Lebanon.

The exhibition features more than a hundred exceptional artworks and artefacts, spanning rare objects representing, testifying or resulting from travels, such as automatons, dolls, postcards, photographic or watercolor albums. Artworks include historical Orientalist paintings of Lebanon’s Mountain and main cities, Beirut and Tripoli, as well as rare works by twentieth-century major artists: many treasures will be revealed for the first time, with, among others, pieces by Andy Warhol, David Hockney, and nineteen-eighties Lebanese-wartime paintings by A.R. Penck and photographs by Don McCullin.

Eschewing a traditional chronological narrative, “A Tribute to Lebanon” places the accent on the emotions spurred by close and distant encounters with Lebanon, its mosaic of ethnic groups and unforgettable landscapes. It conceives of Lebanon as a spirit, an attitude, unlimited by time or space, and a vehicle for timeless values.

Curator: Art expert and collector Gaby Daher  
Scenographer: Architect Jean-Louis Mainguy



David Hockney, Lebanese Mountain, 1966. Colored pencil on paper and ink on paper. Courtesy Philippe Jabre Collection.

# CINE BOX - VIDEO ART PROGRAM

## “THE SENSITIVE SEA”

The video art program “The Sensitive Sea” is born out of a visual dialogue of the Lebanese and Western scenes around a common theme, the Sea, a bridge linking two cultures across the Mediterranean.

The Sea has lured artists since Antiquity: between terror and fascination, it is simultaneously a vehicle for anxieties and hopes. The Sea, and water more generally, are in both Western and Oriental literature tightly linked to ideas of memory and metamorphosis.

The selected artists propose a reflection around the multiple stakes carried by the Sea, be they political, economic or cultural. “The Sensitive Sea” highlights the sea as a contemporary artistic motif, as well as the many ways to approach it.

Curators: Madeleine Filippi et Sophie Lanoë

Participating artists:

**Ange Leccia (France)**

**Nikolaj Bendix Skyum Larsen (Denmark)**

**Sabyl Ghoussoub (Lebanon)**

**Saïd Afifi (Morocco)**

**Sarah Trouche (France)**



© Ange Leccia, Marissa, 2016, Video. Courtesy of the artist and galerie Jousse Entreprise, Paris.

# TALKS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS PROGRAM

**BEIRUT ART FAIR** is pleased to announce its talks and roundtables series, taking place every afternoon during the fair.

The debates will focus on the subject of **modern and contemporary art from the MENA region**, aiming to enrich our understanding of it, from a historical, theoretical and critical perspective, to examine its impact and brainstorm its possible futures.

The series of exchanges will cover topics such as **the making of the artist, the importance of art in telling an alternative story of the region, artistic scenes' effect on their environment, and financial challenges faced by regional museums today.**

Celebrated British war photographer **Don McCullin** will also discuss his work in Beirut in the nineteen-eighties, and we will go back in time with a **roundtable on Orientalist art.**

## THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

***Don McCullin***

4.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.

***What "makes" artists and their works?***

6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

## FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

***The importance of the arts in telling an alternative story of the MENA region.***

5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

***The impact of an artistic scene on its environment***

6.30 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.

## SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

***Museums' economic stakes: financing, philanthropy and more***

4.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.

***An Orientalist Voyage***

6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

# Thursday 19 September

## Don McCullin

**4.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.**  
**In English**

**Talk by photographer Don McCullin**

*Don McCullin (b.1935) is one of the world's greatest war photographers. The impact of his black-and-white images is immeasurable, as the British photographer traveled the planet to shed light on extremely perilous situations, uncover hidden truths and relentlessly denounce injustice. McCullin depicts his subjects with empathy and compassion, and celebrates the dignity and resilience of mankind under the harshest circumstances. His work is in a class with the likes of Robert Capa, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Robert Frank, W. Eugene Smith, and Gilles Caron. He will discuss his work in Lebanon, notably in Beirut, during the war that ravaged the country in the nineteen-eighties.*

*He will discuss his work in Lebanon, notably in Beirut, during the war that ravaged the country in the nineteen-eighties.*

## What “makes” artists and their works?

**6 p.m. - 7 p.m.**  
**In French & English**

Moderated by **Joanna Abou Sleiman-Chevalier**, BEIRUT ART FAIR Artistic director

with

**Valérie Arcache-Aouad**, auctioneer, Beirut

**Richard Haykel**, art collector

**Elena Micheletti**, Associate director, Primo Marella Gallery, Milan

**Hady Sy**, photographer and visual artist

**Marie-Ann Yemsi**, independent art consultant and curator

*From the studio to cultural institutions, what shapes an artist's career ? Is the support of experts and cultural institutions necessary to promote undiscovered artists on the contemporary art scene?*

*How do theoretical approaches and visions inform the understanding of artists' production?*

*How can artists' freedom and singularity be protected despite external pressures to fit a certain mold?*

*How can the imposition of certain western criteria on artistic production be avoided, and how can different approaches be better integrated in non-western scenes?*

# FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

## ***The importance of the arts in telling an alternative story of the MENA region.***

**5 p.m. - 6 p.m.**  
**In English**

Moderated by **Dr. Marie Tomb**, art historian of the Middle East

with

**Catherine David**, Deputy Director for research and globalization, Musée National d'Art Moderne at the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris

**Rachel Dedman**, independent curator

**Rose Issa**, publisher, writer and curator

**Lyne Sneige**, Director of the Arts & Culture Program at the Middle East Institute (MEI), Washington D.C

*As artists are witnesses to their times, do they have the duty to testify to the history-in-the-making they are experiencing?*

*Should artists take on the task of writing History in the absence of an "official" version of it in MENA countries?*

*How do modern and contemporary MENA artists contribute to writing the History of their countries and their region?*

*What are the repercussions of artworks touching upon MENA History?*

## ***The impact of an artistic scene on its environment***

**6.30 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.**  
**In English**

Moderated by **Olivia Bourrat**, Scientific Director at Agence France-Muséums, Louvre Abu Dhabi (UAE)

with

**Faisal Al Hassan**, General Manager at Warehouse421, Abu Dhabi

**Saleh Barakat**, founder and director of Agial Art Gallery and Saleh Barakat Gallery, Beirut

**Jean-François Charnier**, Scientific Director, French Agency for ALUla Development (Saudi Arabia)

**Nada Ghandour**, independent curator

*What is the role of institutions in the development of an artistic scene?*

*Between emulation and competition, what is the role of belonging to a group of artists or a movement in fashioning artists' production?*

*Who participates in the selection of artists and the development of an artistic scene?*

*How can an artistic scene contribute to a society's transformation?*

# SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

## ***Museums' economic stakes: financing, philanthropy and more***

**4.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.**  
**In English**

Moderated by **Olivia Bourrat**, Scientific Director at Agence France-Muséums, Louvre Abu Dhabi (UAE)

with

**Ainhoa Grandes**, President of the Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA), Barcelona

**Dr. Khalid Khreis**, Director of the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Amman

**Candida Pestana**, Curator of Contemporary Art at the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra), Dhahran (Saudi Arabia)

**Véronique Rieffel**, Curator, former Director of the Institut des Cultures de l'Islam, Paris

*What are the challenges facing museums today in financial terms?*

*Who finances museums?*

*What are the limits of relying on philanthropy?*

*Are there source of financing museums should refuse?*

## ***An Orientalist Voyage***

**6 p.m. – 7 p.m.**  
**In French**

Moderated by **Dr. Ray Jabre Mouawad**, Professor of History at the Lebanese American University (LAU), Beirut

with

**Gaby Daher**, arts and decorative arts expert

**Philippe Jabre**, collector

**Jean-Louis Mainguy**, scenographer and interior designer

*Who are the European artists who painted or produced artworks responding to Lebanon and the Levant?*

*What were their motivations to depict Lebanon and the Levant?*

*What were their perspectives on Lebanon and the Levant?*

# JOINT INTERVIEW

**Laure d'Hauteville, founder and director of BEIRUT ART FAIR,  
and Joanna Abou Sleiman-Chevalier, artistic director of BEIRUT ART FAIR**



Laure d'Hauteville, founder and director of BEIRUT ART FAIR  
Joanna Abou Sleiman-Chevalier, artistic director of BEIRUT ART FAIR

**This edition celebrates 10 years of discoveries. How do you plan to fulfil this promise, and what to expect from this milestone event?**

**Laure d'Hauteville:** More than ever, BEIRUT ART FAIR remains committed to lifting up walls – not only artistic ones but also interpersonal, psychological and societal ones. In parallel with the gallery booths, we plan a diversity of artistic experiences, reflective of the Fair's spirit of openness and innovation, across time and space. For instance, we exhibit simultaneously global emerging artists, in our REVEALING by SGBL section, and icons of international historical and Modern art, with a museum-level exhibition of Lebanon-themed works, and another one revealing for the first time never-seen-before-works of major Lebanese modern artist Hussein Madi. The fair is also tightly connected with Beirut's urban fabric thanks to an extended program of Art Week events, a celebratory journey coupling contemporary art and the discovery of the city. Furthermore, this 2019 edition aims to draw stronger-than-ever bridges between countries and continents: the international community – from the MENA region, to Europe, Africa and the United States, among other places – looks forward to September. 2018 welcomed 53 galleries from 22 countries. For this tenth edition, we plan to broaden our horizons and present an even wider panel of renowned and promising artists to a artists an ever-growing international public.

**Joanna Abou Sleiman-Chevalier:** BEIRUT ART FAIR is devoted to the discovery of the young international contemporary art scene, and to the rediscovery of artists whose work might unfairly be less acknowledged: this curatorial direction gives its meaning to the fair. We are very happy to present a number of young galleries, some of whom have been operating for less than a year, such as Artspace Casablanca (Morocco). Other, well-established, such as kamel mennour (Paris and London) and GALLERIA CONTINUA (Beijing, Les Moulins, San Gimignano),

Havana), Primo Marella (Milano and Lugano), and OOA Gallery (Barcelona) will too be unveiling their discoveries. As artistic director for this 2019 edition, I am focusing on the emerging scene. We do not focus on a specific region: the fair is part of an interconnected international scene of discoveries. At the fair, the public will have the opportunity to discover international artists that might not be, or rarely be, seen in the Middle East or in other fairs.

**You present the city of Beirut as a major artistic hub for the Middle East. Could you tell us more?**

**LDH:** Beirut, and Lebanon, enjoy 6,000 years of History! The city sits at the heart of the Fertile Crescent, the cradle of civilization, and its strong cultural tradition has withstood the vicissitudes of History. Today, Beirut is a key cultural node not only in the MENA region, but also on the transversal Silk Road, bridging East and West. A cosmopolitan city, a melting pot of ethnic and religious communities, Beirut symbolizes cultural and linguistic blending. Its freedom, openness, tolerance and generosity are unique. In a way, BEIRUT ART FAIR carries all such positive values embodied by the city of Beirut, as well as its historical embracing of cultural diversity. Moreover, artistic projects are multiplying here, be it at the level of institutions – museums, contemporary art centers, foundation – or at that of the very active galleries and collectors. BEIRUT ART FAIR is a catalyst of the country's artistic and cultural life, with numerous other events taking place around it in September.

**JAC:** Beirut is a cosmopolitan, moving city, a city that constantly reinvents itself, an energy that builds, deconstructs and reconstructs itself in different ways. This mindset applies to all kinds of creativities, from architecture, to music, to the fine arts and design. Moreover, the freedom of speech that reigns in Beirut is without equal in the Middle East. This cultural wealth allows it to be an artistic hub, for regional artists (from Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Iran) as well as for international ones and especially ones from emerging territories (such as India, Africa, or Pakistan).

Beirut offers endless opportunities for encounters and discoveries. Lebanon's creativity is impressive, a fact that the international press and art professionals acknowledge. For instance, this year, the Venice Biennale welcomed a dozen of Lebanese artists, even though the country didn't even have a national pavilion! There were for instance Simone Fattal and Etel Adnan at the Lugo e Seigni exhibition at the Punta de la Dogana, as well as Zad Moultaka in dialogue with a piece by de James Lee Bayers, and Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige at V-A-C Zattere, to cite but a few. The cultural rise of Lebanon might have been interrupted by the war, but its cultural identity reemerged stronger than ever. The Lebanese talent to adapt and to be resilient are unique. War imposed pragmatism and the need to bounce back. It is only legitimate that

Lebanon reclaims its international cultural stature.

**What is the importance, the influence, of BEIRUT ART FAIR on the Lebanese and regional artistic scenes?**

**LDH:** In a decade, BEIRUT ART FAIR has grown into one of the most important events of the regional cultural calendar, and enjoys international recognition. It has considerably expanded in artistic scope and global reach. Attendance numbers have steadily increased, reaching 32,000 last year, rising from 3,500 in 2010! This evolution parallels the undeniable growth of the MENA art market, as well as the visible rise of the public's interest in contemporary art and appetite to discover new territories, as part of a broader, global, cultural trend. We are proud to build strong relationships with international art institutions and museums, and to enable collectors to discover what makes the Land of the Cedars unique. Most of all, I am passionate about discovering new talents, following their careers and watching them blossom. I remain close to many artists whom I met at the very beginning of my career; it's an honor to count them as my friends.

Art in many ways plays a role as a vector of peace. In a world where people, communities and countries increasingly close themselves up to others, art creates human bonds, instead of breaking them. Artists are witnesses to their times. They cull from past experiences to spur the public to envision alternative, hopeful, futures.

**Tell us about your personal, and fruitful links, with Lebanon.**

**LDH:** I have been present in Lebanon for 28 years, and launched the first modern and contemporary art fair in Beirut in 1998, the ARTUEL Salon, the precursor to BEIRUT ART FAIR. I lived through Lebanon's ups and downs, and saw artists react to and reflect on their country's and the region's situation all throughout. I witnessed the transformation of the local art world from an embryonic scene to a full-fledged one, spanning several museums, contemporary art centers, and dozens of galleries, each with its distinctive identity, among many other initiatives – and of course, the dramatic international opening up of Beirut's artistic scene, which this year's fair epitomizes.

**JAC:** I am French-Lebanese. I have a visceral link with Lebanon. In 2015, I organised in Beirut an exhibition called "Territoires d'affects" (affective territories), which explored the symbolic links that artists entertain with Lebanon, whether they live there or abroad. Mona Hatoum, Etel Adnan, Nabil Nahas, Joanna Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige, Simone Fattal and many others participated. I have to add that I have been passionate about contemporary art since childhood. My mother gifted me my first painting when I was nine. My

passion was not born yesterday, but developed through the years. I curated several exhibitions, among them “Art in Sport” at the Shanghai contemporary art museum for the 2007 Olympic Games, and “Qui es-tu Peter?” (Who Are You Peter?) at the Espace Culturel Louis Vuitton in Paris. In the context of “La Nuit des Musées” (The Night of the Museums) in Paris, I produced and programmed movies at the Museum of Hunting and Nature, which brought together classical music and video art.

Interview by Dr. Marie Tomb, art historian and specialist of the Middle East.



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# SELECTION COMMITTEE



**Olivia Bourrat** is the Curatorial Director of Agence France-Muséums, the French partner of the Louvre Abu Dhabi museum.



**Jean-Marc Decrop** is an expert specialized in Chinese contemporary art, and has contributed to its discovery abroad. He contributes to the constitution of European collections by spreading his field on Indonesia, Pakistan and Middle East.



**Tamara Inja Jaber** is an art advisor for prominent Arab collectors and governmental institutions.



**Lyne Sneige** is currently the director of the Arts & Culture Program at the Middle East Institute (MEI) in Washington, D.C.



**Marie-Anne Yemsi**, an independent German-Cameroonian art consultant and curator, is a renowned expert in cultural production with an emphasis on emerging artists and the artistic scene of Africa and its diasporas.

# OFF-SITE

## BEIRUT ART FAIR VIP PROGRAM

**Numerous museums, private collections and Lebanese foundations will open their doors to VIPs** in the framework of extraordinary and confidential visits. These artistic excursions will be punctuated with convivial moments, dinners and unforgettable evenings which characterize the Land of the Cedars.

**The Sursock Museum** will hold an exclusive viewing of the exhibition “Baalbek, Archives of an Eternity”, retracing the history of this eight-millennial site, and a tour of its permanent collection of Lebanese art, while the **Beirut Art Center** will host a private tour of the contemporary art exhibition “How to Reappear”, and **Dar El Nimer** will welcome VIPs to the exhibition “La Mer Patrie”, featuring 1980s photographs of Palestinian life in Beirut by Fouad Elkoury and Jeremy Peacock. **The Art Galleries of the American University of Beirut** will host VIPs to discover “The Permanent Collection” which includes a wide variety of works from some of the major figures of Lebanese art, as well as the exhibition “CUT/GASH/SLASH - Adachi Masao – A Militant Theory of Landscape”, celebrating the art and movies of this leading figure of Japanese New Wave cinema with strong ties to Lebanon. **Mina Image Centre** will give a tour of Taysir Basniji's “Sand Comes Through the Window.”

Looking to the future, **MACAM** investigates the human interaction with virtual reality and the digital. Also opening their doors for private tours are the **A.MUSE.UM**, dedicated to works by noted Lebanese artist Nadim Karam as well as the **Ramzi and Saeda Dalloul Foundation**, boasting more than **4,000 artworks** from North Africa and the Middle East, and **Philippe Jabre**, with a collection spanning three centuries of art and a special exhibition of celebrated British photographer Don McCullin.

VIPs will also enjoy an exclusive preview of **BEIRUT ART WEEK** on September 17 in downtown Beirut, and, throughout the Fair, the VIP Lounge will stay open to encourage artistic exchanges around refreshments.

The **BEIRUT ART FAIR VIP Pass** also grants an entrance for two people at **Lazy B**, one of Lebanon's most beautiful, and peaceful, beaches, between September 14 and 30. (30 minutes south of Beirut)



© BEIRUT ART FAIR 2018

# OFF-SITE

## BEIRUT ART WEEK

The fair's main satellite event, BEIRUT ART WEEK (17 to 24 September 2019) electrifies the Lebanese capital by offering **a journey of exclusive artistic experiences throughout the city.**

From a pop-up exhibition in a building marked by the war, to a Latin American - themed evening in an abandoned factory, or intimate get-togethers in Arabian Nights palaces, BEIRUT ART WEEK is not to be missed. The series of events mixes contemporary art, dance and traditional music in atypical places, thus highlighting the architectural and cultural heritage of the city.

This immersive multidisciplinary event invites to explore and celebrate, and to giving oneself to the frenetic pace of Lebanese conviviality, appetite for discovery, and sense of celebration.

**BEIRUT ART WEEK will be inaugurated on 17 September at 6 pm in front of Hotel Le Gray**, where Lebanese-Senegalese artist Hady Sy will unveil his monumental sculpture "Wall of Hope", standing on the infamous green line that once separated East and West Beirut and where one of Beirut's gates once stood. Visitors will continue to the "off/site" exhibition, which will gather more than 50 independent artists from Lebanon and the region in the Lobby & Atrium of Hotel Le Gray.

The journey then unfolds with, among many other events, a live performance by Michel Abboud on the terrace of Opera Gallery, while Belvedere Art Space will offer a journey into contemporary African art in the presence of the artists, and, in an abandoned factory in the Bourj Hammoud district, South Border Gallery will open the doors of the exhibition "Study for a Soap" with a Latin American evening, transforming the space with exceptional artworks and music.

All along the promenade in downtown Beirut, visitors will discover and re-discover Lebanese architecture and a series of monumental sculptures exhibited throughout downtown Beirut.



© Hady Sy

# OFF-SITE

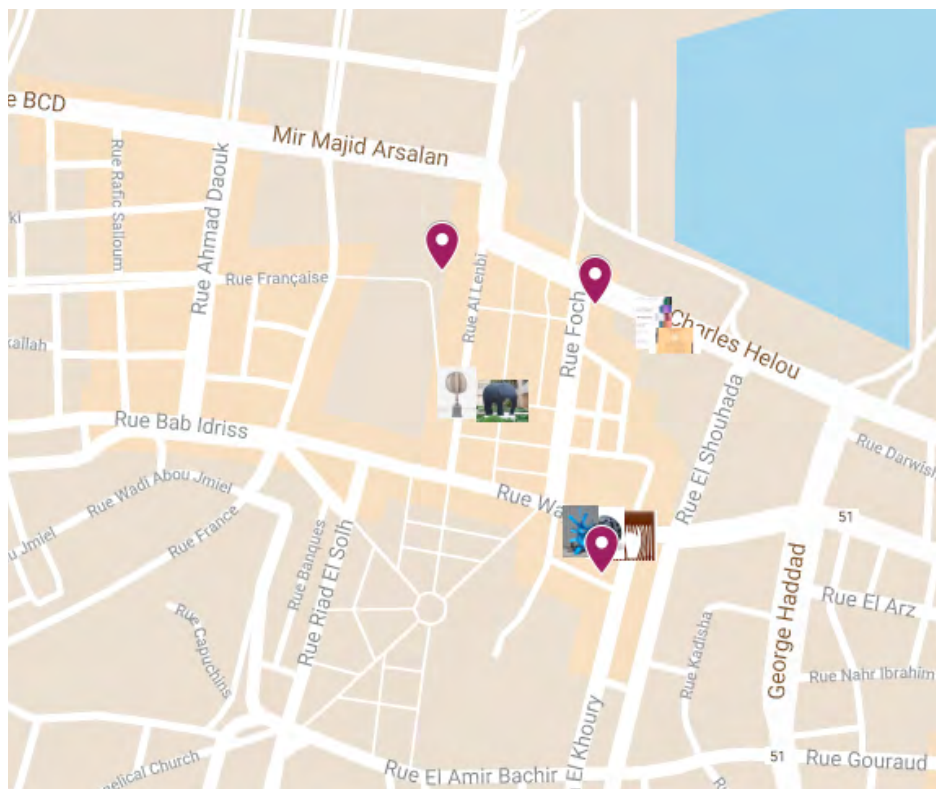
## BEIRUT ART WEEK PROGRAM

**“off/site - an independent artists exhibition”** is a collective show of more than 50 artists in the Lobby & the Atrium of Hotel Le Gray, organized by BEIRUT ART FAIR, curated by Grace & Emmanuel Guiragossian, with the support of Bekdache Artist Home.

**“IMPRESSIONS”** is a solo show by New York based Lebanese artist Michel Abboud, organized by Opera Gallery Beirut. Featuring a live performance by the artist at 8 pm on September 17.

**“A Journey Into Contemporary African Art”** is a collective exhibition of African artists, organized by Belvedere Art Space, followed by a party in presence of all the artists. Exhibiting artists: Rom Isichei - Chidi Kwubiri - Duke Asidere - Alimi Adewale - Gerald Chukwuma - Suraj Adekola.

**“Study for a Soap”** is a collective exhibition organized by South Border Gallery at Abroyan Factory, Burj Hammoud, followed by a party. Featuring unseen installations by Emmanuel Tussore (France). With, From Cuba: Carlos Garcia De La Nuez, Andy Lianes Bulto, Jose Manuel Mesias, Frank Gonzales Martinez, Douglas Arguelles Cruz, Daniel Rodriguez Collazo, Renelio Marin Contreras, Ernesto Mateo Rancano, Fernando Cruz Ramirez, Duvier Delgado Hernandez, Luisa Mesa. From Lebanon: Samer Bou Rjeily, Ghassan Zard, Abdullah Barake, Nayla Romanos Ilya, Philippe Daher, Antoine Asmar, Gilbert Debs & Claudia Chahine. From Chile: Claudia Hidalgo. From Nigeria: Eva Obodo. From Venezuela: Ben Abounassif. From Colombia: Alfonso Bonilla. From Malaysia: Soh Boon Kiong



MAP OF BEIRUT ART WEEK 2019 © BEIRUT ART FAIR

# OFF-SITE

## BEIRUT DESIGN FAIR

For this important milestone – the Fair’s 10th edition – BEIRUT ART FAIR partners with Beirut Design Fair to offer the public a common event, a unique emotion!

**Beirut Design Fair is dedicated to modern and contemporary furniture and objects.** This Design event, the largest in the Middle East, features rare and sometimes exclusive pieces by regional and global creators (from Europe, the USA, the Middle East), with around **50 exhibitors from more than 10 countries.**



© Beirut Design Fair, DimoreGallery

# PARTNERS

## PRIVILEGED PARTNER



## INSTITUTIONS



## PARTNERS



## MEDIAS



# VISITORS INFORMATION

## BEIRUT ART FAIR & Beirut Design Fair

### SEASIDE ARENA, HALLS 1&2

New waterfront, downtown Beirut, Lebanon



### ART COLLECTORS' PREVIEW

18 September, 4 to 6 pm (upon invitation)

### VIP OPENING

18 September, 6 to 10 pm (VIP Pass)

### PUBLIC OPENING HOURS

Thursday 19 and Friday 20 September, 3 to 8 pm.

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September, noon to 8 pm.

### KIDS WORKSHOP

Workshops offered for children aged 6-12 years old by BeMA (Beirut Museum of Art)

### ADMISSION

The entrance ticket gives access to both BEIRUT ART FAIR and Beirut Design Fair

Day ticket (valid one public day): USD 10 / LBP 15,000

4-day pass (valid all public days): USD 17 / LBP 25,000

4-day pass + 1 catalogue: USD 30 / LBP 45,000

Catalogue: USD 17 / LBP 25,000

Free entrance for visitors under 25.

### BEIRUT ART WEEK

17 to 24 September 2019

[www.beirut-art-fair.com](http://www.beirut-art-fair.com)

[www.beirut-design-fair.com](http://www.beirut-design-fair.com)

@beirutartfair #baf2019



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<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/e4fc0jkyk8uks7b/AADzAGWxCEmxFTPhOu-kOgdqa?dl=0>