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

The Map vs. the Mask
Kaelen Wilson-Goldie
School of Visual Arts, New York

PANEL 2
APRIL 28: 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Border Crossings: Artistic Responses to the War on Immigrants
Shiva Balaghi
Berggruen Institute, Los Angeles

Wild Relatives
Jumana Manna
Artist, Berlin, Germany

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 - 5:00 PM
Contemporary Art, Cultural Destruction and the Perils of ‘Cyber Archaeology’
Chad Elias
Dartmouth College

Antiquities with Agency: Gods and Kings in Recent Arab Cartoons
Jonathan Guyer
Harvard University

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