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

- 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