AFAC Annual Report and Reflections 2016





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The Arab Fund For Arts and Culture الصندوق العربي للثقافة والفنون – آفاق

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Editorial





The Arab world is riddled with challenges of extremism, polarization and violence. But it is also a region capable of re-inventing itself. Empowering independent cultural production is crucial for creating vibrant Arab societies. It is by supporting individual self-expression with no strings attached that we engender critical thought, inclusive social engagement, appreciation of excellence and foster cross-cultural collaborations. These actions promote a deeper understanding of the region's complex realities beyond the reductionist portrayals in mainstream media.

Maintaining our independence as a regional, accessible and professionally-run resource for artists and cultural institutions of the Arab region is of utmost importance. AFAC positions itself as a supporter, enabler and catalyst of cultural and artistic productions that are free of government control and market influence. This is the art that sheds light on issues left in the dark and that will revive the region's confidence in its own creativity and its youth.

AFAC is concluding its 10th year of regional grant-making with a steadily growing number of beneficiaries and projects whose impact is reaching large segments of our communities. Through the hard work of its jurors, board members, management team and the support of a growing circle of supporters, AFAC has lived up to its credibility in the field and continues to be a model in the Arab region and beyond.

To kick off the second decade with a sustained imprint on independent artistic creation and production and on the advancement of Arab philanthropy for arts and culture, AFAC launched an evaluation process of its past ten years. It looks back on how our support through 950 grants, professional accompaniment, outreach and advocacy have made an impact and what we can do better. In moving forward, AFAC will retain its main grant-making activities while finetuning elements of support. We continue to listen to the aspirations of the artistic community in the region and to support underdeveloped artistic forms and cultural practices. New initiatives will be spearheaded based on priority and availability of funds.

AFAC's advocacy and philanthropic efforts were met with generous contributions from a number of individual Arab donors who are paving the way, slowly but surely, for philanthropy for the arts and culture in the Arab region, in addition to multi-year contributions from the Open Society Foundations, the Ford Foundation, DOEN and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Yet, as supporting cultural institutions, philanthropists and believers in the role of arts and culture, we still have a long way to go to rise to the level of creativity in the region. The cultural sector deserves more support and acknowledgement and it is through enlarging the circle of individual contributors, especially from within the Arab region, that we can do our artists, thinkers and cultural practitioners some justice. We will continue to invest in creative expression as part of our deeply held belief that it is the most relevant way to counter today's harsh realities and inspire new visions for the region. We want to give our philanthropist supporters, our grantees, and the topics that they address, the recognition they deserve.

Chairman of AFAC Ghassan Salamé **Executive Director of AFAC** Rima Mismar

Highlights

AFAC entered its 10th year in 2016 with major accomplishments, new partnerships and much pride in the creativity of its grantees. Four main highlights of the year comprise: the launch of a new program, the Arab-European Creative Platform (AECP); commissioning of a study to evaluate AFAC's ten years of operation; the successful finalization of multi-year grants; and the disbursement of roughly \$2.7 million in grants for 142 projects.

10 years of giving voice to emerging talents

Launch of Arab– European Creative Platform



The Arab-European Creative Platform (AECP) is a multidisciplinary new special program. It mobilises intellectuals and artists, in the Arab world and Europe, to reflect critically on intolerance and hostility resulting from forced migration. The initiative engages the creative and artistic communities to shift perceptions and discourse, and propose innovative actions to affirm the potential of tolerance and integration. The reference book, "Europa: An Illustrated Introduction to Europe for Migrants and Refugees" was the first project funded by AFAC and launched on December 8 in Berlin. In addition, AFAC organised, in partnership with Allianz Cultural Foundation and in cooperation with Goethe-Institut and Süddeutsche Zeitung, "Europe and the Mediterranean in Times of Migration: Challenges and Opportunities", a forum of discussions, readings, book presentation and music, October 11-12.

AFAC Ten-Year Study



To mark its 10th anniversary and embark on a second decade with artistic and cultural growth as well as a bolstered Arab philanthropy for arts and culture, AFAC launched an evaluation process in spring 2016. Its programs and operations were reviewed by an independent consultant, and recommendations from diverse stakeholders were solicited to guide its future programs and activities. A final report will be made available to the community at large by mid 2017. The evaluation process will continue with focus groups to delve deeper into the report's recommendations. Based on the discussions and findings, AFAC will communicate a new strategy end 2017.

Fundraising



AFAC aspires for multi-year contributions from a diversity of donors in order to sustain and grow its grant-making and support programs. A total of 17 individual donors generously contributed a total of around \$1 million to AFAC. In August 2016, AFAC successfully secured a multi-year grant from the Open Society Foundations (OSF) for which discussions had started early 2011. In parallel, another multi-year grant was concluded with the Ford Foundation to cover 2016-2020, including a BUILD grant, dedicated to internal institutional strengthening. Moreover, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs doubled its contribution for the years 2016 and 2017. DOEN and Prince Claus Fund continue to support AFAC for the 8th and 3rd year respectively.

Grants

AFAC distributed 142 grants (111 for general grants and 31 for special programs) with a total grant amount of about \$2.7 million. The total applications received in 2016 was 1249 (up from 1229 in 2015).

The General Grant calls for proposals opened twice a year and benefitted 111 projects out of 841 applicants, as follows: Visual Arts (21), Performing Arts (19), Music (27), Research, Training and Regional Events (22), and Cinema (22). Benefiting projects hailed from 15 Arab countries - Lebanon, Morocco, Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, UAE, Sudan, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia – and 4 from diaspora – USA, UK, France and Switzerland. The total budget for the General Grants was \$1.8 million.

In addition, AFAC continued with the four Special Programs – the AFAC Novel Writing Program (ANWP), the Arab Documentary Photography Program (ADPP), and the AFAC Documentary Program (ADP), includig the newly launched Arab-European Creative Platform (AECP).

Applicants for the Special Programs were 408. AFAC benefited 31 grantees as follows: ANWP (9), ADPP (9), ADP (11) and two projects under AECP. Grantees of ADP were from Syria (3) Lebanon (2), Palestine (2), Morocco (1), Tunisia (1) Sudan (1), Egypt (1) and the total budget was \$316,000. Grantees of ADPP came from Egypt (3), Lebanon (2), Jordan (1), Algeria (1), Saudi Arabia (1), Morocco (1), Sudan (1), and the total budget was \$221,000. Grantees of ANWP hailed from Egypt (2), Tunisia (2), Lebanon (1), Yemen (1), Morocco (1), and Palestine (1) and the total budget was \$125'000.

Distributed Grants General Grants Special Programs Total Grant Amount in Millions 2016 2015 **Total Applications Received** 1774 2016 2015

Prestigious prizes and international recognition were amassed by AFAC grantees. Forbes reviewed Khaled Malas's project "Current Power in Syria" at the 2016 Marrakech Biennale in which also Sara Ouhaddou and Saba Innab exhibited their visual arts projects. Danya Hammoud won the Boghossian Prize 2016 as a performing artist. The New York Times reviewed the Web Archive of Bidoun - an AFAC grantee of Research/Training/Regional events. AFAC film grantees had a remarkable share in the limelight. "The Last of Us" by Ala Eddine Slim received the "Luigi De Laurentiis" Venice Award for Debut Film and the Best Technical Contribution Award at the Venice International Film Festival. Djemal Kerkar's documentary film "Atlal" by Jaber Debzi received the First Film Prize, two special mentions from the Institut Francais, Award of the International Online Film Critic and the GNCR Prize at FID Marseille. At the 66th Berlinale, "Hedi" by Mohamed Ben Attia received First Film and Best

Actor Award and "A Man Returned" by Mahdi Fleifel received Silver Bear for best short. AFAC organized the launching and signing ceremony of seven novels written by the 2015 ANWP participants at the Beirut 60th International Arab Book Fair: "A Family Outing" by Bassam Shams Aldin (Yemen), "Two Tickets to Sepphoris" by Salim Albeik (Palestine), "Ayyash" by Ahmad Hammam (Egypt), "Snow Burns" by Samir Youssef (Lebanon), "The Dangerous Neighborhood" by Mohammed Benmiloud (Morocco), "The Pagan's Wind" by Mohsine Loukili (Morocco), and "Paradise of the Bats" by Boy John (Sudan).

In recognition of documentary photographic works of two AFAC grantees, The Washington Post section "In Sight: Images of our World" published a feature of Zied Ben Romdhane's project "West of Life" and Hicham Gardaf was selected for the World Press Joop Masterclass.



Timeline: Grant– Making, Outreach and Cultural Advocacy

The principle activity of AFAC which is grant-making took place throughout the year. In addition, AFAC was present at various international festivals and forums, establishing partnerships and collaborations for the benefits of its grantees across a variety of fields – music, visual arts, literature and cinema. AFAC continued to explore, with its wide network of friends and supporters, new approaches to support arts and culture. It was regularly solicited to advocate for cultural philanthropy in the region and to promote best practices. The following are the 2016 major activities of AFAC:



February

1

8

Open call for Visual Arts, Performing Arts, AFAC Documentary Program and the Arab Documentary Photography Program **4**

Launch of the "Snapshot of the Contemporary Dance in the Arab Region" Video **4-5**

"The Future of Non-Profits in Culture and Development" in Amsterdam, organized by the Prince Claus Fund

Board Meeting of the Arab Foundation Forum in Amman 10-13

Third Edition of "21, 39 Jeddah Art Week" organized by the Saudi Art Council

> **11-22** 66th Berlin Film Festival

20

AFAC's "Philanthropy in Arts and Culture" Master-Class in Dubai



January

en call foi

Open call for AFAC Novel Writing Program – ANWP **21**

First Arab Creativity and Entrepreneurship Fund (ACEF) book published online



March

2-3

AFAC visits Amman

10-12

9th Informal Donors Meeting for Arts and Culture in Marrakech, Morocco

10-12

AFAC participates in "Living Arts in Post-Conflict Contexts" Forum in Cambodia, organized by Cambodian Living Arts, an independent NGO

Apri

ANWP call closes 19-20

AFAC participates in European Culture Forum in Brussels, a biennial flagship event organised by the European Commission



June

Open call for Music and Research/Training/Regional Events 8

Screening of "Roshmia" at Sursock Museum



August

11

Screening of "Home Sweet Home" at Sursock Museum 26-29

The Arab Documentary Photography Program 2016 (ADPP) held its first workshop in Beirut 29-30

"Visual Storytelling and Social Change: Strategies for Engaged Photography", panel at the French Institute in Beirut



May

1

3

4

Calls closed for Visual Arts, Performing Arts, AFAC Documentary Program and the Arab Documentary Photography Program Open call for Cinema

Launch of the AFAC Film night in partnership with Sursock Museum

Screening of "Port of Memory" at Sursock Museum

- 11
- AFAC 2015 annual report published

12

Special Screening for the documentary film "Tadmor" at Dawawine, Beirut

12-13 AFAC Board Meeting in Beirut

24

Announcement of a new partnership with FIDLab May 25-June 1

AFAC Film Week in Tunisia



July

14-17

AFAC-FIDMarseille Partnership, Marseille **21** AFAC announces 11 new grantees for AFAC Documentary Program **28**

AFAC announces 19 new grantees for Performing Arts **29**

AFAC announces 21 new grantees for Visual Arts





September

Calls close for Music and Research/Training/Regional events

8-9

1

Arab Foundations Forum Annual Meeting and General Assembly in Tunisia

22-26

AFAC's Partnership with Talents Beirut

October

11-12

AFAC holds "Europe and the Mediterranean in Times of Migration" forum in Berlin and launches the Arab European Creative Platform (AECP)

AFAC Board Meeting in Berlin

18-21

AFAC participates in IFACCA's 7th World Summit on Arts and Culture in Valletta, Malta 24-25

Creative Lab Workshop on Arts and Culture at Impact Hub in Amsterdam, co-organised by AFAC together with the DOEN Foundation, the Foundation "Festival sur le Niger" and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs



December

AFAC launches 7 novels with Dar Al-Saqi – ANWP 2015 at Beirut 60th International Arab Book Fair

AFAC announces 22 new film projects for Cinema 7

Screening of "The Wanted 18" at Sursock Museum 8

Launch of "Europa: An Illustrated Introduction to Europe for Migrants and Refugees" book, produced in the framework of the AFAC's Arab European Creative Platform, in partnership with Magnum Photos, Al-liquindoi, and On The Move.



November

10

Launch of the second series of film screenings in the framework of AFAC Film Night in partnership with Sursock Museum

28

AFAC announces 22 new grantees for Research/Training/ Regional Events

29

6

AFAC announces 27 new grantees for Music



Communication

A communication and fundraising strategy is being developed since June 2016 with consultants to make the work of AFAC and its grantees more visible and communicated to a wider public; to facilitate fundraising; and strengthen the position of AFAC as a knowledge resource. Meanwhile, AFAC produced the following communication material, the highlight of which was the ACEF report 2015. It tells inspiring stories of impact that grantees express to demonstrate how art creates space for questioning, healing, and engagement.

- Release of the second Arab Creativity and Entrepreneurship Fund - ACEF Book profiling 50 grantees on AFAC website
- 5 grantee stories from diverse categories in pdf format on AFAC website
- 2 video stories under "Grantee Voices" on AFAC website
- Release of AFAC commissioned video on Contemporary Dance in the Arab Region
- AFAC's commissioned video to close Crossroads special program
- AFAC Novel Writing Program (ANWP) inforgraphic summarizing the three cycles



Website unique visitors per month 16802

AFAC Board of Trustees and Team

AFAC welcomed four new board members in 2016: writer Elias Khoury; writer and historian Farouk Mardam-Bey; Deputy Chairperson for the Middle East at Sotheby's, Roxane Zand; and AFAC's former Executive Director, Oussama Rifahi. The newly appointed director is AFAC's former Deputy Director, Rima Mismar. Four staff members moved on in 2016: communications and development, grants coordinator, project coordinator and finance officer. A new finance officer and a second grants manager were recruited in addition to a senior program manager who will focus on institutional development and new initiatives.

Finances

AFAC maintains a diversity of donors and is grateful for the generous contributions of institutions – Government of Norway, Open Society Foundations, The Ford Foundation, DOEN, and Prince Claus Fund – as well as 17 individual sponsors.

Actual financial allocation in 2016:



Outlook 2017

- Share the ten-year study of AFAC and start implementing recommendations following in-depth consultations with practitioners. Focus groups will be formed with experts in each category to draw practical recommendations based on a thorough reading of trends and priorities in the region.
- Celebrate ten years of AFAC in 2017 with a major event that pays tribute to grantees, jurors and philanthropists, and captures the knowledge of the arts and culture scene.
- Deepen outreach to marginalized communities of artists, beyond capital cities through tailored field visits and better dissemination of artistic products.
- Implement activities under the Arab-European Creative Platform – the newly launched program to address Arab migrant artists and those in exile. 2017 project activities will focus on a series of cultural workshops and panels in Germany, including a symposium on writing and migration, a theatre performance, and artistic workshops covering photography, visual arts and cinema for emerging artists in exile.
- Build on the experience of the AFAC Novel Writing Program to open a new Literature grant program. AFAC will consider specific needs in this field such as critical writing and research; children and youth literature; and playwriting.
- Launch the 4th edition of AFAC Film Week in Tangier, London (within the framework of Shubbak) and Berlin in 2017, building on the success of AFAC Film Week in Beirut, Cairo, Tunis and New York City.
- Increase awareness and mobilise philanthropy for arts and culture in the Arab region to expand and diversify donor support. AFAC will continue to encourage individual contributors in arts and culture through ACEF with the aim of raising another \$1 million in 2017.
- Develop and facilitate a community of practice platform to engage current grantees and alumni in bi-annual thematic discussions on arts and culture.
- Envisage an increase of 20% in the 2017 grants' budget.



Creativity Context: What Questions



Anecdotes about arts and culture in the region are abundant. However, there is little documented comparative analysis that over time allows for a thorough reading of changes and trends in the Arab region.

If AFAC – staff, alumni, grantees and supporters – were to come up with questions over the next five years to better understand the context in which artists and cultural institutions operate across the Arab region, what would the questions be? How much do we actually know and what do we do with that knowledge? What in a localized exprience can be useful for insight and adaptation in another context?

AFAC's own database and ten-year experience with such a vast array of artists and cultural institutions holds some insights. And yet, to answer many of the questions, the exercise needs to be collective. AFAC encourages those interested in researching and analyzing the region through an arts and culture lens to enrich and guide us.

As part of the evaluation process and focus group discussions that will take place throughout 2017, here are some teasers that we are curious about:

- What have been major changes in the past ten years in terms of artistic initiatives and actors in the Arab region and across diverse fields?
- What are the challenges and priorities in each field (music, performing arts, visual arts, cinema, and literature) and in research on the scene in the region?
- What are the main factors that have been promoting enabling cultural environments across the region?

What are the trends in arts and culture for the next five years?

- What is the history and motivation of philanthropy for arts and culture in the Arab region and what are the prospects of further engagement in the next five years?
- What is the relevance of arts and culture in a context of displacement and intolerance? What are case studies from the Arab region?
- How does artistic creation flourish in situations of conflicts, economic hardship and in diaspora? Are there documented experiences across the region?
- What are examples of inter-regional cooperation and exchange in arts and culture?
- What are the challenges and breakthroughs in circulation/ distribution/dissemination of artistic production specific to each field?
- Is there a mapping of critical writings on arts and culture related to the Arab region? How to support critical writing by individuals and institutions? How to promote circulation of research and papers?
- What roles do artists give themselves if any? How are they engaged directly or indirectly in societal and political issues in their societies?
- How does the sector support advocacy for freedom of expression and cultural rights?
- What are examples of horizontal leadership within collective artistic initiatives? What allows for individual empowerment while strengthening the collective? Are there comparative case studies across the Arab region?
- What inspires creative industries and what are trends for the next five years?

The Annual General Grants

Established as a reliable resource for artists and cultural institutions working in a variety of fields, AFAC's Annual General Grants Program has traditionally catered for six categories: Literature, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Cinema, Music and RTR (Research/ Training/Regional events). Since 2014 and until end 2016, the Literature call was replaced with the AFAC Novel Writing Program.

The General Grants first call opened on February 1st and closed on May 1st, catering to Visual Arts & Performing Arts. Grantees were announced July 23rd & 25th respectively. AFAC moved up the call for Cinema to allow the jurors more time to evaluate the applications. The Cinema call opened May 1st and closed August 1st while the call for Music and RTR (Research/Training/Regional events) opened June 1st and closed September 1st. Announcement of grantees took place on November 15th for Music, November 17th for RTR and November 18th for Cinema. AFAC has distributed general grants to 111 projects this year out of 841 general grants applicants.

AFAC's annual open call for general grant programs is announced on the website and social media and through press releases to an extensive network of regional media.

AFAC's General Grant for Visual Arts supports painting, sculpting, photography, installations, audio-video arts and multi-media works of a contemporary and innovative nature. The grant can support exhibitions, visual arts book publications as well as art production.

AFAC's General Grant for Performing Arts is open to classical, folk and experimental theatre and dance performances from across the Arab region, including contemporary dance, public intervention performances, street arts and festivals. It also supports playwriting, acting, directing, dancing and choreography workshops.

AFAC's General Grant for Music is open to all kinds of music composition and production in the Arab world including classical, tarab, Arab folk music, hip hop, reggae, jazz, and fusion, electronic sound and Arabic alternative music. It offers funding for music conservatories, music production, collaborations, performances,

In 2016, AFAC distributed grants to 142 projects (111 for general grants and 31 for special programs) out of a total of 1249 applications.

album recordings and other musical projects. The grant also supports music archives, research, workshops, performances and festivals at local, inter-Arab and cross-cultural levels.

AFAC's General Grant for Cinema is open to all kinds of film projects – shorts, feature-length fiction and documentaries, animation and experimental. AFAC offers funding for development, production and postproduction. Projects applying for a development grant are eligible for a maximum of \$10,000 while projects



applying for a production/ postproduction grant are eligible for a maximum of \$50,000.

AFAC's General Grant for Research/Training/Regional Events is open for projects in all fields of cultural production and gives AFAC the flexibility to support capacity-building workshops, residencies, artistic and cultural research, training projects, as well as regional events like festivals, competitions and cross-cultural collaborations.

AFAC's juror committees are newly selected every year to bring together professionals from all across the region to lend their expertise and insights on to the wide scope of artistic and cultural projects that AFAC supports. They evaluate hundreds of applications and select the most compelling projects to support. Jurors are called to evaluate on four criteria: Quality, Innovation, Relevance and Cost.

To uphold our high standards of independence and professionalism, AFAC jurors remain anonymous to each other during the evaluation period, submitting their markings independently before they convene for the final selection meeting. AFAC discloses the identities of juror committee members to the public only after the announcement of the grantees in each respective category is made.

In recognition of the growing network of AFAC jurors, AFAC continues to update its jury database which was first published online in May 2014 as "AFAC Jurors (2007-2013)". More than 200 cultural critics, curators and producers from the Arab region have been involved in AFAC's juries.

For an updated list of Jury Database, see Annex





Application Statistics



APPLICANTS % RATIOS
333/52/15
Female Male Institution

PERFORMING ARTS

1/4/165

VISUAL ARTS

^{MUSIC} 113 / 104

RESEARCH/TRAINING/REGIONAL EVENTS

135 / 178

cinema 299/329

SPECIAL PROGRAM APPLICANTS AFAC DOCUMENTARY PROGRAM (ADP) **75663**

ARAB DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY PROGRAM (ADPP)

AFAC NOVEL WRITING PROGRAM (ANWP) 233/152



APPLICANTS BY COUNTRY 2016/2015

77/67

57/44

34/26

11/6

5/3

3/4

121/101

34/21

29/37

7/8



156/196 129/137 330/319 99/118 40/23 15/13 6/4 4/3

APPLICANTS BY COUNTRY 2016/2015

France

4/6 Netherlands



3/2 Switzerland

I

I

I

1/1 Denmark

1/0 Sweden



16/20

4/9

3/2 Africa

2/1 Australia

1/2 Finland



1/0 Czech Republic 15/16 usa 4/2 Turkey 3/2 Belgium

1 / 0 Austria

1 / 1 Ireland

 1
 1

 South America

1

Grantee Statistics

total number of grantees 142

VISUAL ARTS PERFORMING ARTS 19/17 MUSIC 27 | 21 **RESEARCH/TRAINING/REGIONAL EVENTS** 22/23 **CINEMA** 22/24 **AB EUROPEAN CREATIVE PLATFORM (AECP)**

GRANTEES & RATIOS 27 / 43 / 30 Female Male Institutions 34 / 666 Emerging Established 69 / 31 Region-based Diaspora 36 / 44 / 200 Local impact Regional Internationa

AFAC DOCUMENTARY PROGRAM (ADP)

11/15 ARAB DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY PROGRAM (ADPP) 10/10 AFAC NOVEL WRITING PROGRAM (ANWP) 8/10

GRANTEES AS INDIVIDUALS/INSTITUTIONS, NATIONALITIES AND GRANT AMOUNTS PER CATEGORY VISUAL ARTS PERFORMING ARTS RTR

14

ials Institutions

\$303,000

Lebanon (5), Palestine (4), Jordan (3), Morocco (3), Algeria (1), Yemen (1), Saudi Arabia (1), UK (3)

MUSIC

20/7

\$331,000

Lebanon (5) Palestine (5), Egypt (4), Tunisia (4), Syria (3), Iraq (1), Bahrain (1), Morocco (1), Yemen (1), Switzerland (1), USA (1)

ADP

11/0

\$316,000 Syria (3) Lebanon (2), Palestine (2) Morocco (1), Tunisia (1) Sudan (1), Egypt (1)

aecp **2 / 0**

\$228,000

PERFORMING ARTS

\$281,000

Lebanon (6), Palestine (5), Egypt (1), Morocco (1), Tunis (1), Iraq (1), Syria (1) Algeria (1), Turkey (1), France (1)

CINEMA

22/0

\$512,000

Lebanon (8), Palestine (5), Egypt (3) Iraq (2), Jordan (1), Tunisia (1), Algeria (1), Morocco (1)

adpp 10 / 0

\$221,000 Egypt (3), Lebanon (2), Jordan (1) Algeria (1), Saudi Arabia (1), Morocco (1), Sudan (1)

anwp <mark>8/0</mark>

\$125,000

Egypt (2), Tunisia (2), Lebanon (1), Yemen (1), Morocco (1), Palestine (1)

^{RTR} 6 / 16

\$434,000

Lebanon (7), Syria (3), Egypt (2), Palestine (2), Tunisia (2), Libya (1), Morocco (1), France (2), Germany (1), UK (1)

GRANTEES BY COUNTRY 2016/2015

Lebanon

11 / 7 Tunisia

5/6 Jordan

3/1

1/0 Libya

3/2 France

1/0 Switzerland **24 / 16** Palestine

10 / 15 Morocco

4/6 Algeria

2/6 Sudan

1/**0** Bahrain

2/1

1/0 Turkev 16/21 10/20 4/4 2/2 4/1 1/01/0

"As an artist, if I were to measure the development, I would say that the Arab region is at the height of a social-artistic revolution that is moving rapidly. We are making the best of what we have; however, in terms of a group movement, and a general consciousness, we have not achieved much. We are still shedding the skin of a past civilization."

– Arwa Alneami, Saudi Arabia ADPP grantee, "Never Never Land"

Visual Arts

NAME	NATIONALITY	PROJECT TITLE	
Bruno Boudjelal	Algeria	Mapping of Massacres Sites in Algeria; the Great Massacres of 1997-1998	
Nuha Innab	Jordan	Traces of Socialism/Amman	
Dia Al Batal	Jordan	Traces of Belonging	
Sandra Dajani	Jordan	Stretch Marks	
Chaghig Arzoumanian	Lebanon	On Fools and Lands	
Mohamad Baalbaki	Lebanon	Sculptor in a Bedouin Tent	
Salah Saouli	Lebanon	The Seven Lives of M. Said	
Haig Aivazian	Lebanon	Not Every day is Spring	
Beirut Art Center	Lebanon	The Portrait is an Address	
Mohamed Fariji	Morocco	The Collective Museum (Mauritania)	
Younes Baba-Ali	Morocco	Without Negotiation	
Zineb Benjelloun	Morocco	Darna	
Adila Hanieh	Palestine	Life-Force Fahrelnissa. An Artistic Biography	
Rawan Serhan	Palestine	Languitecture	
Khalil Sakakini Cultural Centre	Palestine	Becoming Authentic	
AI-Ma'mal Foundation for Contemporary Art	Palestine	The Jerusalem Show VIII: Before and After Origins	
Culturunners	Saudi Arabia	Culturunners 2016 - The Campaign Trail	
P21 Gallery	United Kingdom	Sudan: Emergence of Singularities	
Pump House Gallery	United Kingdom	Each fighting its own little battle in happy ignorance	
Spike Island	United Kingdom	Parts	
Yumna Al-Arashi	Yemen	Face	







The Jury committee for the 2016 Visual Arts was composed of curator and gallery owner Najlaa Al-Ageli (Libya), artist Shurooq Amin (Kuwait), and artist and filmmaker Khalil Joreige (Lebanon).

Jury Statement

"The jury has decided, after prolonged deliberation, on July 19th 2016, to award 14 candidates under the individual category, and 7 candidates under the institutions category. The selection process was based on diversity, attempting to distribute equitably according to case by case study, which led to a rich selection both geographically and in terms of medium.

The jury selected according to the criteria set by AFAC : relevance, quality, innovation and cost, firstly independently, then deliberated together ultimately arriving at the final decisions.

The jury noticed many recurrent concepts connecting places, time and space, migration and belonging, territory and revisiting the past without nostalgia, but rather with concern for the present. Several projects crossed over from one medium to another. Many projects were publications and/or film. The jury decided to help certain projects that were strong and necessary in these troubled times and was aware of those that depended on and relied for their existence on grants of AFAC. The jury had some difficult choices to make to stay close to the way it sees the goal of the grant."

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NAME	NATIONALITY	PROJECT TITLE		
Rania Shaheen	Egypt	El-Pergola Legal Theatre for Marionettes		
Sociétés Accidentelles	France	The Algerian Vespers		
Echos Electrik	France	НАМЈИ		
Estabrak Al-Ansari	Iraq	Tales of the Mother tongue: Part 02 & 03	1	
Chrystèle Khodr	Lebanon	Temporary Title		
Ali Chahrour	Lebanon	Men of the Land Of Fire		
Nancy Naous	Lebanon	Title Under Consideration		
Maria Harfouche	Lebanon	Tarab		
Mariam Hammoud	Lebanon	Almayram		
Lina Issa	Lebanon	Ticket to Atlantis		
Youness Atbane	Morocco	The Architects		
Ahmed Tobasi	Palestine	And Here I Am		
Sareyyet Ramallah	Palestine	Dance Summer Camp		
Khashabi Theatre	Palestine	Identity in a Laboratory		
The Popular Theatre Society for Performing Arts and Training	Palestine	Abu El-Kheizaran Road		
Assirk Assaghir	Palestine	Maktoob		
Wael Kadour	Syria	The Confession	A.C.	
Rochdi Belgasmi	Tunisia	Ouled Jelaba On his Footsteps, I Dance	and the second second	
A Corner in the World	Turkey	A Corner in the World		

For full project descriptions, please refer to Annex.
A CORNER IN THE W O R L D

"It is only through creation and expression that the reality of those affected by the war will be exposed, and the evolving culture of Syria preserved."

Mithkal Alzghair, Syria
Performing Arts grantee, "Displacement"





The 2016 Jury Committee for Performing Arts was composed of actor Carlos Chahine (Lebanon), theater director and actor Sulayman Al-Bassam (Kuwait), and theater director Oussama Hallal (Syria).

Jury Statement

"We have undergone a thorough assessment of the projects received in this call and we commend them on their quality and the seriousness and intelligence of their approach and presentation. We have noted however how narrow the range of topics addressed was, with an overwhelming majority dealing with the issues of violence and war, memory and war-related memory, hence reflecting, not surprisingly, on the concerns of a new generation of Arab artists. We also noticed a large number of dance and performance projects, combining the contemporary with the traditional, as well as a strong drive from artists to identify alternative spaces, as well as new and innovative forms of performing.

We hope that the selected projects will offer fresh and innovative ways to study and reflect on such topics, privileging inventiveness, originality and relevance to the known and established."

search/Training/Regional Events)

NAME	NATIONALITY	PROJECT TITLE	
CLUSTER-Cairo Lab for Urban Studies, Training and Environmental Research	Egypt	Public Inter-Library Online Technology-PILOT	
Townhouse	Egypt	Criticism In Crisis	
Association Festival du Film Palestinien à Paris	France	Festival Ciné-Palestine 2017	
Archipels Images	France	First Steps	
EMCUE e.V. Europe MENA Cultural Exchange	Germany	TARKIB Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival	
Johnny Farraj	Lebanon	MaqamWorld Website Updating	
Hady Zaccak	Lebanon	Cinema Tripoli	
Network of Arab Alternative Screens (NAAS)	Lebanon	Mapping Arab Cinema Audiences: Egypt	
MINWAL	Lebanon	Siba	
Beirut and Beyond	Lebanon	Beirut & Beyond International Music Festival - Edition 4	
Collectif Kahraba	Lebanon	Nehna wel Amar wel Jiran Festival 2017	
Dar Al-Musawwer	Lebanon	Ten Stories from the Various Syrian Refugees	
Arete Foundation for Arts and Culture	Libya	Poems For Life	
Cinémathèque de Tangier	Morocco	Tangier Cinematheque 10th Anniversary Archive Festival (First Annual)	
Yazan Kopty	Palestine	Imagining the Holy	
Fragments Theatre	Palestine	Act to Change	
Dima Nachawi	Syria	Misc	
Oussama Ghanam	Syria	Contemporary Dramaturgy in an Arabic Perspective	
Koon Theatre	Syria	Koon Theater Laboratory	
Wiame Haddad	Tunisia	In Absentia	
L'Art Rue	Tunisia	Dream City 2017	
Shubbak: A Window on Contemporary Arab Culture	United Kingdom	Shubbak Festival 2017	

Hady Zaccak







ownhouse. Criticism in Crisis

The 2016 Jury Committee for RTR was composed of Associate Professor of Art History at NYU Abu Dhabi Salwa Mikdadi (Palestine); author, poet and translator Fadi Tofeili (Lebanon); and the founder and director of Majal.org, a network of online platforms that amplify under-reported and marginalized voices throughout the Middle East and North Africa Esra'a Al Shafei (Bahrain).

Jury Statement

"The diversity and vitality of ideas were at the core of the brilliant proposals this year has seen. These ideas gave an utmost attention to detail, precision and care to things otherwise abandoned, forgotten or leading to extinction despite them being of paramount importance. The recipients were also distinguished by moving forward with a critical spirit, a profound discussion, and a widening of their exposure and accessibility. As exciting and productive the deliberation of projects was, it was also dense and demanding; continuously requiring long reflexions, patience and reconsiderations. These reconsiderations, however, were not merely about choosing the winners of the grants but touched upon the opinions and visions shared by the jury, which resulted from engaging the proposals, their ensuing discussions as well as in ensuring a fair evaluation, combined with recommendations and remarks. We believe that this approach allowed new and important possibilities for both AFAC and its grant recipients to on the one hand, uphold the superior creative level of the proposals, and on the other to keep the dialogue and communication, possibilities for distribution, preservation and exhibition open. The jury therefore relied on the usual criteria for the evaluation of the projects, taking into account their relevance, innovation, quality as well as cost. We are delighted that the chosen projects demonstrate a expansive geographical scope in line with the growing breadth of Arabic culture in the Arab world and beyond it while also bearing in mind the gender balance and regional diversity."



Hasan HujairiBahrainSymphonies of the Self: Majeed Marhoon Music Preservation ProjectYoussra Al HawaryEgyptYoussra Al Hawari First AlbumMustafa SaidEgyptAbul'Ala Al-Ma'arriMostakellEgyptLekhfaCherif El-MasriEgyptThe WheelKhyam AllamiIraqKawaleesAyyad KhalifehLebanonSoobyaGilbert MansourLebanonJourneyMetro Al MadinaLebanonTaki SongsIrtijalLebanonFaki SongsIrtijalLebanonElectronic music workshop and performances with EMS (Sweden)Wassim HalalLebanonElectronic music workshop and performances with EMS (Sweden)Wassim HalalLebanonElectronic music workshop and performances with EMS (Sweden)Malika ZarraMoroccoR'waTareq RantisiPalestineThe Kuwaiti World Jazz ExperimentMahmoud Abu WardehPalestineThe Arabic Songs for Classical GuitarNizar RohanaPalestineMusical Journey FestivalEdward Said National Conservatory of MusicPalestinePalestine Youth Orchestra Production and Tour 2017Katharina WerkSyriaArabic SonatasFiras HassanSyriaRhythmsMouhannad NasserSyriaVoyage Without Borders – Oumi Ensemble AlbumEmel MathlouthiTunisiaInsanMohamed Aziz MraihiTunisiaAnine & Hamza; The Band beyond BordersYacine BoularesTunisiaSuite for Abu SadyaAyman Boujilda<	NAME	NATIONALITY	PROJECT TITLE	
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Ibrahim Alghaffari Yemen Kabreet Second Album Production 2017	Ayman Boujlida	Tunisia	Ibn Khaldoun Rhaspody	
	Al Bustan Seeds of Culture	USA	Exploring (Dis)Placement	
	Ibrahim Alghaffari	Yemen		

For full project descriptions, please refer to Annex.

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The 2016 Jury Committee for Music was composed of singer and songwriter Maryam Saleh (Egypt), the saxophone player and composer Toufic Farroukh (Lebanon), and composer Issa Boulos (Palestine).

Jury Statement

"Our work as jury involved hours of preparation that encompassed listening, reading, watching and reviewing all intricate details of the proposed projects. The applications were not only indicative of the current state of the musical arts in the Arab region but also an expression of hope, dignity and resilience. Overall, the proposed projects offered a diverse array of ideas that fluctuated between cutting edge and experimental to the classics and multidisciplinary. Some were visionary and daring; some were immensely fresh, others were ahead of their time; some embraced excellence but some unfortunately didn't rise to the challenge and/or balanced all the necessary components of a successful project. Regardless of our personal opinions, we honored and embraced all ideas, approaches, genres, and perspectives, and treated all proposals with diligence and a strong sense of equality. It was yet upon us to make the difficult decisions and support some but not all.

All proposed projects, in some ways, spoke to the aspirations of artists and/or their strengths and the quality and seriousness of their work. Other proposals more intrinsically shed the light on the true need for exposure, enlightenment, art and music education. Although these conditions seem to be inherent and chronically problematic in the Arab region, we understand that it is not only the responsibility of artists at the frontiers to better the human condition and reflect on our collective or individualistic identities, but it rather goes hand in hand with our drive as communities and governments to progress and evolve. With the hope that all applicants/artists find their path to meaning, we truly believe it is still within their reach to aim high, train, improve and never stop learning."

Cinema

		A REAL PROPERTY AND A REAL	
NAME	NATIONALITY	PROJECT TITLE	TYPE/STAGE
Hamid Saidji	Algeria	L'échappée	Short/Post-Production
Omar Abdellatif	Egypt	Tartarus	Short/Production
Tamer Ashry	Egypt	Photocopy	Fiction/Development
Amal Ramsis	Egypt	You Come From Far Away	Documentary/Production
Usama Alshaibi	Iraq	Boy from War	Documentary/Development
Kotaiba Al Janabi	Iraq	Daoud's Winter	Fiction/Production
Lina AI Abed	Jordan	Ibrahim	Documentary/Post-Production
Panos Aprahamian	Lebanon	This Haunting Memory That is Not My Own	Documentary/Development
Rabih El Amine	Lebanon	I Crossed the Hallway	Experimental/Post-Production
Karam Ghossein	Lebanon	The Street of Death and Other Stories	Experimental/Post-Production
Avedis Kapraelian	Lebanon	Life = Cinematic Imperfections	Experimental/Development
Bahij Hojeij	Lebanon	Good Morning	Fiction/Production
Hussen Ibrahim	Lebanon	Tide	Fiction/Development
Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige	Lebanon	The Notebooks	Fiction/Production
Darine Hoteit	Lebanon	ORB	Short/Production
Hicham Lasri	Morocco	Headbang Lullaby	Fiction/Post-Production
Karam Ali	Palestine	Chopped	Documentary/Development
Basil Khalil	Palestine	A Gaza Weekend	Fiction/Development
Muayad Alayan	Palestine	The Reports on Sarah and Saleem	Fiction/Production
Elia Suleiman	Palestine	It Must Be Heaven	Fiction/Production
Mahdi Fleifel	Palestine	A Drowning Man	Short/Production
Sarra Abidi	Tunisia	Benzine	Fiction/Post-Production

For full project descriptions, please refer to Anne





Hamid Saidji, L'échappée





The jury committee for 2016 was composed of film editor and co-founder of Djinn House Productions Michelle Tyan (Lebanon), the filmmaker Scandar Copti (Palestine), and writer, journalist, translator and researcher in linguistics and Algerian contemporary history, Yassine Temlali (Algeria).

Jury Statement

"The jury was privileged to have had that insight into the imaginations of Arab filmmakers. The varied worlds of cinema suggested by each and every director and created by each and every project proved at once refreshing and reassuring of the vibrancy of Arab filmmaking in the region. One cannot but anticipate with eagerness the outcome of this mosaic of personal, intimate, engaged and critical selection of film projects. Despite the hardships accompanying the evaluation of 64 film projects, mostly applying with full-length scripts, the overall process was more than enjoyable, fresh and eye-opening. The level of pre-selected projects was more than very good.

The jury would like to point out three important aspects that had taken us by surprise in this commission and selection: The high ratio of female directors is something that, in our perspective, bears hope for the region; the individuality that is highly present in the projects is in fact a position that assumes responsibility and calls for action; the choices made by most filmmakers in this selection are unconventional, experimental, bold and risky and we were thrilled to have been able to acknowledge those choices."



Alongside the general grant program, AFAC offers special programs that address particular trends and needs.

The Arab-European Creative Platform is a newly launched 3-year initiative that is multi-disciplinary and that galvanizes Arab and European artists and institutions for the production of art, culture and knowledge in response to polarization due to forced migration.

The AFAC Novel Writing Program supports aspiring fiction writers and is an intensive yearlong training program offered by AFAC in lieu of the annual grant for Literature as a response for the need to offer professional support to emerging authors in the Arab region. The AFAC Documentary Photography Program supports compelling non-stereotypical and unconventional visual documentation of important social issues and narratives relevant to the Arab region, in recognition of the image's power to document, educate and advocate.

The AFAC Documentary Program supports featurelength, medium-length and short documentary projects, in production and post-production, addressing the social realities in the Arab world in creative and compelling ways.

AFAC benefited 31 grantees out of 408 applicants for the Special Programs.

Arab- European Creative Platform (AECP)

AFAC launched a new program in 2016. The Arab-European Creative Platform (AECP) is a 3-year initiative in response to alarming polarizations, as a result of massive forced migration, affecting both European and Arab societies. It is a multi-disciplinary platform that aims to galvanize Arab and European artists and institutions for the production of art, culture and knowledge. The program explores innovative actions that probe both imagination and expression and that challenge negative perceptions of migrants/refugees in mainstream media, among decision-makers and key cultural actors.

AFAC plans to convene a series of cultural workshops and panels initially in Germany, between artists and intellectuals in exile and European interlocutors and give voice to seasoned Arab artists who have gone through exile themselves. This includes forums to discuss the relationshop between migration and literature; co-productions in theatre; organising of AFAC film week; and facilitating artistic workshops on photography, visual arts and cinema in collaboration with partners. The aim is to give a platform for Arab creative expression in exile and support emerging artists to build networks in their new context.

AFAC started developing this program initially in partnership with German cultural institutions on co-productions and commissions; given the openness of German policies towards refugees out of Syria. AFAC hired Diana al-Jaroudi, the director of Dox-Box to conduct a survey on the needs of Arab migrant artists in Germany, to guide AFAC's actions and the final report was delivered end 2016. AFAC also recruited Rasha Salti, a well-established curator and film programmer,



a former grantee and close collaborator of AFAC to help shape the program, oscillating between Beirut and Berlin. In parallel, discussions took off with potential partners of AECP in Berlin.

AFAC engaged with the Berlinale Film Festival about the possibility of a culinary cinema evening during the next edition of the festival in 2017. Discussions were also pursued with Chris Dercon (the former Tate Modern Museum director) who newly took on the directorship of the Volksbühne, one of the main theaters of Berlin. The plan is to have AECP co-produce Mohammad Al Attar's play, IPHIGENIE in partnership with the Volksbühne, and to integrate year-round programming of Arab creative content in the Volksbühne's Red Salon. Partnership is also confirmed with the Heinrich Boel Foundation on the Forum on literature and migration.

The first initiative that the AECP supported was the production and distribution of "Europa: An Illustrated Introduction to Europe for Migrants and Refugees", a book initiated by a group of Magnum photographers and journalists who have been covering both the refugee crisis in Europe and the many contexts across the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. Written in Arabic, Farsi, English, and French, this collaborative and independent initiative is intended as an educational tool to inform, engage, and facilitate community exchange. "Europa" offers an introduction to the motivations behind the creation of the European Union, how it developed, and the relevant debates that will determine its future. Through first-person testimonies, readers are also introduced to many of the different people who make up Europe today, who in their own words tell their stories of displacement, war, solidarity, and reconciliation. "Europa" is an independent nonprofit project, and the book is not available for purchase. An electronic PDF version of the book is available on AFAC's website as well printed editions which were widely distributed to stakeholders working with migrants.

"Europa" has been produced in partnership with Magnum Photos, Al-liquindoi, and On The Move, with support from Magnum Foundation, the Geneviève McMillan–Reba Stewart Foundation, MDIC, the Protection System for Asylum Seekers and Refugees (SPRAR), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); and in cooperation with Allianz Cultural Foundation.

The AECP First Forum: "Europe and the Mediterranean in Times of Migration, Challenges and Opportunities" was organized by AFAC in partnership with Allianz Cultural Foundation and in cooperation with Goethe-Institut and Süddeutsche Zeitung. It was a forum of discussions, readings, book presentation and music. The event took place on October 11 and 12, 2016 at Allianz Forum in Berlin and marked the official launch of AECP.

While the massive influx of refugees to Germany has been regarded as the signal of danger and discontent by those skeptical or opposed to the government's response to the humanitarian tragedy in Syria, proponents of the policy have seen opportunity. This intensifying polarisation overcasts the lived experience of exile, the daily negotiations of encountering a new reality and a new culture. Where does the exile's gaze look? Is it forward or backward looking, inward or outward? How does it reconcile between loss, contingency and the present? As if a mirror, or prism, the refugees refract an image of contemporary German society, and the potentialities for its pluralist and cosmopolitan renewal in the future. The refugees are also the site of projection and representations. Between the sober pragmatism of opportunity, the civility of a positively-engaged society, and the sinister representations on incoming migrants as threats, what is at stake in German society as a result of the massive influx?

The event was inaugurated by Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger and chairman of AFAC, Dr. Ghassan Salamé and marked the launch of AFAC's special program, the Arab European Creative Platform (AECP). The keynote address "Guests and Hosts, Life in Exile" was made by Petros Markaris and "The Presentation of Europa: An Illustrated Introduction to Europe for Migrants and Refugees" was given by Alia Malek and Thomas Dworzak. The panel discussions were as follows:

"Displacement, Place-Making and Writing; The Exile Gaze" Micael Kleeberg, Sulayman Al-Bassam, Rosa Yaseen Hassan Moderated by Alex Rühle

"Migration as Catalyst for Societal Renewal" Gesine Schwan, Gilbert Achcar, Philippe Fargues, Naika Foroutan Moderated by Reymer Klüver

The event featured performances by the Damaskus String Quintet, and a closing address "Exile, from Within", by Elias Khoury.

AFAC Novel Writing Program (ANWP)



"A reader may live a different and new experience when reading a novel. And this may be how literature influences a society. What will readers say when they see the suffering of May because of society's rebuttal of her sexual orientation? Will readers reject her? Will they be neutral? Or will they be sympathetic?" ANWP is a special program launched in 2014 as a year-long training program to support emerging novelists in developing and completing their literary ideas. The aim of the program is to focus on fiction writing and to improve the standard of creative writing in the Arab region; to train authors to deepen their approach and their skills in character development, plot development and story narration; to select and showcase strong literary narratives from the Arab region; and, last but not least, to support wider access to literature by collaborating with publishing houses to publish the resulting works. Three program cycles allowed AFAC to support a total of 25 emerging authors from 9 countries, selected from 668 applications, to create a safe place to express, offer and receive critique and interact. It gave a forum for participants to deepen themes and elaborate on critical topics that relate to the personal, social and political. The unique combination of professional and personal has turned the ANWP into a lifechanging experience for its participants and has produced a rich series of novels.

The third and last edition of AFAC's Novel Writing Program continued in 2016 under the supervision of renowned Lebanese writer Jabbour Douaihy. Eight writers were chosen to participate in the program made up of three intensive workshops before the completion of the eight novels. AFAC will support the publication of selected works with the Lebanese publishing house Dar Al-Saqi.

Rania Ma'moun, Sudan
ANWP grantee, "Azeeb"

ANWP Grantees

NAME	NATIONALITY	PROJECT TITLE
Mahmoud Hosni	Egypt	Between Blindness and Insight
Nazih Bahraoui	Morocco	Bye Bye Saddam
Rola El Hussein	Lebanon	Fifteen Hours in Prison
Asmaa Alatawna	Palestine	Five Memories for Esther
Jamal Gubran	Yemen	Hélène
Hoda Omran	Egypt	Leaving Home
Nabil Gueddiche	Tunisia	Rain in the Heat of August
Ines Abassi	Tunisia	Sons of Mimosa

For full project descriptions, please refer to Annex.



Between March 31st and April 5th in 2016, the 8 grantees of ANWP 2015 gathered in Beirut for one last intensive week with their mentor, Jabbour Douaihy, to discuss their final novel drafts. Subsequent changes were deemed impressive to the grantees and the mentor alike. The changes which the novels underwent between the first and this last workshop were impressive to the grantees themselves and to the mentor.

The first workshop of ANWP 2016 was held in Ehden, June 17-21, where the participants had the chance to discuss their characters, plots, writing techniques and other issues related to their novels, with the other participants inthrough group discussions, and one-on-one exchanges with the with the mentor in one-on-one meetings. The second workshop for ANWP 2016 took place October 26-and November 1 and included readings of draft narratives fine-tuning the plot, the characters and style of writing. The final workshop is foreseen in April 2017.

Publishing

The 2015 ANWP cycle culminated in the publication of seven novels (out of nine) which were available to the public during the 60th Beirut International Book Fair in December 2016 in addition to performed readings of 40 minutes by Lebanese and Syrian actors - Caroline Hatem, Dona Mkhayel, and Omar Gebaii - and signature of all novels. The novels were:

- "A Family Outing" by Bassam Shams Aldin from Yemen
- "Two tickets to Sepphoris" by Salim Albeik from Palestine
- "Ayyash" by Ahmad Hammam from Egypt
- "Snow Burns" by Samir Youssef from Lebanon
- "The Dangerous Neighborhood" by Mohammed Benmiloud from Morocco
- "The Pagan's Wind" by Mohsine Loukili from Morocco "Paradise of the Bats" by Boy John from Sudan

In addition, three novels from the 2014 first cycle were published in 2016; "Naked Houses" by Mostafa Abd Rabu, and "The Day Azreal Committed Suicide" by Arthur Gabriel Yak, both published in Egypt with Dar Al Ain, and "The Castle" by Soukaina Habiballah published in Lebanon with Arab Scientific Publisher.



Infographic

With the closure of the program, AFAC produced an infographic summarizing important information from the 668 received applications as well as those selected in the period 2014-2016. It highlighted the general themes and sub-themes of novels, reflecting what is on the mind of young Arab authors in the past three years.



Arab Documentary Photography Program (ADPP)



ADPP was launched for a period of three years 2014-2016. Its objectives are to raise the level of creative documentary photography in the Arab region; to train photographers and expand their approaches to visual storytelling; to share strong visual narratives from the Arab region regionally and internationally; and to explore wider access to documentary photography and a more active engagement with its audiences. Photographers may propose to work in a range of non-fiction narrative styles, from classic documentary photography to more experimental visual storytelling, and include audio and video elements.

ADPP encompasses not only a grant but also training and one-on-one mentorship to accompany the photographers in articulating their photo story. The importance of this initiative in the long-term is to develop a network of authentic and diverse local photographers and to stimulate dialogue with photographers from outside the region who are engaged and working on the region. Co-launched with the Prince Claus Fund in collaboration with the Magnum Foundation in 2014, the annual mentorship program over three years (2014-2016) will become a regular grant program, due to the great interest it generates from artists, partners and donors.

In 2016, AFAC launched the third edition of the special program. The first workshop was held in Beirut in August, and since then the photographers are working on their projects, with the follow up of mentors.



Nadia Bseiso, Infertile Crescent

Progress

The second workshop for ADPP 2015 grantees was held in Beirut February 25-29, 2016. The photographers presented their final works and discussed with their mentors the best way to present their projects to the public. ADPP 2015 projects were all completed and are available on www. arabdocphotography.org.

The first workshop of ADPP 2016 grantees was held at AFAC's office in Beirut August 26-29, 2016. The ten talented photographers who participated in this intensive workshop presented their previous works and their present projects, discussed ways of developing the concepts and methodologies of work, in group discussions and one-on-one meetings with the mentors. The second ADPP 2016 workshop is scheduled for the third week of February 2017 and the completion of the projects is scheduled for March 2017.



Iman Al-Dabbagh, *Shame*



مكانب الواج

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NAME	NATIONALITY	PROJECT TITLE
Sara Sallam	Egypt	Hide and Seek
Hadeer Ahmed	Egypt	Loss
Mostafa Bassim Adly	Egypt	Post-revolutionary social change in Egypt
Nadia Bseiso	Jordan	Infertile Crescent
Carmen Yahchouchy	Lebanon	Beyond Sacrifice
Roy Saade	Lebanon	Dalieh; On the Edge
Mehdy Mariouch	Morocco	Bribes de vie
Iman Al-Dabbagh	Saudi Arabia	Shame
Muhammad Muhammad	Sudan	Who Said White Is Better?

For full project descriptions, please refer to Annex.

The ADPP Juror Committee comprised Magnum Foundation President Susan Meiselas (USA), Sursock Museum Director and former director of Arab Image Foundation Zeina Arida (Lebanon) and visual artist Tarek Al-Ghossein (Kuwaiti of Palestinian Origins)

Jury Statement

"The Jury for the 2016 Arab Documentary Photography Program selected 10 projects from an open call with over 100 proposals from 19 countries, launching the third cycle of the program. Once again, we were pleased to see a wide variety of approaches to be explored within the genre of Documentary Photography. This ranges from a very classic approach in Black and White focusing on a deserted mine in Morocco in "Bribes de Vie" to a reportage style, but this time in color, about disappearance of public spaces in Lebanon in "Dalieh; on the Edge", in contrast to a more conceptual approach utilizing collage and text with the project "Hide and Seek" about graveyards as playgrounds for children in Egypt.

There was a great diversity in the topics addressed as well. The spectrum of themes moves from the extremely personal such as in "Beyond Sacrifice" which explores the lives of celibate women in Lebanon, to wider issues such as "Infertile Crescent" which will document the ecological effects of the controversial Red - Dead Sea pipeline."

AFAC Documentary Program (ADP)



AFAC's Documentary Program (ADP), was initially launched in partnership with the Ford Foundation's JustFilms, initially a three-year program (2013-2015) and continues to be suppprted. AFAC welcomes, on an annual basis, submission of feature-length, medium-length and short documentaries in the production and post-production phases. It aims to build on AFAC's dedication to documentary film by supporting established and emerging Arab documentary filmmakers that are addressing the social realities of a changing Arab world in creative and compelling ways.

ADP Grantees

NAME	NATIONALITY	PROJECT TITLE	STAGE
Feras Fayad	Syria	Last Men in Aleppo	Syria
Raed Andoni	Palestine	Ghost Hunting	Post-Production
Etab Azzam and Bridgette Auger	Syria	We are not Princesses	Post-Production
Remi Itani	Lebanon	A Long Breath	Post-Production
Marwa Zein	Sudan	Off Khartoum Sides	Post-Production
Cyril Aris	Lebanon	The Swing	Post-Production
Rafik Omrani	Tunisia	My Friend Gadhgadhi	Production
Mohamed Siam	Egypt	Amal	Production
Samer Abu Qatmeh	Palestine	194, Us, Children of the Camp	Post-Production
Rami Farah	Syria	A Comedian in a Syrian Tragedy	Post-Production
Merieme Addou	Morocco	Suspended Wives	Production

For full project descriptions, please refer to Annex.

The 2016 Jury Committee of AFAC Documentary Program included Producer Camille Laemle (France), documentary filmmaker Jihan AI Tahri (Egypt), and filmmaker Kamal AI Jafari (Palestine).

Jury Statement

"After concluding deliberations, the 2016 AFAC documentary jury would like to share its appreciation of the exceptional quality of the projects submitted to the 4th cycle.

The jury gathered in Beirut, found the themes of the projects coming from 10 countries across the region a clear expression of the urgencies that face Arab populations in general. There is distinct concern with the fall out of the upheavals that have struck at the heart of Arab societies over the past five years. Transformation and transition seem to be key issues that have grasped the imagination of the talented filmmakers whose projects we examined. The vital role of the image and the vision that the filmmakers transmit through their narratives will undoubtedly play a crucial role in discerning a better future. The entire selection demonstrated the courage with which this generation of filmmakers is willing to take risks, question society and interrogate political realities.

After a series of in depth discussions and considerations, the Jury has concluded to attribute its support to 11 projects. The winning projects highlight the strong vision of a disparate number of talented directors who transmit through their lenses a glimmer of hope despite the grim realities of their subject matter. The charismatic protagonists chosen to navigate each of the chosen narratives demonstrate a clear and deep-rooted connection of the filmmakers with the society they are attempting to decipher. With knowledge, engagement and self-reflection the projects lend a critical eye to the social and political realities of our time.

Most importantly, the powerful cinematic approach that transpires from the chosen projects, underlines the consolidation of a wave of skilful documentary filmmakers whose distinct voice will continue to be heard. Arab documentary filmmakers have undoubtedly acknowledged the unique position they hold to transmit our collective stories. These projects are simply representative of how the tool of their trade is an indispensable resource for transformation in the Arab World."

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Professional Support

1. Editing Consultancy Workshop

For the third consecutive year, AFAC partnered with Talents Beirut to offer three of its documentary supported projects an editing consultancy workshop (September 22-26). This year's mentors were Joshua Oppenheimer, Jean-Pierre Rehm, Jacques Comets, Claire Atherton and Rania Stephan. The three projects that benefited from technical and artistic consultations in the field of editing were: The Swing by Cyril Aris (Lebanon), Tangled in Imbroglio by Walid Tayaa (Tunisia) and Khartoum Offsides by Marwa Zein (Sudan).

2. International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA)

For the third year in a row, selected ADP grantees benefited from networking opportunities in the frame of the International Documentary Festival Amsterdam (IDFA, November 16-27). In 2016, AFAC hosted the Forum Breakfast in collaboration with Future Logic, giving Arab projects a better presence and visibility. The projects that AFAC and Future Logic brought forward were: 194, Us Children of the Camp by Samer Salameh, Chopped by Karam Ali, The Forgotten by Ghada Terawi and They Come From Far Away by Amal Ramsis.

International Recognition Of AFAC Grantees

Prestigious prizes and international recognition were amassed by AFAC grantees. The following is a comprehensive list of awards and recognitions by category:

Visual Arts

- Galerie Tanit Beirut hosted "El-Zohra Was Not Born in a Day", an exhibition by Randa Mirza in collaboration with Riccardo Clementi and Eric Deniaud.
- Beirut Art Center hosted "The Portrait is an Address", the first solo exhibition by Hassan Khan in Beirut
- Sfeir-Semler Gallery in Beirut hosted "I am Sick but I am Alive", a solo show by AFAC grantee Haig Aivazian
- Forbes reviewed Khaled Malas's project "Current Power in Syria" at the 2016 Marrakech Biennale
- Three AFAC grantees exhibited at the 6th Marrakech Biennale; Khaled Malas, Sara Ouhaddou and Saba Innab



Performing Arts

- Danya Hammoud won the The Boghossian Prize 2016
- "Jogging Theatre in progress" by Hanane Hajj Ali performed at STATION in Beirut.
- Rochdi Belgasmi Perfprmed his dance performance "Ouled Jalleba" at Metro Al Madina in Beirut.



Music

• The Beirut & Beyond music festival, December 8-11, hosted 10 performances by musicians and music bands from the region and beyond including AFAC-supported project "Love & Revenge" by Rayess Bek and visual artist Randa Mirza.

Research/Training/Regional Events - RTR

- The Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin hosted the AFAC supported project "Past Disquiet. Narratives and Ghosts from the International Art Exhibition for Palestine, 1978" " by Rasha Salti and Kristine Khoury
- The New York Times reviewed Bidoun's Web Archive



Cinema

- At the Dubai International Film Festival 2016, three of the eight AFAC supported films selected for the official competition of the festival won awards. Maher Abi Samra's "A Maid For Each" won the Best Muhr Non-Fiction Feature Award, while Julia Kassar won the Best Actress Award in "Tramontane" by Vatche Boulgoroujian and Ali Sobhi won the Best Actor award in "Ali, the Goat and Ibrahim". AFAC Grantee Eliane Raheb received the Special Jury Prize Muhr Feature Award for her film "Those Who Remain".
- 10 AFAC supported films were selected in the official competitions of the 27th edition of Carthage Cinema Days, of which 8 films won awards.
- "3000 Nights" by Mai Masri and "As I Open my Eyes" by Leila Bouzid were submitted for Oscars Foreign-Language Category
- "My Love Awaits Me by the Sea" by Mais Darwazah was screened at Qalandiya International Beirut
- "The Last of Us" by Ala Eddine Slim received the "Luigi De Laurentiis" Venice Award for Debut Film and the Best Technical Contribution Award at the Venice International Film Festival
- Tamer El-Said's AFAC supported film "In the Last Days of the City" received the Grand Prix for Best Film at T-Mobile New Horizons International Film Festival in Poland

4rt Exhibition for Palestine, 1978

- Kaouther Benhania's documentary film "Zaineb Hates the Snow" premiered at the Locarno Film Festival as part of the Fuori Concorso selection
- Djemal Kerkar's documentary film "Atlal" by Jaber Debzi received the First Film Prize, two special mentions from the Institut Francais, Award of the International Online Film Critic and the GNCR Prize at FID Marseille.
- Basma Al Sharif's "Ouroboros " (Palestine) won the Panavision / Air France Award and Commune Image Award at Fid Marseille - July 2016
- Alaeddine Slim's "The Last of Us" (Tunisia) won the Video de Poche Award at FID Marseille July 2016
- Tamer El Said's feature debut film "In the Last Days of the City" played in New Directors/New Films in New York
- Chadi Aoun's animated short "Silence" won best animated short film award at the Sydney World Film Festival
- Four AFAC-supported films won awards at 66th Berlinale: "Hedi" received First Film and Best Actor Award; "A Man Returned" Silver Bear for best short; "In the Last Days of the City" Caligari Award for distribution inside Germany and A Maid for Each won the Peace Prize
- "Asphalt" by Ali Hammoud screened at Visions du Réel
- Mohamed Siam's documentary film "Whose Country?" had its World Premiere on at Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Film Festival in Toronto
- Two AFAC-supported films screened at Visions du Réel; "Tadmor" by Monika Borgmann and Lukman Slim, and "This Little Father Obsession" by Selim Mourad. "Tadmor" won two awards

AFAC Novel Writing Program - ANWP

 Launch and signing ceremony of seven novels written by AFAC participants in the 2015 ANWP at the Beirut 60th International Arab Book Fair: "A Family Outing" by Bassam Shams Aldin (Yemen), "Two tickets to Sepphoris" by Salim Albeik (Palestine), "Ayyas"h by Ahmad Hammam (Egypt), "Snow Burns" by Samir Youssef (Lebanon), "The Dangerous Neighborhood" by Mohammed Benmiloud (Morocco), "The Pagan's Wind" by Mohsine Loukili (Morocco), "Paradise of the Bats" by Boy John (Sudan)





Arab Documentary Photography Program – ADPP

- AFAC' ADPP grantees Amira Al Sharif, Heba Khalifa and Natalie Naccache participated to the annual Women in Film & Photography Showcase at Objectifs
- Sima Diab, 2015 ADPP grantee, received the 2016 James Foley Award for Conflict Reporting
- Tasneem Alsultan's ADPP supported project "Saudi Tales of Love" showcased in Projections - Screenings of VISA POUR L'IMAGE
- Time Magazine reviewed Eyad Abou Kasem's ADPP supported project "A Small Forest on the Other Side"
- The Washington Post section "In Sight: Images of our World" published a feature of Zied Ben Romdhane's ADPP supported project "West of Life"
- Hicham Gardaf selected for the World Press Joop Masterclass

Outreach and Events



AFAC was present at various international festivals and forums, establishing partnerships and collaborations for the benefits of its grantees across a variety of fields – music, visual arts, literature and cinema.

AFAC at Berlin Film Festival

Berlin, February 11-22

AFAC attended the 66th Berlin Festival and held a reception in celebration of the works of its grantee filmmakers which attracted 100 guests from the field of film. Four AFACsupported films were selected to screen in the Festival's different sections: Maher Abi Samra's "A Maid For Each" and Tamer Al Said's "In the Last Days of The City" screened in the Forum; Mahdi Fleifel's "A Man Returned" in the Berlinale Shorts Competition; Mohamed Ben Attia's "Hedi" in the Official Competition. All four films were crowned with major awards during the closing ceremony where "Hedi" received the Best First Film Award and Silver Bear for Best actor, Fleifel nabbed the Silver Bear for best short film; Al Said the Caligari Award for distribution inside Germany and Abi Samra the Peace Award.



AFAC Visits Amman

March 2-3

AFAC conducted a field visit to Amman-Jordan during the first days of March. The visit was intended to connect with the community of local artists and address their questions and inquiries related to AFAC grant-making processes. AFAC was hosted by Darat Al Funnun-Khaled Shuman Foundation in The Lab space which welcomed around 50 artists from all fields. The AFAC team presented the work of the institution, its programs, guidelines, open calls, in addition to examples from supported works. The presentation was complemented by two video screenings, one narrating the story of AFAC and the other showcasing the work of photographer and AFAC grantee Omar Imam. A Q&A round followed the presentation in a warm and informal atmosphere. The second day, a dinner, hosted by Mary Nazzal, brought together AFAC friends, grantees and people interested in the arts and culture.



AFAC Special Screening for Tadmor at Dawawine

Beirut, May 12

As part of AFAC's efforts to showcase the works of its grantees, a special screening for the documentary film Tadmor was held on May 12th in Dawawine Theater. The film which recounts the horrific stories of eight Lebanese men who were detained at Tadmor prison during the eighties and nineties, was attended by a select group of about 35 people and in the presence of filmmakers Monika Borgmann and Lokman Slim.

AFAC Film Week

Tunisia, May 25-June 1

After two successful editions in Beirut and Cairo, AFAC held its third Film Week in two Tunisian cities simultaneously: Carthage and Tunis. The vision of film week is to be an event that tours the various Arab cities, exploring the growing regional appetite for independent Arab films, while reaching out to audiences that are otherwise denied access to those films. The third AFAC film week happened in partnership with CineMadart in Carthage, and Cinema le Rio in Tunis. It had a vivid and engaged audience of 1000 viewers. The program comprised 16 films from Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Palestine, Algeria, and Tunisia and included feature-length documentaries and fictions and short films. Most of the directors were flown to Tunisia to attend their films' screenings and to meet and discuss with the Tunisian audience. The 16 screened films were: "Coming Forth by Day" by Hela Lotfy/ "The Wanted 18" by Amer Shomali/ "The Valley" by Ghassan Salhab/ "Silvered Water" by Oussama Mohamed/ "Family Albums" by Raed Andoni (Producer) / "We Were Communists" by Maher Abi Samra / "Checks & Balances" by Malek Bensmail / "74" by Rania and Raed Rafei/ "Monumentum" by Fadi Yeniturk/ "It was better Tomorrow" by Dora Bouchoucha/ "Yasmina ou les 60 Noms de l'Amour" by Nacer Khemir/"As I open my Eyes" by Leyla Bouzid/ "Waves '98" by Elie Dagher/ "And on A Different Note" by Mohamad Shawki.





FILMS FEATURED AT AFAC FILM WEEK

B Documentaries

Feature Films

Short Films 1 animation 1 experimental

Docu-Fiction

NATIONALITIES

Lebanon / Syria / Palestine / Jordan / Egypt / Algeria / Tunisia

COMMUNICATION DELIVERABLES

Posters and Catalogues

INTERVIEWS

Radio Interviews with AFAC representatives, Film Week organizers and filmmakers

20

Event listings Al Atyam, Al Jazeera, Reuters, Al Jarida, Al bayan, Al Sharq Al Arabi, Al Quds, La Presse de Tunisie, Al Bawaba News, Al Ayam Online, hakaek Online, Nabd Misr El Hora, Ahel Misr, Gaza Online, Middle East Online, Al Siasi, 7adramout.net, Al Wehda, Direct Info, Agence Tunis Afrique Presse

VISIBILITY AND PRESS COVERAGE

Media Partner- RTCI (Radio Tunis Chaîne Internationale) — ifm Radio A Press kit was distributed, with bilingual (French and Arabic) brochures of the weeklong event. Interviews were conducted with Rima Mismar, AFAC's Film Programs Manager and Jana Al Obeidyine, the project Coordinator for more in-depth perspective on the film week. Radio interviews were conducted as well.

AFAC SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

Twitter

Facebook

Invitees to the Facebook event page

AFAC Film Night at Sursock Museum in Beirut

Year-Round

AFAC and Sursock Museum announced a year-long partnership which brings forward a monthly series of screenings showcasing the work of Arab filmmakers supported by AFAC over the past years. Entitled "AFAC Film Night", the series intend to offer local audiences a film screening each month and a glimpse at independent filmmaking in the region which suffers from under-exposure and little accessibility due to the absence of any distribution structure for Arab films within the Arab region. Curated by AFAC and Sursock Museum, the screenings are divided into four programs, each with a title at which the films' narratives converge: Displacement, Entrapment, Resilience, and Retrospection. Each of the four programs comprised three feature-length films screened over 3 months.

The series kicked off on May 4th 2016 with Displacement program featuring three documentary films reflecting on contemporary Arab societies: "Port of Memory" by Kamal Aljafari, "Home Sweet Home" by Nadine Naous and "Roshmia" by Salim Abu Jabal. The second program, "Entrapment", began in September 2016 with "Birds of September" by Sarah Francis, and will continue through October and November with "Diaries of a Flying Dog" by Bassem Fayad, and "The Man Inside" by Karim Goury.

AFAC-FIDMarseille Partnership

Marseille, July 14-17

Early in 2016, the FIDMarseille Film Festival approached AFAC for a three-year partnership whereby FIDlab will be selecting each year an AFAC-supported project to be part of this international coproduction platform, which offers a meeting place for discussing film projects selected from all over the world. For the 8th edition, two AFAC-supported projects "Ouroboros" by Basma Alsharif, produced by Mohanad Yaqubi, from Palestine, and "The Last of Us" by Alaeddine Slim (Tunisia) participated in FIDLab 2016 and won three awards. Additionally, AFAC's Deputy Director and Film Programs Manager was invited to be part of the jury.



"Visual Storytelling and Social Change" Panel

Institut Francais, Beirut, August 29-30

On the sideline of the first 2016 ADPP workshop, Magnum Foundation, in partnership with AFAC, held a public event titled "Visual Storytelling and Social Change: Strategies for Engaged Photography", exploring collaborative practice and emerging narrative forms as creative approaches for activating engagement on critical global issues. The event included presentations by Eric Gottesman, Tanya Habjouqa, and Emma Raynes, as well as a discussion with Susan Meiselas and Oussama Rifahi, followed by a reception. The second day was dedicated to six young photographers who presented works in progress and discussed ways of exhibiting and developing the work with mentors and gallerists.



AFAC Partnership with Talents Beirut

Beirut, September 22-26

In the framework of Talents Beirut, AFAC joined forces with Metropolis Association to give three projects supported by AFAC the opportunity to benefit from technical and artistic consultation in the field of editing. The directors and editors of "The Swing" (Lebanon), "Tangled in Imbroglio" (Tunisia), and "Khartoum Offsides" (Sudan) worked with 4 mentors over five days to discuss and advance their rough cuts.

AFAC Launches 7 Novels with Dar Al-Saqi - ANWP 2015 Grantees

Beirut 60th International Arab Book Fair, December 4 A book-signing ceremony was held to launch seven new novels produced within the framework of the AFAC Program, under the supervision of the novelist Jabbour Douaihy and published by Dar Al-Saqi. There were performed readings by Caroline Hatem, Dana Michael and Omar Jbai, bringing to the audience the texts' mood, characters and ideas. Furthermore, a meeting with a group of journalists and critics open to the public was held at the "T-Marbouta" cafe in Hamra, in the presence of the writers and mentor. The seven novels written by AFAC participants in the 2015 ANWP at the Beirut 60th International Arab Book Fair were: "A Family Outing" by Bassam Shams Aldin (Yemen), "Two tickets to Sepphoris" by Salim Albeik (Palestine), "Ayyash" by Ahmad Hammam (Egypt), "Snow Burns" by Samir Youssef (Lebanon), "The Dangerous Neighborhood" by Mohammed Benmiloud (Morocco), "The Pagan's Wind" by Mohsine Loukili (Morocco), "Paradise of the Bats" by Boy John (Sudan).

Cultural Advocacy and Philanthropy



One of AFAC's main objectives is to encourage philanthropy in support of cultural and artistic initiatives that make a positive impact in the Arab region. Creativity and entrepreneurship are vital if we are to reform Arab communities and promote more authentic representations of who we are. As we grapple with narratives of intolerance and extremism, independent voices are best positioned to portray the region's complex realities but also its openness. When investors support Arab artists and creative entrepreneurs in developing their projects, the return is positive impact on many levels – personal fulfillment, social engagement as well as income-generating opportunities.

Through the Arab Creativity and Entrepreneurship Fund (ACEF), AFAC is able to mobilize individuals to invest in arts and culture and contribute to the potential of independent grant-giving on the artistic scene throughout the Arab region and in dialogue with other regions. ACEF uses an intuitive approach to quantify return on artistic investment The Arab Creativity and Entrepreneurship Fund (ACEF) was launched in 2014 by AFAC. ACEF's mission is a socially conscious extension to one of AFAC's main objectives: encourage philanthropy for the arts and culture to support cultural initiatives that are contributing to positive change through: Critical Thinking Creating Spaces for Healing Capacity Building and Education Peace Building and Community Development Civic Engagement Diversity, Empathy, and Freedom of Expression Promoting Gender Equality Shedding Light on the Marginalized Heritage Preservation

Identity Construction

AFAC invites readers to delve into the world of artists and cultural institutions through the Arab Creativity and Entrepreneurship Fund (ACEF) which serves three functions: advocacy, research and fundraising.

by drawing out impact parameters. Annual ACEF reports reveal the tremendous impact that roughly \$1 million annually can generate for a community of practitioners and wider audiences. In addition to being a fundraising tool, ACEF is an advocacy platform that showcases how a marvelous array of creative projects impact on a personal level; on the community in terms of social engagement; as well as on the economic well-being of those involved through income-generating opportunities and networking. Also, ACEF serves as a research product that extrapolates from the myriad of projects, commonalities and idiosyncrasies of themes that pre-occupy artists in the Arab region. Two reports covering 2014 and 2015 provide an analysis of 100 featured projects.

AFAC was regularly solicited to advocate for cultural philanthropy in the region and to promote best practices:

AFAC Participates in "The Future of Non-Profits in Culture and Development"

Amsterdam, February 4-5

AFAC was invited by the Prince Claus Fund to participate to an extended discussion on the future of the non-profit field of culture and development. Recent global trends indicate that funding for non-profits active in this area are decreasing. The meeting took place in Amsterdam on February, 4 and 5th and brought together influential actors in the field to address recent changes, share knowledge and experiences, and think together about the future. This meeting is part of a larger series of meetings with national and international stakeholders, which the Prince Claus Fund is organizing in preparation for its new Vision for the Future. AFAC and PCF are partners on the Arab Documentary Photography Program with the Magnum Foundation which is currently in its third cycle.

AFAC Participates in the Arab Foundations Forum



Amman, February 8

AFAC participated in the board meeting of the Arab Foundation Forum in Amman on February, 8th. AFF's director Naila Farouky presented the budget for 2016 and the list of networking events and capacity-building programs that will be offered to AFF members in the year, as well as a potential program related to a new coalition between members and international organisations active in the field of youth empowerment. A networking event in the evening brought together more than 60 participants over a panel discussion and QGrA session on the issue of: "Unemployment in Jordan: Addressing the Gender Gap in the Labor Force." The panel was led by Dr. Omar Razzaz, Dr. Salma Nims and Mrs. Nesreen Barakat.

AFAC Participates in the Third Edition of "21, 39 Jeddah Art Week"



Jeddah, February 10-13

AFAC participated in the third edition of the 21,39 Jeddah Art Week between February 10-13th, organized by the Saudi Art Council. This year's event featured a number of exhibitions, workshops and panel talks: "Earth and Ever After" curated by Mona Khazindar and Hamza Serafi, a retrospective of Ayman Yossri at Athr gallery and the "Al Hangar" exhibition by 11 young Saudi artists. Following a panel on "Supporting Artistic Endeavor: Artists in Residence", Oussama Rifahi discussed "Cultural Philanthropy: Sustaining the Arts and Culture Sector" together with Dr. Maha Senan from the Saudi Society for Preservation of Heritage, Nina Hoas from UBS Philanthropy Advisory and Venetia Porter from the British Museum in a panel moderated by Salma Tuqan from the Victoria and Albert Museum. To emphasise the need to encourage a new generation of philanthropists to engage with young artists around them, AFAC launched a challenge to the Hangar collective to match a grant by AFAC for their next year's commission with donations from Saudi philanthropists.

AFAC Gives "Philanthropy in Arts and Culture" Master-Class

Dubai, February 20

AFAC's executive director Oussama Rifahi was invited to Dubai by the Abu Dhabi Music and Art Foundation and the British Council to host a master-class, "Philanthropy in Arts and Culture" to the pioneers and protégés of the CEF- Cultural Excellence Fellowship program. The session explored the culture, practice and myths of 'philanthropy' in the arts and culture industries. While understanding the main challenges related to 'charitable giving', AFAC shared its knowledge and expertise around current trends and diverse approaches to the importance of developing sustainable models for the ongoing engagement and enduring endowment of the artists and creative people in our societies. Additionally, prominent UAE institutions involved in supporting the 'arts and cultural' communities through special programs and grants, shared their vision, priorities and approaches to strengthen the entire local ecosystem in a panel moderated by Rifahi. Those institutions included Maraya Art Centre, Community Jameel, the Sheikha Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation and Tashkeel. In the last part of the masterclass, participants worked together on developing a cultural project proposal for a potential grant from AFAC, whereby specific criteria of selection and evaluation were applied.

AFAC Participates in the 9th Informal Donors Meeting, Marrakech

Morocco, March 10-12

The Informal Donors Meeting for Arts and Culture in the Arab Region brings together arts and culture organizations with the donors group to discuss the challenges and opportunities to working in the region today. The 2016 meeting was be held at Dar al-Ma'mûn in Marrakech (Morocco), in partnership with Racines and with the support of the Ford Foundation, Institute of International Education, Open Society Foundations, HIVOS and More Europe, with participants from regional and international donors and arts organizations. The meeting discussed supporting arts, culture and education and developing adequate policies, giving the critical role arts and culture play in maintaining the "revolution" spirit through debates on critical issues related to freedom of expression, human rights, social justice, education, religion, citizenship, solidarity, and diversity.

AFAC Participates in "Living Arts in Post-Conflict Contexts" Forum

Cambodia, March 10-12

AFAC was invited to participate in "Living Arts in Post-Conflict Contexts Forum: Practices, Partnerships, Possibilities", a three-day Forum, between 10-12th March 2016 with thought-provoking sessions and inspiring peer-to-peer dialogues for a selected group of creative actors in the fields of cultural renewal and development, youth resilience, and social innovation. Forty-five delegates from 24 countries were invited to Phnom Penh by Cambodian Living Arts, an independent NGO working toward the vision of arts for transformation. Cambodia's arts scene has re-emerged since the restrictive Khmer Rouge regime ended 35 years ago. Holding the inaugural Living Arts in Post-Conflict Contexts Forum helped to establish Cambodia internationally as a thriving hub for the arts and as a model for the transformation of post-conflict societies through arts and culture. The Forum was a starting point for increased South-South dialogue, taking place in a setting where post-conflict transformation is a lived reality, and AFAC was able to share its experience on the topics of "Practices, Partnerships, Possibilities" from the perspective of a region still deeply entrenched into conflict.

AFAC Participates in the European Culture Forum

Brussels, April 19-20

The European Culture Forum is a biennial flagship event organised by the European Commission, aimed at raising the profile of European cultural cooperation and uniting the sector's key players. This year's two-day Forum reflected on culture's contribution to the new Commission's priorities such as innovation, jobs and growth; the digital single market; social cohesion and intercultural dialogue; and Europe's position on the global scene.

AFAC Participates in the Arab Foundations Forum (AFF) Annual Meeting and General Assembly

Tunisia, September 8-9

AFF General Assembly and Board came together for a two-day event in Tunisia to elect new board members, vet the new membership proposals and network and discuss a number of topics. The two-day agenda comprised panels and working sessions around leadership, data & research, youth coalition, role of Arab foundations in addressing Sustainable Development Goals and the culture of giving.

AFAC Participates in the 7th World Summit on Arts and Culture 2016

Valletta - Malta, 18-21 October

At the crossroads? Cultural Leadership in the 21st Century" is the title of IFACCA's - The International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies - 7th World Summit which brought together government and cultural leaders from over 80 countries and took place in Valletta, Malta on 18 - 21 October 2016. IFACCA is the global network of arts councils and ministries of culture, with member organisations in over 70 countries, whose vision is a world in which arts and culture thrive and are recognized by governments and peoples for their contribution to society.

Arts and culture face a number of challenges and opportunities in the 21st century as new technologies affect the production and distribution of goods and services; new patterns of migration emerge; and national contexts constantly shift with austerity measures and requests for reform. At the same time, artists and culture operators aspire to extend their impact to other sectors, while striving to ensure freedom of expression and cultural diversity. New models of cultural leadership are more important than ever as we work to affirm the arts and culture as pillars of social development. At a time when the notion of participatory governance is prevalent, no decision can be made without the involvement of multiple stakeholders, and the tradition of top-down leadership is no longer the only model. Artists, networks, advocacy groups, and professional organisations play an increasingly important role in engaging people, debating the issues, and proposing solutions to the challenges of our times. The Summit explored changing perceptions of leadership and addressed a number of questions: What are the issues? How are decisions being made, and by whom? How is leadership defined in different cultures? How can governments and civil society collaborate? And where do we go from here?

The summit included participation by several Arab speakers: Abdullah Alkafri from Ettijahat, Marina Barham of Al-Harah Theater of Palestine, and Rana Yazaji of Al-Mawred Al-Thaqafy. In the first panel, titled "What are the issues that have brought us to the crossroads?" moderated by Sarah Gardner, Executive Director IFACCA from Australia, with speakers Jane Chu, Chairperson National Endowment for the Arts, USA, Annick Schramme, President of ENCATC, Belgium, Carlos Javier Villaseñor Anaya, Cultural policy expert, Mexico/Panama, and Oussama Rifahi, director of AFAC, who talked about the dire conditions seen in the Arab region, and how Arts and Culture can turn the latest crisis of migration into an opportunity; he emphasized how the artistic community can modernize its message and through the universal language of culture, how radicalization, intolerance and fear can be addressed in a profound and concerted effort to rally global citizens to responsible and constructive action.



AFAC Co-Organizes Creative Lab Workshop on Arts and Culture at Impact Hub



Amsterdam, October 24-25

AFAC co-organised a workshop on 24-25 October at Impact Hub Amsterdam, together with the DOEN Foundation, the Foundation "Festival sur le Niger" and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The title of the workshop, conducted under a peer-to-peer experimental exchange format, was titled "What is the role of arts & culture today in building understanding and social cohesion? How can our arts & culture community build continued collaborative action for positive impact?"

The two-day creative lab gathered leaders and practitioners in the arts and culture field to meet and explore: "How stories from the sector can hold the seed of the positive future we imagine and want; how it can leverage the courageous work of artists and changemakers working for social change?" Participation included a number of Dutch and international institutions as well as a number of participants from the Arab region: Omar Abi Azar from the Zoukak collective, Lebanon; Khaldun Busara from Riwaq, Palestine; Rana Yazaji from Mawred Thaqafi, Egypt; Moez Mrabet theater director from Tunisia; Menatalla El-Shazly from Medrar, Egypt; Tamara Abdul-Hadi from the Rawiya Collective.

AFAC launches "Europa: An Illustrated Introduction to Europe for Migrants and Refugees"

Berlin, December 8

"Europa" has been produced in partnership with the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture (AFAC) in the framework of the Arab European Creative Platform, Magnum Photos, Alliquindoi, and On The Move, with support from Magnum Foundation, the Geneviève McMillan–Reba Stewart Foundation, MDIC, the Protection System for Asylum Seekers and Refugees (SPRAR), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); in cooperation with Allianz Cultural Foundation.

The book was initiated by a group of photographers and journalists who have been covering both the refugee crisis in Europe and many contexts across the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. Written in Arabic, Farsi, English, and French, this collaborative and independent initiative is intended as an educational tool to inform, engage, and facilitate community exchange. Europa offers an introduction to the motivations behind the creation of the European Union, how it developed, and the relevant debates that will determine its future. Through first-person testimonies, readers are also introduced the different people who make up Europe today, who in their own words tell their stories of displacement, war, solidarity, and reconciliation. "Europa" is an independent nonprofit project, and the book is not available for purchase. An electronic PDF version of the book is available on AFAC's website as well as printed editions which were widely distributed to stakeholders working with migrants.


Communication and Visibility

A communication and fundraising strategy is being developed with consultants to boost the image of the organization and its grantees; to facilitate fundraising; and to strengthen the position of AFAC as a knowledge resource. The final product will be completed mid-2017.

In 2016, the following communication material was produced, the highlight of which is the ACEF report 2015. It tells inspiring stories of impact that grantees express to demonstrate how art creates space for questioning, healing, and engagement.

- Release of the second Arab Creativity and Entrepreneurship Fund- ACEF Book 2015 highlighting 50 grantees with 14 in-depth interviews on AFAC website
- 5 grantee stories from diverse categories in pdf format on AFAC website
- 2 on-line "Grantees' Voices" video interviews on AFAC website
- Release of AFAC's commissioned video on Contemporary Dance in the Arab Region

- AFAC's commissioned video to close Crossroads special program
- AFAC Novel Writing Program (ANWP) inforgraphic summarizing the three cycles

AFAC maintains communication and accessibility to all its stakeholders – artists and cultural practitioners, patrons and donor foundations, media, critics and cultural journalists. AFAC also conducts roundtable discussions and field trips and participates in events throughout the region, allowing for direct communication and visibility with a broader spectrum of people involved in the cultural field.

Newsletters and web-news have been published throughout the year, relaying latest AFAC events and latest cultural opportunities for Arab practitioners and cultural networks across the region and internationally.

Release of the second Arab Creativity and Entrepreneurship Fund- ACEF 2015 Book online

AFAC produced online the second book on Arab Creativity and Entrepreneurship Fund (ACEF) 2015. It includes 50 grantees and their projects, revealing the tremendous impact that roughly \$1 million in annual contributions can make across communities in the Arab world. From projects in visual and performing arts to literature, music, film, documentary photography, research, training, and events, the ACEFsupported artists have created works that shift people's perspectives on important matters and strengthen social and cultural cohesion, while pushing the boundaries of what is possible. Those authentic, non-agenda driven artistic ventures contribute to freedom of expression, tolerance, empowered individuals and communities, inclusive identities, civic engagement, reconciliation, and spaces for young people to imagine a better future.



Grantee stories from diverse categories in pdf format on AFAC website

In 2016, AFAC published 5 grantee stories:

- 1. Beirut & Beyond Music Festival Amani Semaan (Festival Director) & Khaled Yassine (Artistic Director): Since 2012, the four-day Festival creates an independent platform for alternative expressions in music and for intercultural exchange using the universal language of music in a fragile region. Apart from showcasing local and foreign talents, the Festival is an opportunity for exposure, exchange and dialogue, presenting a nuanced image of contemporary Arab culture. In parallel to a diverse music program, the Festival includes training and discussions primarily targeting emerging artists.
- 2. Kulshi Makoo (Nothing Doing in Baghdad) Maysoon Pachachi: For this filmmaker, her urgent need is to tell how people live through extraordinatry and violent times in Iraq, and despite overwhelming odds, there is much that blossoms in everyday life. She chooses fiction over documentary to show the dialectic between the past and the present, between the interior and exterior, and to interweave stories of different characters each living on their own but whose stories intersect in a typically mixed Baghdadi neighbourhood.
- 3. Using dance to overcome social challenges Nadia Arouri (Artistic Director), Yante Youth, Art & Levant: For community building, dance can be a tool for addressing specific social development obstacles such as inequality, exclusion, fragmentation and post-traumatic stress disorder. The program included weekly community classes in villages in Palestine involving children, women, the elderly, and those with special needs, as well as thematic performances to raise awareness and engage participants and develop their resilience - physically, emotionally, socially, and intellectually.
- 4. The Renaissance of Cinema in Mauritania Abderrahmane Lahy (Director), Cinema House: In a bid to revive the collective movie-going experience known to Mauritanian society during the period 1960-1980 and reverse the clamp down on cinema in the years to follow, the Association of Filmmakers founded in 2011 was supported by AFAC to continue offering intensive training courses for young filmmakers in the provinces on the basics of cinematic arts. The films raise complex thorny issues, instigating discussion on taboo subjects. Some of the young practitioners set up small film festivals in their towns.
- 5. Opening Beirut's Inaccessible and Closed Public Spaces Ali Sabbagh (Cultural Coordiantor), ASSABIL: The creation and opening of pubic spaces has been a major challenge since ASSABIL opend the first public library in Bachoura in 2000. The Horsh Beirut Festival included high-quality cultural activities to reach new audiences and advocate with the municipality of Beirut to open up the park to the public and not just for this annual event that attracts roughly 7000 spectators from surrounding neighbourhoods. Performances were in collaboration with Moulin Fondu, led by the Oposito Company based in Noisy-le-Sec (France), the Lebanese Collectif Kahraba and ASSABIL.

AFAC on-line "Grantees' Voices" video interviews

In addition, AFAC published 2 online video interviews under "Grantees Voices". Samar Hazboun, a grantee of ADPP from Palestine talks about "Beyond Checkpoints", a visual story about Palestinian women who are obliged to give birth at Israeli checkpoints because they are not allowed to cross and reach a hospital. Dona Timani, a grantee of visual arts from Lebanon describes how AFAC's grant supported her to make her first solo exhibition, "Vulgar Truths". Her paintaings map out the inter-connectedness of daily issues arising from social injustice and prods individuals to observe how they are not just victims but often accomplices who should instead consider a shared responsibility to address these issues.



Video Stories

Two commissioned videos stories were released with compelling and touching narratives around the work of AFAC grantees which can be viewed on AFAC's website:

 Contemporary Dance in the Arab Region: The video, "Dancing on the Edge" takes an intimate look at the rise of contemporary dance in the Arab world. The contemporary dance scene in the Middle East and North Africa has taken great strides forward. There is more public recognition of contemporary dance as an art form and as a vehicle of creative and social expression. A generation of promising and ambitious contemporary dancers is taking up dance as a means of social, political and artistic liberation; and an ever growing and diverse audience is breaking the stereotype of the traditionally elite, intellectual dance and theatre audience.

2. Commissioned video to close Crossroads special program - Filmmakers at a Crossroad: AFAC's Crossroads was launched to support Arab filmmakers to complete their cinematic projects coming out of the heart of the Arab revolutions and dealing with pressing topics. For most of the directors, this was their first experience. The personal story was the dominant feature in the films which became a laboratory for cinematic language and experimentation, but also about the relationship between dictators and the family and society. The movies highlighted individual transformations in parallel or in the background of major changes happening in the region. In 2016 and after five years, AFAC asked the directors how they look back at this experience. The video was directed by Fadi Yeni Turk – one of the program's grantees - and features AFAC Crossroads grantees: Djemal Fawzy, Hazem Alhamwi, Sara Ishak, Bahia BenCheikh-El-Fegoun and Mohamed Rashad.

AFAC Novel Writing Program (ANWP) inforgraphic summarizing the three cycles

With the closure of the program, AFAC produced an infographic summarizing important information gathered from the 668 received applications in the period 2014-2016. It highlighted the general themes and sub-themes of novels, reflecting what is on the mind of young Arab authors in the past three years. The biggest preoccupations were about daily life and personal stories; identity and self-discovery; and romance. This may be linked to the fact that first-time novelists tend to write about subjects closest to home. The second set of sub-themes revolved around Arab revolutions; the burden of the past; represession and torture; and religion. Given the recent quest of younger generations for change, it is not surprising that the topics pick on current upheavals and daily trials in the face of unhampered authority in many Arab societies. Tough subjects like war-torn socieites; forced displacement; and youth disenchantment constituted a third pool of themes in the literary works. A few participants ventured into topics on science fiction and the impact of social media from a Novel Writing perspective; they are incidently topics that are not prevalent in the region but may be picking up. Although many in Arab societies suffer from negative categorization of homosexuality, a few have started writing about it.

Online Presence and Social Media



MAXIMUM UNIQUE VISITORS PER MONTH 39684 / 15561 / 15057 / 12331 / 4810 / 1940

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PAGE VIEWS PER MONTH 244292 / 200939 / 201243 / 183006 / 68669 / 10000





SOCIAL MEDIA FAN BASE 9964 Facebook Likes

2138 Twitter Followers

394 YouTube Subscribers

294 Instagram Subscribers

AFAC Governance and Management



Governance: AFAC Board of Trustees and Team

AFAC welcomed four new board members in 2016: writer Elias Khoury, writer and historian Farouk Mardam-Bey; Deputy Chairperson for the Middle East at Sotheby's Roxane Zand; and AFAC's former Executive Director, Oussama Rifahi. The Board met twice: in Beirut in May and in Berlin in October.

Lebanese intellectual, academic, and chairman of AFAC, Dr. Ghassan Salamé was named Cultural Personality of the Year of Sharjah International Book Fair's (SIBF) 35th edition. Ahmad Bin Rakkad Ameri, chairman of Sharjah Book Authourity, said, "Our selection of Dr. Salamé was based on his long and distinguished career, his invaluable contribution to the Arab cultural scene and his concern for all issues relating to the Arab world." The SIBF's recognition pays tribute to intellectual figures in the Arab world and celebrates their achievements that inspire future generations. Dr. Ghassan Salamé also received the Said Akl award for International Lebanese Creativity Category in a ceremony at Notre Dame University – Louaize (NDU) to commemorate the second anniversary of Said Akl's passing.

Lebanese writer, critic and Board Member of AFAC, Elias Khoury received the Katara Award in the Published Novels category for his latest work "Children of the Ghetto- My Name is Adam" published by Dar Al Adab.

The newly appointed director is AFAC's former Deputy Director, Rima Mismar. Four staff members moved on in 2016: communications and development, grants coordinator, project coordinator and finance officer. A new finance officer and a second grants manager were recruited in addition to a senior program manager who will focus on institutional development and new initiatives.

Finances

AFAC funding is secured through international and regional donor foundations, philanthropic donations and corporate sponsorships. AFAC's expenditures are largely channeled directly to grants.

In August 2016, AFAC successfully secured a multi-year grant from the Open Society Foundations (OSF) for which discussions had started early 2011.

In parallel, another multi-year grant was concluded with the Ford Foundation part of which is a BUILD grant that allows the organization to identify its strengths and weaknesses and prioritize its organizational strengthening needs. Moreover, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs doubled its contribution for the years 2016 and 2017. DOEN and Prince Claus Fund continue to support AFAC for the 8th and 3rd year respectively.

A total of 17 individual donors generously contributed a total of around \$1 million to AFAC:

Olfat Al-Mutlaq Juffali Nabil Qaddumi Amr Ben Halim Sawsan Jaafar Hani Kalouti Abla Lahoud Sawaf Mootaz Wassef Abdul Salam Bou-Azza Ayman Maamoun Farouk Subhi Al Shihabi Lawrie Shabibi Gallery Najat Rizk Farouk Jabre Elisabeth Kassab Charles Aoun Hussein Rifahi Anonymous

Below are the finances for 2016. In addition to grants, AFAC's budget takes into account fundraising and communications for outreach efforts, field trips, cultural advocacy opportunities in addition to administrative costs. In 2017, AFAC envisages a 20% increase in the grants' budget.

For the past ten years, AFAC leads as a regional cultural institution having raised over \$23 million, made over 980 grants totaling approximately \$13.6 million, spent almost \$3 million on professional training and workshops, reached millions of audiences, processed over 9000 applications and worked with around 200 jurors since making its first grant in 2007.



PricewaterhouseCoopers in Zurich, Switzerland successfully completed the 2016 audit. AFAC's financial statements comply with the Swiss law and the Foundation's deed.

AFAC Ten-Year Study: Learning from the Past - Imagining the Future

To mark its 10th anniversary and transit into the second decade with a sustained significant imprint on artistic and cultural production and on the advancement of Arab philanthropy for arts and culture, AFAC initiated an evaluation process of its programs and operation as well as recommendations from the field to guide its future programs and activities.

The study's objectives are:

- 1. To assess AFAC's 10-year history of sustaining and impacting artistic and cultural production in the Arab region
- 2. To learn from and engage with AFAC's stakeholders of grantees, partners and funders about their perception, understanding and analysis of the foundation's past as well as suggestions for the future.
- 3. To highlight and present AFAC's strengths and weaknesses as well propose future steps and initiatives that will ensure the sustainability, growth and impact of the foundation for the coming years.

Moukhtar Kocache, an independent advisor researched and recommended priorities that AFAC can explore moving forward. In parallel, a Study Group of 5 professionals (Rasha Salti, curator and writer; Orwa Nayrabia, film producer; Tarek Abou el Fouttouh, curator; Khyyam Al Lami, music composer; and Elias Khoury, writer and AFAC Board Member engaged with AFAC on an in-depth discussion about the initial findings of the study as well as the state of arts and culture in the region and reflected on AFAC's role in the coming five years. Suggestions included new areas to be supported, as well as amendments to the granting and selection processes.

The draft study report included feedback from all AFAC stakeholders (grantees, jurors, board members, donors) in

addition to professionals in the field of arts and culture who reflected on the different aspects of AFAC activities.

Process

The Study Group met in AFAC offices in Beirut on August 22-23 to discuss the preliminary findings of the study. Moderated by Kocache and attended by the whole AFAC team, the two-day discussion presented preliminary findings based on the survey and one-on-one interviews which Kocache led and tackled areas of grant-making; pre-selection, selection and evaluation processes; future special programs; expansion of AFAC beyond core grant-making activity; areas of support; positioning of AFAC as source of knowledge production and research initiator.

Kocache collected feedback, recommendations and suggestions to include in the final report along with the results of the survey and interviews. After feedback from the Board and group, and internal discussions, a final report was provided and will be shared with the community at large early 2017. It will shed light on AFAC's visibility and identiy, organizational development and internal processes in addition to programs, with recommendations for the next years.

The evaluation process will continue with focus groups for each cateorgy to delve deeper into the report's recommendations. Based on the discussions and findings, AFAC will communicate a new strategy end 2017.

Legal status

AFAC is registerd in Lebanon under decree 6388 dated 24 September 2011 as the Lebanese branch of the foundation AFAC, registered in Zug, Switzerland on 23 June 2006, under article 80 of the Swiss Civil Code. Previously, AFAC was registered in Jordan as the Jordanian branch of the foundation AFAC, under registeration number 2099, dated 11 April 2007.



Outlook



- Share the ten-year study of AFAC and start implementing recommendations following indepth consultations with practitioners. Focus groups will be formed with experts in each category to draw practical recommendations based on a thorough reading of trends and priorities in the region.
- Celebrate ten years of AFAC in 2017 with a major event that pays tribute to grantees, jurors and philanthropists, and captures the knowledge of the arts and culture scene.
- Deepen outreach to marginalized communities of artists, beyond capital cities through tailored field visits and better dissemination of artistic products.
- Implement activities under the Arab-European Creative Platform – the newly launched program to address Arab migrant artists and those in exile. 2017 project activities will focus on a series of cultural workshops and panels in Germany, including a symposium on writing and migration, a theatre performance, and artistic workshops covering photography, visual arts and cinema for emerging artists in exile.

- Build on the experience of the Arab Writing Novel Program to open a new grant program. AFAC will consider specific needs in this field such as critical writing and research; children and youth literature; and playwriting.
- Launch the 4th edition of AFAC Film Week in Tangier, London (under the aegis of Shubak) and Berlin in 2017, building on the success of AFAC Film Week in Beirut, Cairo, Tunis and New York City.
- Increase awareness and mobilise philanthropy for arts and culture in the Arab region to expand and diversify donor support. AFAC will continue to encourage individual contributors in arts and culture through ACEF with the aim of raising another \$1 million for 2017.
- Develop and facilitate a community of practice platform to engage current grantees and alumni in bi-annual thematic discussions on arts and culture.
- Envisage an increase of 20% in the 2017 grants' budget.

Annexes



Visual Arts Project Descriptions

Name: Nuha Innab Country: Jordan

Title: Traces of Socialism /Amman

Synopsis: The project showcases the results of a

documentation of public housing through photography, and investigates the notion of "The Public" and the massive, while unfolding spatial characters and architectural language that was long gone. "Traces of socialism" investigates as well policies that affected social behaviors and spaces in Amman.



Name: Chaghig Arzoumanian Country: Lebanon Title: On fools and lands

Synancic: The book "On for

Synopsis: The book "On fools and lands" scrutinizes the history of Asfourieh; the first mental asylum of the Middle-East established in 1898 near Beirut. By combining the photographs that the artist has been shooting in the Asfourieh's estate and the annual reports of the Hospital, the artist aims to reveal traces and to reflect upon the course of Lebanese History with regards to collective consciousness, modernism and capitalism.

Name: Yumna Al-Arashi Country: Yemen Title: Face

Synopsis: Photographing the last of a generation of women with facial tattooing in Tunisia, Libya, Morocco and Algeria. These portraits tell stories of identity in relation to beauty and self-expression that bear both similarities and differences in the current context of the Middle East and North Africa.

Name: Bruno Boudjelal

Country: Algeria

Title: Mapping of Massacres Sites in Algeria; the great massacres of 1997-1998

Synopsis: In 1997, Algeria experienced a wave of unprecedented massacres of civilians, with a paroxysm of violence at the end of the summer and into early 1998. The project aims to browse, identify and photograph these places, trying to free the artist from the haunting sense of the ineffable trace of these atrocities.



Bruno Boudjelal, *Mapping of Massacres Sites in Algeria* the *great massacres of 1997-1998*

Name: Adilah Hanieh Country: Palestine Title: Life-force Fahrelnissa.

Synopsis: An artistic biography. The project is an accessible artist biography of Fahrelnissa Zeid. Fahrelnissa was a pioneering Turkish-Jordanian modern artist. For the last fifteen years, she has been the object of de-contextualized sporadic exhibitions. This necessary book will present her work to a contemporary audience, grounded in the modern cultural and political history of Turkey, Iraq and Jordan, dwelling on psychology, feminist art history and global modernism.



awan Serhan. Languitecture



Name: Rawan Serhan Country: Palestine Title: Languitecture

Synopsis: Languitecture is an investigation into the migration, translation and evolution of language across cultures and borders. In the project, seven artists will be exploring interconnections of their mother tongues: Spanish, Arabic, English and German. They will exhibit seven original pieces, seven iterated pieces and a catalogue that documents their work process.

Name: Dia Al Batal Country: Jordan

Title: Traces of Belonging

Synopsis: The project aims to explore ideas of home, and taking refuge. The meaning of place in an age of migration and immigration, of moving here but coming from there, the meaning of home as an internal orientation, one that we guide to remain on our own course of belonging. The artist is interested in looking at journeys of displacement starting from her family history in Palestine, to their present journeys of refuge in Syria and at the idea of belonging to a place that may no longer exist.

Name: Zineb Benjelloun Country: Morocco Title: Darna

Synopsis: "Darna" is a graphic novel, which documents the history of colonial and post-colonial Morocco as it is manifested in the daily lives of three generations of the artist's family. The book is developed from extensive archives found both in public and private collections, video and sound recordings, as well as family testimonies. The tone is subtly funny and relevant.



Zineb Benjelloun, Darn



Name: Salah Saouli Country: Lebanon Title: The Seven Lives of M. Said

Synopsis: The installation "The Seven Lives of M. Said" present different aspects of the life of M. Said, an adventurer, body-builder, fighter, arms dealer and film producer. Through a critical reflection on the often contradictory facets of the protagonist's personality, the work will offer a parable on social and cultural reality in Beirut and Lebanon since the late 1950s until now.

Name: Sandra Dajani Country: Jordan Title: Stretch Marks

Synopsis: Set in a society where women are predisposed to stereotyped roles; "Hiba", a starry eyed and superficial woman finds herself pregnant. Throughout her inner struggle of accepting what is bestowed upon her as well as gaining the acceptance of a harsh society, her naïve trait prevails and she finds solace in seeking the help of a very interesting escort.



Name: Mohamed Fariji Country: Morocco Title: The Collective Museum - Mauritania

Synopsis: The Collective Museum is a project dedicated to the collective memory of Arab cities. It takes the form of a moving participative museum that echoes, with each installation, the different surroundings in which it finds itself. It particularly welcomes recovered objects and documents soon to disappear from view, the last existing testimonies to an urban landscape in perpetual motion.

Name: Mohamad Baalbaki Country: Lebanon

Title: Sculptor in a Bedouin Tent

Synopsis: The Atelier of Youssef Ebbo (1888-1953) was a renowned meeting point for artists and writers in Berlin during the twenties. This project will aim at recreating this physical space in order to revive this vital period of time and establish a place for experimentation for contemporary artists. Youssef Ebbo's name was associated with the most famous art dealers, poets and artists of the period, he however died poor and unknown in London. The project and associated exhibition will re-introduce this important Levantine artist who fell into oblivion to the public again.



Name: Younes Baba Ali Country: Morocco Title: Without Negotiation

Synopsis: The project researches, with three different methodologies, the influences of nature, economy and culture on life of Dakar, but is also related to the Arab World as a whole. The project is an intervention in public space resulting in an installation and video documentation. All three methodologies question traditional practices and the spiritual facing materialization and capitalism in the Arab region with Dakar - Senegal as a laboratory.

Name: Haig Aivazian

Country: Lebanon

Title: Not Every Day is Spring

Synopsis: A ghostly journey through the key sites of music production and broadcast in Istanbul produces a series of intimate, and sometimes surreal musical encounters. Throughout this journey, an intangible sense of unease seems to lurk underneath the city's ground and the claddings of its architecture. The project aims to reflect on contemporary migration, through the maqams of so-called Oriental music.

Name: Beirut Art Center

Country: Lebanon

$\label{eq:title:The Portrait is an Address$

Synopsis: Portraits (Ourselves) is the first solo exhibition by Hassan Khan in Beirut, expanding on the thematic of the portrait in his work. The portrait has played a pivotal role in Khan's work starting with "100 Portraits" (2001) and is represented in various media such as moving images, photographic images, text pieces etc. The exhibition aims to explore the primal relation between how we conceive of a self and its reproduction, which is not merely a representation. It proposes the portrait as genre, approach, and form, as a trace of mortality, to remember, to prevent disappearance. This exhibition grapples with the possibility of intimacy, the gaps and losses that are necessary for us to make sense of what we see and what we know, the very possibility of making sense itself. It also simply gives the audience a chance to look at others and themselves in a direct, accessible and emotionally powerful way.

Name: Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center Country: Palestine

Title: Becoming Authentic

Synopsis: The project is an exhibition during Qalandia International 2016 that invites practitioners from different disciplines to collaborate in thinking through what it means to be indigenous. The exhibition takes as its starting point the theme of return proposed by this year's Qalandia International Biennial. One is compelled to ask the question: what does it mean to return to the land? Is this return symbolic? Is it a return of the real? The project and exhibition will be to approach those questions through exploring the relationship with nature as natives, what it means for plants to return, what is native to the land.

Name: Al-Maamal Foundation for Contemporary Art Country: Palestine

Title: The Jerusalem Show VIII: Before and After Origins Synopsis: The Jerusalem Show is an art and culture festival that is comprised of art exhibitions, performances, workshops, and creative encounters (talks, film screenings, video screenings, and symposium), taking place in the old city of Jerusalem, Ramallah and in towns and villages in Palestine in collaboration with partner institutions. The Jerusalem Show will be presented in the framework of Qalandiya International 2016.

Name: Culturunners

Country: Saudi Arabia

Title: Culturunners 2016 - The Campaign Trail

Synopsis: Culturunners prioritizes direct encounters and storytelling, trusting in the power of art to inspire empathy and uncover counter narratives across the world. Through this project, artists from the Middle East and North Africa will host exhibitions and talks, collaborate with resident artists and journalists in the United States.

Name: Pump House Gallery

Country: United Kingdom

Title: Each Fighting its Own Little Battle in Happy Ignorance Synopsis: A group exhibition loosely based on the novel "It's a Battlefield" by author Graham Greene. Displaying works that take language as a starting point to explore themes of bureaucracy, power and theatricality of situations in the Arab world and locally to the gallery. The project aims to exhibit art works that make connections between the social, political and cultural, and the role of bureaucracy and power and how they are administered.

Name: P21 Gallery

Country: United Kingdom

Title: Sudan; Emergence of Singularities

Synopsis: "Emergence of Singularities" is the first major exhibition outside Sudan of contemporary Sudanese art. It will showcase in the heart of London Kings Cross nearly 30 established and emerging artists, writers and intellectuals as well as special guests whose works are related to Sudan. Through interdisciplinary art exhibition, a mix of voices and new perspectives will be presented to allow understanding Sudanese society and cultures, and to stage an unprecedented and rich artistic portrait of Sudan on an international scale.

Name: Spike Island

Country: United Kingdom

Title: Parts

Synopsis: "Parts", a new film by British artist Maeve Brennan, examines shifting economies of objects in contemporary Lebanon within the wider historical and political context of the Middle East. Combining documentary footage with staged cinematic scenes, "Parts" documents a self-taught archaeologist and a joyrider carrying out processes of maintenance and repair. The project will be presented as a large-scale single screen video installation within major solo exhibitions.

Visual Arts Jurors



Khalil Joreige

Khalil Joreige collaborates with Joana Hadjithomas as filmmakers and artists, producing cinematic and visual artwork that intertwine. For more than fifteen years, they have focused on the images, representations, and writing of history of their home country, Lebanon, questioning the fabrication of imaginaries in the region and beyond.

Together, they have directed multi awarded documentaries and feature films such "A Perfect Day" (2005). and "Je Veux Voir" (I Want to See), starring Catherine Deneuve and Rabih Mroué, premiered at the official selection of the Cannes Film Festival in 2008 and was chosen by the French CriticsGuild as the Best Film 2008. In 2013, they presented their feature documentary "The Lebanese Rocket Society", the strange tale of the Lebanese space race and a series of artistic installations around the space project of the 1960s. Lately they have focused on spams and scams and the virtuality of internet. Their artwork, part of major private and public collections is extensively shown in solo and group shows in museums, biennials and art centers around the world.

Shurooq Amin

Born to a Kuwaiti father and Syrian mother, Shurooq Amin is a mixed-media interdisciplinary artist and an Anglophone poet whose purpose is to instigate change in society. She has a PhD in Ekphrasis, the connection between art and poetry, and has been published and anthologized internationally. She has been a guest speaker at various universities and a judge for various events. Shuroog has had 14 solo exhibitions, more than 45 group exhibitions, her paintings have been sold at auctions, commissioned privately and publicly, awarded prizes locally and internationally, and shown at biennales and art fairs. A retrospective of her work was featured in the biannual art journal Contemporary Practices: Visual Arts from the Middle East. Shurooq's poetry has been published into two books to date, in more than 40 literary journals across the globe, and has been anthologized in the Gathering the Tide. She is the first Kuwaiti to be nominated for the prestigious Pushcart Prize in December 2007 in the USA. In 2012 she was nominated as one of Kuwait's 46 Inspirational People in Sheikha Intisar Al-Sabah's book The Alchemy of Wisdom. Shurooq was the first Kuwaiti female artist to show her work at the Venice Biennale (56th International Venice Biennale, Italy; May to November 2015).

Najlaa El Ageli

She is a UK-Registered Chartered Architect, having completed the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Levels I, II and III with over twenty years of experience in the profession. Fully bilingual in English and Arabic, she is also passionate about Art and travels and always seeks to learn more from different cultures. Argentina, West Africa, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, the United States and Japan are just a few of the countries she have visited and when in Egypt and Japan she worked with local communities offering sustainable development programs.

Due to her deep interest in Art and the need to explore and discover its potential, she recently founded Noon Arts, a private organization that curates the very best of contemporary Libyan art and bringing the works of both emerging and established Libyan artists to the world stage. So far, she have successfully curated eight international exhibitions in London, Malta, Tripoli and California, with the latest currently taking place this July 2015 at the Arab British Centre venue in London. Noon Arts was also recently commissioned by the Benetton Foundation in Italy to complete the Libyan Art catalogue for the Imago Mundi global Art project, a great measure of Noon Arts' success.





I believe the women can use the skills and confidence they have acquired from this project to find other work in the artistic field. One of the cast members went on to audition for a BBC radio drama and was successful in getting the part. Another was inspired to produce her own theater project. I also hope that creative projects such as this will slowly shift misogynistic attitudes in the Arab world."

Dina Mousawi, Lebanon Performing Arts grantee, "Terrestrial Journeys"

Performing Arts Project Descriptions



Name: Chrystèle Khodr Country: Lebanon Title: Temporary Title

Synopsis: A theater project that explores the history of immigration in The Levant (Al-Mashreq) since 1915, through the history of a family, none of whose members were born and died in the same country over the course of 100 years. The performance is based on a cassette tape sent by a man in Sweden to his brother in Lebanon in 1976 at the beginning of the Lebanese Civil War. The project moves from the personal to the public and aims to rewrite a history that has been repeated for 100 years, through two perspectives: One that is reconciled with the idea of immigration, and another which experiences it in a reductive manner, as if the story takes place concurrently here and there.

Name: Ali Chahrour Country: Lebanon

Title: Men of the Land of Fire

Synopsis: This is a dance performance that invokes the presence of men in mourning rituals, and deals with the concept of inherited modern masculinity with all the authoritarian, social, and political connotations that it carries. The project explores its topic via the concept of Land of Fire, with its religious dimensions related to hell and punishment in the afterlife, as well as the concept of Burnt Land with its war-related political dimension and the ends and beginnings it leads to.

Name: Nancy Naous Country: Lebanon Title: Title Under Consideration

Synopsis: This performance explores the structure, components and concept of masculinity in contemporary societies in a performance by two male dancers, in the framework of a choreography that combines the popular/ traditional/oriental with the contemporary. The project builds on a physical vocabulary of the masculine combining stereotypes and clichés that we usually adhere to when we talk about masculinity in general.





Name: Youness Atbane Country: Morocco

Title: The Architects

Synopsis: This project questions the relation between dreams and the material world from a philosophical perspective. In this work, the performers enter a "World of Things" and endeavor to create a space where language, movement, and images exist outside the usual logical framework, and become capable of interaction, building a philosophical dream machine. The idea is to create a ready-to-test environment, an environment built for experimenting.

Name: Rochdi Belgasmi

Country: Tunisia

Title: Ouled Jelaba ... On His Footsteps, I Dance ... Synopsis: Ouled Jalaba is a known figure in the world of popular arts in Tunisia but, paradoxically, little known among Tunisians. He appeared in the 20s in Bab Souika in Tunis and worked in the singing café "Sallit Dziri". He was much demanded by the public of the medina, which ignored in



most time his sexual identity. He, and other transvestites' dancers were no longer capable of practicing their art once women had the right to dance in public café, with the resistance and women's liberation movement in Tunisia. The project is a dance in tribute to figures of folk dancers, less known or which have fallen into oblivion or have been discarded and rejected by the society, such as Oueld Jaleba.

Name: Ahmed Tobasi Country: Palestine Title: And Here I Am

Synopsis: Written by award winning writer Hassan Abdulrazzak and based on Ahmed Tobasi's personal coming of age story, this brand new production is an epic voyage through identity and self-discovery that combines tragedy and comedy, taking us through two intifadas, the transformation of Tobasi from resistance fighter to artist and from life as a refugee in Palestine, then Norway and back again.

Name: Lina Issa Country: Lebanon Title: Ticket to Atlantis

Synopsis: The project consists of a live performance and audiovisual installation about the relation between human beings and their bodies and the sea, within a sensory and historical framework. The performers will share with their audience a journey in search of lightness. The performance starts with the experiences and images of migrants as a contemporary reality, and asks: What happens when we associate the obsession of searching for a safe place with the myth of Atlantis, the utopian city lost in the sea? This will be a joint work by Lina Issa from Lebanon, and actor and theater director Meyar Alkasan from Syria.

Name: Wael Kadour Country: Syria Title: The Confession

Synopsis: The project is a theater performance written by Wael Kaddour and directed by Addullah Al-Kafri. The project contrasts the concepts of violence and forgiveness in the context of the change of the revolution from the peaceful to the armed, and by comparing current events with the eighties of the last century. The project reflects on the trivialization of death and the constant return to the past, technically and dramatically, in order to contemplate the present and reflect upon it.

Name: Rania Shaheen

Country: Egypt

Title: El-Pergola Legal Theatre for Marionettes Synopsis: The project consists of the production of five sketches or theater shows, presented by El Pergola Puppet Theater under the title "My Right" (Haqqi). Each sketch represents one of the legal issues that affect citizen rights. The audience will play an interactive role in each show. Material will be collected for each of the five performances and presented in a simplified manner through cartoons or animations before being published in a book titled "Haqqak Aleina" (You're/Your Right). The resulting book will aim to promote the idea and relevance of Human Rights Theater, and facilitate its presence in Egypt and the Arab region.



Name: Maria Harfouche Country: Lebanon Title: Tarab Synopsis: Place: Egypt. Date: January 25.

Tarab is a solo non-narrative performance, an attempt to dispel myths, heroes and misleading quests, a wandering through time to question my/our present. The research intends to question the multiple methods used by political power to invoke emotion on audience. The project places this research in the Egyptian context and around a particular event, police national day, in its repeated 64th recurrence since 1952. The aim of the project Through a journey through historical archives, the projects reflects upon a wider Arab political history of the past 50 years.

Name: Mariam Hammoud Country: Lebanon Title: Almayram

Synopsis: Almayram is a performance centered around the representation and place of the body in the Arab world today, through de-structuration and re-contextualization of images and videos we receive of the wars and atrocities taking place in the region, and how these affect our perceptions, bodies and everyday lives.

Name: Estabrak Al-Ansari

Country: Iraq

Title: Tales of the Mother tongue: Part 02 & 03

Synopsis: 'Tales of the Mother tongue' (TotMt) is a story based around female Warriors of Berber past who cannot be found in any history book, but rather in mythological books or folktales.

Name: Sareyyet Ramallah

Country: Palestine

Title: Dance Summer Camp

Synopsis: The project is a two-week intensive art camp in the month of August 2016, targeting Palestinian dancers from all over Palestine. The camp seeks to develop the artistic, technical and intellectual abilities of Palestinian dancers, to ensure a thriving and capable and new generation in the arts. Thirty local and international dancers will take part to develop their artistic and technical abilities in contemporary dance, as well as deepening their understanding of theory, lighting, and other related fields.

Name: Echos Electrik Country: France

Title: HAMJU

Synopsis: Creation of a dance and digital arts show which provides a sociological interpretation of MEZWAD, a very popular music among under-privileged populations in Tunisia. An expression of struggle and defiance with regards to the dominant culture, MEZWAD denounces the significant social gap in Tunisia between social classes, but above all, between cultures considered as "noble" and popular culture practices.





a common cultural and artistic identity, through a theatrical laboratory, and resulting in a theater performance. It starts with the theme of 'Identity' as a topic to reflect upon. The project also aims to create the 'Annual Festival of Shorts Performances' in its first edition.

- Name: Sociétés Accidentelles
- Country: France

Title: The Algerian Vespers

Synopsis: This project is a Dance-Theater adaptation of the graphic novel "The Algerian Vespers" by Nawel Louerrad, published with Dalimen in Algeria (2012). There are three men on stage and each of them embodies the spirit of a historical epoch. These three entities interact by repeated and unwanted gestures going so far as to destroy their own human form. This creation explores the difficult relationship between memory and history in an Arab country where war has been raging. Beyond the tears left by these destructive events, what remains?

Name: The Popular Theatre Society for Performing Arts and Training

- Country: Palestine
- Title: Abu El-Kheizaran Road

Synopsis: An experimental theater performance that links the Palestinian exodus (Al-Nakbah) with the dramatic context lived by the Arab region today. The play revolves around the character of Abou-El-Khayzaran, who helped destitute refugees looking for a job, escape to Kuwait in the novel "Men in the Sun" by Ghassan Kanafani. In the first part of the play, he refugees are transported inside a closed tanker and get killed by the dreadful heat of the Kuwaiti sun; in the second part, he brings a group of Syrians, Iraqis and Palestinians unto a treacherous boat ride across the Mediterranean, where they are swallowed by the sea.

Name: Assirk Assaghir Country: Palestine

Title: Maktoob

Synopsis: "Maktoob" is a contemporary circus production that celebrates reading, by staging its story in a library where the stories in books come alive, and ordinary objects are manipulated into circus tricks. Performers create an atmosphere of creativity and fun through their interaction with the reader and the stories he discovers.

Name: A Corner in the world Country: Turkey

Title: A Corner in the World

Synopsis: A Corner in the World is a festival of performing arts aiming to bring artists from Turkey and neighboring countries, among them Arab countries, together, facilitate visibility, mobility and collaboration of the artists from the region and elicit a discussion around the question: 'How do artistic experiences transform our imagination of what is possible in our world, and foster dynamics of change?'



Abu El-Kheizaran Road

Performing Arts Jurors







Born in Damascus in 1979, Oussama started his artistic career as a Hip Hop dancer and trainer from 1994 till 2000. He graduated from the Acting Department of the 'Higher Institute of Theatrical Arts' in Damascus in 2004. In 2001, he founded the theatrical group "Kawn", which participated in several workshops and artistic residencies, most notably with 'Odin Theater' in Copenhagen, 'Dream Think Speak' and 'Grid Iron' from Britain, 'Opus' from France, and 'Teatri Del Vento' from Sicily. To date, he has directed 10 theater shows with the group "Kawn", ranging from Street Theater to Site-specific Theater and experimental performances. His works were showcased in Arabic and international festivals, such as 'Fawanees' in Jordan, 'Cairo International Experimental Theatre Festival', and 'Dancing on the Edge' in Denmark. In 2013, he moved to Beirut, where he continues to work on his theatrical projects. He has also worked as an actor in television series and short films.

Carlos Chahine

Carlos Chahine is an actor and director born in Lebanon. After obtaining a degree as a dental surgeon, which he never put into practice, Chahine discovered theater in Paris with Vera Gregh, who encouraged him to begin acting. Thus, he took courses at ENSAD (école nationale d'art dramatique) in TNS (théâtre national de Strasbourg) with group 23, from 1985 to 1988. After having worked exclusively in France and in Europe with many directors, such as Michel Vinaver, Matthias Langhoff, Sylviu Purcarete, Alain Françon, René Loyon, Viviane Théophilidès, Stuart Seide, Philippe Van Kessel, Christian Rist, etc., he made a comeback to Lebanon thanks to Ghassan Salhab, with whom he made three films. In 2008, he wrote, directed and acted in his first short film "The North Road". The film received many international awards, including Best Narrative Short Award at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2009. He directed two plays in Beirut these last two years, "Carnage" by Yasmina Reza and "The cherry orchard" by Tchekhov and he just finished an essay documentary, which he wrote and shot last summer, "Tchekhov in Beirut", a personal and intimate project about exile and childhood.

Sulayman Al Bassam

Born in Kuwait in 1972, Sulayman Al Bassam is widely recognized as one of the world's leading contemporary Arab theatre makers. Al Bassam's work explores themes of identity with a focus on the interstitial spaces between the Arab-Islamic world and the West, initiating new literary, historical, geo-political and imagined contexts through theatrical process. Collaborating with multinational performers, creative partners, and technical teams, Al Bassam's productions are characterized by a radical approach to text, bold production styles and playful, provocative combinations of content and form.

Writing in English and directing theatre in Arabic, English and French, Al Bassam has presented his creations at leading international venues across the world including the Brooklyn Academy of Music (USA), The Holland Festival (EU), and Tokyo International Festival (Japan).

Al Bassam regularly acts as a juror on international arts grant-making bodies, including the Rolex Mentor Program and the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture. In 2015, Al Bassam was commissioned by Le Festival des Ecrivains du Monde, a literary festival hosted by Columbia University, and the Bibliotheque Nationale de France to write an adaptation of the ancient Sumerian lamentation for the destruction of the City of Ur.



"At a time of revolution, citizen resilience and resourcefulness in the face of electricity cuts and deprivation becomes a history of opposition to the productions of power from above."

Khaled Malas, Syria
Visual Arts grantee, "Current Power in Syria"



RTR Project Descriptions



Name: Johnny Farraj Country: Lebanon

Title: MaqamWorld Website Updating

Synopsis: Maqamworld.com has been the number one online resource on Arabic music theory and performance since its launch in 2001. It receives hundreds of visitors daily and is used by Arabic music students worldwide. It offers a simple and effective pedagogy of Arabic music, building a bridge between Arab culture and the English-speaking world. The grant will allow an updating of the existing website, including new content (research from books and online references) and a new Resources page with related websites and blogs.

Name: Yazan Kopty

Country: Palestine

Title: Imagining the Holy

Synopsis: An archive-based research project that seeks to map and analyze the changing representation of Palestinians by National Geographic Magazine since the publication began in 1888 and until today. Using National Geographic as a longterm case study, the project attempts to offer new insights into the narrative relationship between Palestinians and those writing and reading about them in the United States.

Name: Wiame Haddad Country: Tunisia Title: In Absentia

Synopsis: "In Absentia" is a collaborative art and research project that seeks to reconstitute the absent visual archive of the repression that plagued Morocco during the political struggles of the 1970s. Bringing together artists, researchers and former political prisoners, it will experiment with research methods in the production of artworks, and artistic practice in the undertaking of research. The audience will have the chance to discover the results of the project through a series of exhibitions, workshops, screenings and talks. Additionally, a website and a trilingual publication will be made available locally and internationally, sharing all collected data.

Name: Hady Zaccak Country: Lebanon Title: Cinema Tripoli

Synopsis: This projects aims to retell Tripoli's cultural and social history with a special focus on the Golden Age (1950s to mid-70s). It does so through the lens of the city's cinemas, once vibrant cultural and social hubs, using historical records, archival material and personal testimonies. The project will culminate in the publication of a book and the creation of a blog with content from the book and recorded interviews from the research phase. The blog will also allow visitors to upload their own images of the city.



Name: Dima Nachawi Country: Syria Title: Misc

Synopsis: This project aims to document the Syrian collective memory through a research program in order to produce a graphic novel for children in the style of old Syrian tales (grandmothers' stories), which are becoming extinct. This project also attempts to share these stories through local collaborations with Syrian children located in Syria and in refugee countries by adopting the storytelling style in the current settlement countries with the local working teams as a way of raising awareness and shedding light on this forgotten human aspect.

Name: Oussama Ghanam Country: Syria

Title: Contemporary Dramaturgy in an Arabic Perspective Synopsis: This project centers on theoretical and historical notions of dramaturgy since Gotthold Ephraim Lessing until present times. The book will be an anthology with translations of fundamental writings pertaining to this artistic and theoretical practice and will provide an analysis of contemporary Arab theatrical production within the framework of its relationship to the cultural and informed context. The publication will be preceded by two research workshops, the first will be theoretical and will revolve around notions and examples of dramaturgical practice and the second will concentrate on adaptation in theatre.

Name: Arete Foundation for Arts and Culture Country: Libya

Title: Poems for Life

Synopsis: Poems for Life is a project with poetry at its core and aims to advocate principles of creativeness and forgiveness. The project aims at selecting and translating a collection of poems written by youths with literary and philosophical contents that speak to the youth's sadness, but also their challenges and hopes. These poems will be selected from an international and contemporary anthology of poetry and will be translated and shared with Libyan youths specifically and Arabic youths in general by publishing them in writing and as audio books on Arete Foundation's website.

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Name: Fragments Theatre Country: Palestine Title: Act to Change

Synopsis: Emphasizing the therapeutic benefit of theatre and arts, the project teaches participants to use these creative tools as a form of self-reflection, releasing their energies and developing a greater understanding of their situation and circumstances in an indirect way. The project consists of two activities: psychodrama for children and video therapy for young people.

Name: L'Art Rue Country: Tunisia Title: Dream City 2017

Synopsis: Dream City is a multidisciplinary biennial of contemporary art in the public space showcasing the result of the eight-month site-specific work of 17 artists of different nationalities and art disciplines, plunged in the Medina of Tunis to produce on-site artistic proposals dealing with a specific territory and its constraints, with the total involvement of the population linked to it. Dream City focuses on the capacity of the artist to dissect and offer new "sociality models"; the artist is not to be regarded as a social worker, but as the craftsman working on sensibilities able to be confronted with communities.



Name: Townhouse Country: Egypt Title: Criticism in Crisis

Synopsis: This project intends to focus primarily on art writing and criticism as its scope of investigation and wishes to explore the value and practices of criticism in the societal context of perpetual states of emergency. It asks questions such as: what is the role of critique? How does critique and social crisis speak to one another? And how does its value change with consistent instability? The project will present a theory/practice based educational program that aims to discuss and practice critical writing in the current cultural and political context that Egypt offers.

Name: Network of Arab Alternative Screens (NAAS) Country: Lebanon

Title: Mapping Arab Cinema Audiences: Egypt Synopsis: This project is part of a larger program that aims to increase the understanding of the cinema-going habits and behaviors of Arab audiences today. It consists of an initial research phase to be conducted in Egypt, followed by an audience development workshop in Tangier, which will build on the results of this research.

Name: Minwal Country: Lebanon Title: Siba

Synopsis: The project aims at creating a youth theatre initiative in the city of Saida and its environs in Lebanon by developing a complete training program that will culminate in the production of a play. The project is driven by the conviction and necessity of implicating youths in cultural activities by allowing them to relate these experiences of working on a production and improving their critical and communication skills within the broader social and political realms. This effort thus aims at catalyzing these youths for bettering their environment and social milieux from the home to the streets, as well as the schools and universities.

Name: Cinémathèque de Tangier Country: Morocco

Title: Tangier Cinémathèque 10th Anniversary Archive Festival - First Edition

Synopsis: The Tangier Cinémathèque, North Africa's first independent cinema institution, is celebrating its ten years at the center of the cultural renaissance of Tangier with a Festival of outreach events. This first annual Festival will invite the association's core audience — plus a local and international group of sponsors — to lay the groundwork for the next decade of innovation and outreach.

Name: Koon Theatre Country: Syria

Title: Koon Theatre Laboratory

Synopsis: Koon Group is composed of international artists coming from different disciplines and living in Lebanon who wish to create an experimental space that will serve as a communicating platform to work on experimental performances but also to enable, develop and experiment with the different tools and skill set of Arab performers in the region. Through this project, the group's artists will communicate their expertise to amateur artists by creating workshops in order to train them to work in refugee camps.





Name: CLUSTER-Cairo Lab for Urban Studies, Training and Environmental Research

Country: Egypt

Title: Public Inter-Library Online Technology-PILOT Synopsis: PILOT is a bi-lingual (Arabic/English) online library cataloguing system, which networks together art, culture and architecture and related organizations to share their collections through a joint searchable database. PILOT seeks to provide free and public access to specialized library collections throughout Egypt and the MENA region, providing a free license to all participants.

Name: Beirut and Beyond

Country: Lebanon

Title: Beirut & Beyond International Music Festival - Edition 4 Synopsis: The 4th edition of Beirut & Beyond International Music Festival will take place from 8 to 11 December 2016. A program of concerts, workshops, meetings and round tables is set to promote the region's independent music alongside international acts, to the public & international music promoters, to develop skills and careers, and to foster and encourage new collaborations and exchanges.

Name: Collectif Kahraba Country: Lebanon

Title: Nehna wel Amar wel Jiran Festival 2017

Synopsis: Nehna wel Amar wel Jiran is a free, outdoor festival, open to any and everybody. The festival offers theatre, dance, puppetry, visual installations and music. A quartier becomes a welcoming space animated by encounters, interactions and collaborations between neighbors, artists and audiences. For its fifth edition the festival will expand and also decentralize its activities to two villages out of Beirut.

Name: Association Festival du Film Palestinien à Paris Country: France

Title: Festival Ciné-Palestine 2017

Synopsis: A ten-days film festival in 4 venues in Paris and suburbs from June 2nd to June 11th 2017. The festival consists of screening of 30 films (narrative, documentary, animation and shorts), talks with the artists, film premieres, a master class, and a professional workshop. During this edition the association will organize a short films competition and several audience awards.

Name: Archipels Images Country: France Title: First Steps

Synopsis: The project consists of screenings of 10 to 12 films (long features and shorts), by young Arab directors who will introduce their work to a general audience. They will also animate specific workshops about filmmaking for students and young people. Workshops about critical writings and programming, meetings with professionals will be held at the same time.

Name: EMCUE e.v. Europe MENA Cultural Exchange Country: Germany

Title: TARKIB Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival Synopsis: TARKIB will connect audiences to the city's emerging contemporary arts. The vision of the festival is to highlight and network Iraqi local artists from the young generation, while being a catalyst for new and experimental art practice. Its focus is directed to artworks that form a boundary between art and everyday life and explore new socio-cultural spaces. Name: Shubbak: A Window on Contemporary Arab Culture Country: United Kingdom

Title: Shubbak Festival 2017

Synopsis: Shubbak is a biannual event and the UK's largest festival of contemporary Arab culture. The next festival will take place in London and across the UK in July 2017. An ambitious multi-art form program will showcase premieres, new commissions, new partnerships with cultural institutions, free public realm events and community-engaged artistic collaborations from across the Arab region.







Esra'a Al Shafei

Esra'a Al Shafei is the founder and director of Majal.org, a network of online platforms that amplify under-reported and marginalized voices throughout the Middle East and North Africa. She is a recipient of the Berkman Award from Harvard University's Berkman Center for Internet and Society for "outstanding contributions to the internet and its impact on society," and is currently a Shuttleworth Foundation Fellow. Previously, she was an Echoing Green Fellow and a Senior TED Fellow. In 2011 she was featured in Fast Company as one of the "100 Most Creative People in Business" and awarded the Monaco Media Prize, which acknowledges innovative uses of media for the betterment of humanity. In 2014, she was featured in Forbes' "30 Under 30" list of social entrepreneurs making an impact in the world. She is the 2015 recipient of the "Most Courageous Media" Prize from Free Press Unlimited.

RTR

Jurors

Salwa Mikdadi

Salwa Mikdadi is Associate Professor of Art History at NYU Abu Dhabi. Prior to joining NYUAD, Mikdadi was a lecturer in Art History at Paris-Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, and the Head of the Arts and Culture Program at the Emirates Foundation, she also established the Professional Development Program for Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority for the training museum professionals. Mikdadi was the founding director of the Cultural & Visual Arts Resource/ICWA one of the first non-for-profit organizations dedicated to promoting art of the Arab world in the United States (1988-2006). She is the author and co-editor of several publications, among them- Cities and Legends: Elias Zayat (2017), New Visions: Arab Contemporary Art of the 21st Century, In/Visible: Arab American Artists, Rhythm and Form: Visual Reflections on Arabic Poetry and Forces of Change. She wrote the reference guide on the history of the twentieth-century art of West Asia, N. Africa and Egypt for the Metropolitan Museum of Art Timeline web pages. In 2009, Mikdadi curated the first Palestinian exhibition at the 53rd Venice Biennial.

Fadi Tofeili

Fadi Tofeili is an author, poet and Lebanese translator. He is the co-founder and chief editor of Portal 9: Histories and Critics of the city (portal9journal.org). He studied interior design atin the Lebanese University and got a master Master of Arts in American Studies from Amsterdam University. His writings were published in Lebanon since the 90s in different publications. He has written three poetry books and is author of many translations into Arabic. His latest book, "Iqtifa' Athar", was published by Ashkal Alwan in 2014.

"Within the first week of work, grown men, tough guys were crying. We have all been through many kinds of hell. It is reality. No need for concepts or guidelines. We were just living it. That's the point. And it makes an amazing film."

– Raed El Andoni, Palestine Film grantee, "Ghost Hunting"

Music Project Descriptions



Name: Yacine Boulares Country: Tunisia Title: Suite for Abu Sadiya

Synopsis: This project is an attempt to explore the forgotten Stambeli music through a jazz perspective, by composing and recording original music. Stambeli is a healing music created by slaves brought to Tunisia. The project is inspired by Abu Sadiya who, according to the legend, was a sub-Saharan hunter whose only daughter was taken into slavery and brought to Tunisia. In his search for her, he danced and sang his sorrow in Tunis, becoming the first musician of Stambeli, thus personifying the memory of slaves in Tunisia.

Name: Youssra El Hawary Country: Egypt

Title: Youssra El Hawary First Album

Synopsis: After making music, writing songs, putting lyrics to tunes and playing concerts for the past four years, Youssra El Hawary and his band decided to take another step along the road of making music outside of the commercial production mode, and record their first album, with 10 of their newest productions.

Name: Mahmoud Abu Wardeh Country: Palestine

Title: Arabic Songs for Classical Guitar

Synopsis: The publication is aimed at young people eager to learn classical guitar and comprises 30 Arabic compositions suited for classical guitar. The compositions are culled from the Arab and Palestinian heritages and are arranged musically and academically without breaking away from the classical guitar's techniques. The compositions are meant to be playful for the Arab student and promote culture in the young Arab student by blending Arabic music with the classical style through the use of the classical guitar.

Name: Mohamed Aziz Mraihi

Country: Tunisia

Title: Amine & Hamza – The Band beyond Borders Synopsis: The project "The Band Beyond Border" is a true concentrate of fertile paradoxes, bringing mastery of the millenary instruments in junction with a subversive occidental harmony, drawing upon different world cultures from jazz composition and writing to rich Mediterranean grooves. The music is nourished from Arabic musical lyrism, multicultural influences including jazz, flamenco and western classical music. This project is built on original instrumental compositions, integrating a sophisticated western harmony system that adds a deeper emotional perspective to the melody. The album brings forth sonorities that revive instrumental Arabic music in pace with its contemporaneity. Name: Firas Hassan Country: Syria Title: Rhythms

Synopsis: Iqa'at is a project that sheds light on both Arabic and indigenous people's percussive instruments, which can be simple, composite and complex and are not widespread in current commercial music. It aims to show yet another beautiful aspect of Arabic music. The project will publish a digital music album of 8 tracks that encompasses different percussions through different melodies in Arabic maqams combining 5 different instruments such as percussion, oud, qanoon, violin, bass as well as other instruments used in other compositions.

Name: Ayyad Khalifeh Country: Lebanon Title: Soobya

Synopsis: Soobya is a music album written for 5 instruments: piano, cello, contrabass, drums, tabla and raq. The record aspires to be a blend of Western and Oriental musical cultures, combining Arabic music with Western musical techniques such as classical, jazz, improvisation and traditional music. The compositions in their musical style and melodic colors especially with the presence of the cello, an instrument able to express the soul of Oriental music and it maqams - are inspired by the impressionistic photo of a "soobya", reminding us of the warmth of the village.

Name: Gilbert Mansour Country: Lebanon Title: Journey

Synopsis: Music is a way of communication that knows no barrier of language. This project aims to diffuse Arabic music in Western regions through Arab refugees, and to create a fusion of Arabic and non-Arabic music as a communication bridge among people of different cultures. It will be executed between Spain, USA and Lebanon in collaboration with musicians of different origins, offering to the public an album and a series of performances.

Name: Cherif El-Masri

Country: Egypt

Title: The Wheel

Synopsis: Recording of a long form electro-acoustic composition, utilizing modern analog sound design and synthesis, field recordings, and a variety of instruments (Vocals, Microtonal / Fretless Guitar, Oud, Electric Bass, Electronic & Acoustic Percussion, Wind/Reed Instruments, Violin, Synthesizer). To culminate in live performances, and an album release.

Name: Malika Zarra Country: Morocco Title: R'wa

Synopsis: Recording a CD with musicians coming from the three continents of Africa, Europe and America uniting to create unique music and sound that will enhance and enrich their commonalities. This project will explore the heritage of traditional Moroccan music, demonstrate and elevate the diversity of the Moroccan traditional music, empower women and explore the common points between the three continents.





Name: Tareq Rantisi Country: Palestine

Title: The Kuwaiti World Jazz Experiment

Synopsis: Tareq Rantisi has always been attracted by music that is based on complex rhythmic traditions. With this project, he endeavors to conduct research in Sawt and Bahri music that will result in an online booklet/catalogue of the percussion instruments and rhythms with photographs, audio G videos. This will be followed by recording a music album that introduces modern arrangements of traditional Kuwaiti songs fused with world jazz music, using western instruments, harmonies, and rhythmic concepts.

Name: Ibrahim Alghaffari

Country: Yemen

Title: Kabreet Second Album Production 2017

Synopsis: Kabreet is a German-Yemini music duo that combines Arabic lyrics with percussion based and synth heavy music, transcending notions of "Eastern" and "Western" pop music. The challenge of this project will be to create music that will contribute something new to contemporary pop music, not only question stereotypes and preconceptions, but also appeal to a larger public. This album will be second to "Momken Bokra".

Name: Emel Mathlouthi

Country: Tunisia

Title: Insan

Synopsis: "Insan (Human) is a new album that voices human stories, which are multi-faceted, often fragile and heavy, other times difficult, bright and gloomy. The record is a deep look into identity and the human's different aspects: his weakness and madness, his power and sadness, his fall, evil, good, darkness and light. The music in this album is an attempt to build bridges made of strong Berber and Tunisian melodies as well as bridges made off percussions from North Africa. The guembri and other Tunisian Bendirs are mixed with electronica and are distorted and transformed to produce an enveloping ecstasy in a musical genre never heard before.



Name: Ashraf Kateb Country: Syria Title: Arabic Sonatas

Synopsis: Arabic Sonatas is a project aimed at recording 9 sonatas for violin and piano by Syrian, Egyptian, Lebanese, Moroccan and Jordanian composers. There is an emergence of Arab composers who are not originally from Europe but who have benefited from its culture and have written compositions inspired from the depths of the cultures they belong to while using "Western" models. The sonata is a perfect model that complements the merging of different cultures. From thereon, the project was created to record these works on a double CD and will be released in Beirut.

Name: Nizar Rohana Country: Palestine Title: Nizar Rohana Album

Synopsis: This album seeks to create a true musical dialogue between two cultures, asking for thorough understanding of each other's cultural language. Not just the superficial sound, the general meaning, but a real interest, curiosity and research of the finest details, nuances and rhetoric of musical language, essential to create something new – something that enhances the qualities of both worlds instead of diminishing it to platitudes and stereotypes. The album and its music is the fruit of the collaboration between five distinguished musicians from the Arab region and the Netherlands.

Name: Mouhannad Nasser Country: Syria

Title: Voyage without Borders – Oumi Ensemble Album Synopsis: The album aims to express music beyond cultural borders and uses oud, flute, shinobue (Japanese bamboo flute), riqq, durbakeh, frame drum, cajon, and double bass. It is a journey through music to discover new horizons, encounters and connections. Equipped with virtuosic skills on their instruments, Oumi Ensemble believes in an open approach to its musical traditions and fearlessly fuse them with classical, jazz and many more influences into a unique style: sweepingly fast paced, sweetly melodic, and passionately improvised.



Name: Hasan Hujari Country: Bahrain

Title: Symphonies of the Self: Majeed Marhoon Music Preservation Project

Synopsis: An archival project to preserve and distribute the musical compositions of late Bahraini maverick composer Majeed Marhoon (1945-2010). Majeed Marhoon was a Bahraini composer, saxophone player and musicologist, most famously known for being a self-taught composer (he had taught himself to compose while serving a 22 years prison sentence for his involvement in a pro-independence group in Bahrain). This project is the third and final stage of Hasan Hujairi's "Symphonies of the Self" which included a concert series and documentary dedicated to Majeed Marhoon.

Name: Ayman Boujlida

Country: Tunisia

Title: Ibn Khaldoun Rhaspody

Synopsis: It has been always difficult to advance Arabic folk music to become a recognized world music style and challenging to play it with western influences such as Jazz and classical music. This project will explore those challenges and give them new direction. The project is the fruit of several years of traveling and learning new cultures, namely Arabic, Indian and Jazz, and is a presentation of how Arabic music can be played by any type of musician, be it Jazz American, Latin South American or traditional Balkan musician from Kosovo (the case for this project). The album will be recorded in New York.

Name: Wassim Halal

Country: Lebanon

Title: Le Bal des Embryons

Synopsis: Recording of Wassim Halal's first Solo Album of Darbuka, Daf & Bendir and exploring rhythms and sounds of Arabic percussions in a contemporary way through compositions and improvisations. The album is divided into several "Litanies" using disrupted polyrhythms, voices and percussions. Some pieces are played Solo - others with Arabic popular and contemporary musicians from Lebanon and Egypt. Name: Khyam Allami Country: Iraq Title: Kawalees

Synopsis: A multi-instrumental, multi-disciplinary and cross-genre musical work & live performance exploring the labyrinth of a schizophrenic musical mind. The project explores the Kawalees (backstage/corridors and pathways/labyrinth) of a mind that is consistently attempting to balance the individual with the collective, the personal with the communal.

Name: Mustafa Said Country: Egypt Title: Abul'Ala Al-Ma'arri

Synopsis: The project tackles musically the complete works of philosopher Abu Al Alaa' AL Ma'arri who later influenced humanist thought. The purpose is to produce a contemporary musical work with The Asil Ensemble for contemporary classical Arabic music. One part will be sung in Arabic in addition to contemporary instrumental parts inspired by a hypothetical dialogue between Abi Al Alaa' and Dante.

Name: Al Kamandjâti Association Country: Palestine

Title: Musical Journey Festival

Synopsis: Al Kamandjåti association organizes its international festival in spring 2017 dedicated to sacred, spiritual and traditional music. The theme is based on the belief that the time has come to broaden people's understanding of Palestine (with a focus on Jerusalem), and to give its music world a greater sense of universality by welcoming other cultures.

Name: Irtijal

Country: Lebanon

Title: Electronic music workshop and performances with EMS (Sweden)

Synopsis: Irtijal will organize an electronic music workshop for Lebanese and Arab musicians, in collaboration with the renowned Elektron Musik Studion (EMS) in Sweden, and with support from Beirut & Beyond Music Festival and communication / networking platform Simsara, in Beirut in December 2016. The workshop's participants will showcase their findings during the Irtijal Festival 2017.






Name: Edward Said National Conservatory of Music **Country:** Palestine

Title: Palestine Youth Orchestra Production and Tour 2017 Synopsis: The Palestine Youth Orchestra returns once again in 2017 for its yearly concert to join its members composed of young Arab musicians from Palestine, the Diaspora, and the Arab World (75 to 85 musicians from the ages of 13-24). The orchestra will meet in an Arab country to work on a new production and tour. The program will be composed of international classical compositions and others specific to the orchestra, which will be worked on with an Arab composer. The orchestra will also be accompanied by an Arab soloist and singer.

Name: Metro Al Madina Country: Lebanon

Title: Taxi Songs

Synopsis: "Taxi Songs" is a production composed of songs that recount the daily lives in a few Arab countries and in Beirut since the start of the Arab Spring until now, and especially after a number of artists have sought refuge in Beirut. The production is a live show performed in Metro Al Madina and includes a new musical repertoire. The show centers on a Taxi driver driving around the streets of Beirut and encounters Lebanese, Syrian and Egyptian characters, each with their own stories. In each story, they express a different perspective in a song with different lyrics, composition and arrangement in the style of black comedy.



Name: Mostakell Country: Egypt Title: Lekhfa

Synopsis: Lekhfa is a new musical project shaped on the a collection of poems by Meedo Zuhair. The project includes a number of composition and arrangement workshops and results with the production of an album and live performance as well as two video clips that will complement the work visually.

Name: Katharina Werk Country: Switzerland

Title: Music Summer School Sounds of Palestine

Synopsis: The Music Summer School is a project that brings together 100 children participants in the afternoon program of Sounds of Palestine. The project aims to boost their music education and stabilize their social skills as well as give them a chance to bond with their peers. The children will have the chance to present the songs, dabke dances and orchestra pieces which they have learnt during the Summer Music School, in at least one public event.



Name: Al Bustan Seeds of Culture Country: USA

Title: Exploring (Dis)Placement

Synopsis: Al-Bustan will commission composer Kinan Abouafach to produce new work inspired by poet Nazem El Sayed and visual artist Buthayna Ali exploring the theme of "(dis)placement." The new compositions will be recorded and produced as an album, along with live performances and sound installation as part of the project "(Dis)placed: Explorations in Poetry, Art, and Music Composition."

Music Jurors



Maryam Saleh

A major creative force and a powerful voice for her generation, Egyptian singer and songwriter Maryam Saleh composes and performs music that is personal, political and philosophical; intense, intelligent Egyptian music with Arabic language and influences of Trip Hop and Psych Rock. In the past few years, Maryam has played widely across Egypt, the Arab World, and Europe, after releasing her debut album Mesh Baghanny (eka3 2012), after which she joined forces with Lebanese electro-pop pioneer Zeid Hamdan in releasing Halawella (Mostakell 2015).

Following successful collaborations with a number of bands and music projects, including the BarakA band, with whom she blended rock music with Sheikh Imam's songs, Maryam has forged a path as a solo artist, recording and performing her own projects and collaborations. Using her muscular, alluring vocals and charismatic stage presence, Maryam brings her inventive contemporary compositions to life. This charisma has been enriched by her participation in many acting roles as well, in Independent and mainstream Egyptian Films and TV Series, including Ein Shams (2006), Akher Ayam El Madina, Bel Alwan El Tabe'eya (2008), Farah Layla Series (2013), among others.

Toufic Farroukh

The saxophone player and composer Toufic Farroukh has chosen jazz as his favourite idiom - a jazz with the colours of the Orient, to reflect his career as an artist with his roots in two cultures, and one who is open to all the different forms of artistic expression in contemporary society, particularly dance, theatre and the cinema.

A saxophonist since an early age, Toufic studied music at the Ecole Normale Supérieur de Paris, and today he collaborates regularly as a composer with the department of modern dance at the Paris Conservatory (CRR).

Toufic Farroukh has also composed the music for several films and documentaries about his homeland, and has appeared as saxophonist on several albums of well -known artists. (Fayrouz). For his own albums, he leaves all theoretical dogma aside, assuming instead the various influences at work in his life, and from there going on to create in a strikingly tranquil manner his own utterly authentic universe.

Issa Boulos

Issa Boulos holds a bachelor's degree in music composition from Columbia College and a master's degree from Roosevelt University. He is the Harper College Community Music and Arts Center program coordinator, Chicago World Music Ensemble director and Issa Boulos Ensemble founder. Boulos composes for internationally-acclaimed orchestras, chamber groups, and ensembles including the Chicago Symphony, Qatar Philharmonic, Youth Symphony of Bremen, Athens Symphony, Palestine National Orchestra and Silk Road Ensemble. Many documentaries feature his original scores, including the award-winning "Nice Bombs" and PBS's "The New Americans." He performs and lectures at institutions and universities around the world. As researcher, Boulos fosters understanding about world music. He received awards from the Illinois Arts Council, the A. J. Racy Fellowship for Studies in Ethnomusicology, and the Norwegian Fund for newly composed works. He was previously a lecturer at the University of Chicago and the Head of Music at the Qatar Music Academy.





"Now that we have opened up these files, other people are inspired to look at them too. And frankly, it has often felt like we are being guided by ghosts and phantoms. It wants to be remembered."

Rasha Salti and Kristine Khouri, Palestine and Lebanon
 Research/Training/Regional Events grantees, "Past Disquiet"

Cinema Project Descriptions



Project: This Haunting Memory That Is Not My Own Director: Panos Aprahamian

Country: Lebanon

Synopsis: A film that weaves three journeys—three migrations—that took/are taking place within the same geographic region, from the early 1900s through the 1980s and up until today, retracing footsteps of the filmmaker's great grandfather, who after the Armenian Genocide found himself on a path across the Mediterranean and the Atlantic seeking refuge, and a better future.

Project: Chopped

Director: Karam Ali

Country: Palestine

Synopsis: Two decades after Oslo, the generation to whom the agreement promised both nation and livelihood struggles to find either. Told through the eyes of these youth, a new crackdown on car theft provokes an investigation of crime, politics and legality in today's Palestine.

Project: Tide

Director: Hussein Ibrahim Producer: Lara Abou Saifan Country: Lebanon

Synopsis: Hassan (Palestinian) and Zeina (Lebanese) cannot find a spot in Lebanon to bury their recently deceased son. Zeina's parents' refused this marriage and don't want their grandchild to be buried as a refugee. Hassan wants his son to be buried as a Palestinian! The couple embarks on a journey in search for a solution, a graveyard, healing and grief. Project: Photocopy Director: Tamer Ashry Producer: Safei Eldin Zaki Country: Egypt

Synopsis: In Egypt, there is an expression for when you want to get something done quickly, cheaply, and without any effort: "Go make a photocopy". So we copy each other's films, commercials, newest high rise architecture, wedding ceremony, the soap opera's furniture, and our family's careers. Five years after a so-called "revolution," some of us are wondering if maybe we forgot to address the sociocultural underpinnings of what really has to change: our "photocopy" attitude.



Project: A Gaza Weekend Director: Basil Khalil Country: Palestine

Synopsis: When a rampant virus breaks out in Israel, the UN imposes an embargo from air, land and sea on the country. The only safe place is Gaza. Waleed, a failed businessman from Gaza City is stuck with a fleeing American-Israeli couple in his basement. What started as a fast cash job is now a disaster of international proportions.

Project: Boy from War Director: Usama Alshaibi

Country: Iraq

Synopsis: Boy from War is a coming of age story of a young Arab American punk ricocheting between a war-torn Middle East and 1980s American Midwest. This film will use documentary interviews, memories and hallucinations, in order to create a stylized animated narrative, navigating through trauma and eventual reconciliation.



Usama Alshaibi, *Boy from War*

Project: Life = Cinematic Imperfections Director: Avedis Kaprealian Producer: Carole Abboud Country: Lebanon

Synopsis: After a period of dispersion and place loss, a group of young Syrians, settled in different countries, are in search of a new life. Their present is completely distorted. Meanings are lost: friendship, love, heroism, family, and especially death. Through video correspondence.



Project: You Come from Far Away Director: Amal Labib Country: Egypt

Synopsis: Imagine that your father is a Palestinian Arab, and he had fought against Franco in the Spanish Civil War. Imagine that you have siblings, and you cannot talk to them because you do not speak the same language.

Imagine that you have a family, but you were raised without parents... The film reveals the extraordinary story of a Palestinian family.

Project: Daoud's Winter Director: Kotaiba al Janabi Producer: Sabine Sidawi Country: Iraq

Synopsis: Daoud, a twenty-year Baghdadi, is sent to the frontline in Iraqi dessert. Knowing how to type, he's assigned to catalog the dead soldiers and organizing their transport to families or not, according if they're considered heroes or cowards. When he spots Ali, alive among the bodies, which will burn in the dessert. Daoud decides to return Ali, to his family.

Project: Good Morning Director: Bahij Hojeij Producer: Sam Lahoud

Country: Lebanon

Synopsis: Two old gentlemen, a former Interior Security Forces General of 80 years old, and a former Army doctor of 84, go every day to the same coffee shop, to sip quietly their espresso, and to make crossword puzzles. The two old men consider this activity as a "job" which is supposed to protect them from loss of memory, Alzheimer's disease.

Project: The Reports on Sarah and Saleem Director: Muayad Alayan Producer: Rami Alayan Country: Palestine

Synopsis: When a Palestinian man is arrested by the Israeli authorities, proving his innocence hinges on the willingness of an Israeli woman to testify in his favor.



Daoud al Janabi, The Reports on Sarah an

Project: The Notebooks Director: Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreij Country: Lebanon

Synopsis: One morning, a strange parcel disrupts Maia's well organised life: Inside, the numerous notebooks she exchanged, between 1982 and 1988, with her best friend at the time, Carine, forced to leave Lebanon. Maia is reluctant to open this pandora box with its painful past. But her 13 years-old daughter Alex secretly, delves and gets lost into her mother's teenage years.



Project: It Must be Heaven Director: Elia Suleiman Country: Palestine

Synopsis: If my previous films tried to present Palestine as a microcosm of the world, my new film "It Must Be Heaven" tries to show the world as if it were a microcosm of Palestine.

Project: Tartarus

Director: Omar Abdellatif

Country: Egypt

Synopsis: Tartarus a film that follows George a pathetic 60 year old Greek from Alexandria Egypt. On Easter Eve, he is visited by an old victim, Salah, who returns from his death to announce that his end is near and that the victim's son is ready for revenge, George hence, tries to trick death.

Project: Orb

Director: Darine Hoteit

Country: Lebanon

Synopsis: In a near future Beirut, in a world shaped by ambiguity and grief, Sahar and Khaled have just lost their 8year old son. Their state of grief gives their relationship a sudden new form.



Project: A Drowning Man Director: Mahdi Fleifel Producer: Patrick Campbell Country: Palestine

Synopsis: Fatah makes his way through the streets of modern day Athens trying to find enough money to get by. On his travels he encounters the wisdom and desperation that permeates this place and defines his existence.

Project: Benzine Director: Sarra Abidi Country: Tunisia

Synopsis: Salem and Halima have no news of their son who has left illegally for Italy. They live in agonies. Is their son found? Is he alive or dead?



Project: Headbang Lullaby Director: Hicham Lasri Producer: Rita El Quessar Country: Morocco

Synopsis: After yet another blunder, an embittered cop, Daoud, is sent by his dissatisfied superiors to spend a day on a bridge between two warring neighborhoods. This seemingly normal day made of absurd waiting, improbable encounters and brutal poetry takes place under the giant shadow of a messianic monarch whose passage disturbs the delicate balance of this motley population.



Project: Ibrahim Director: Lina Alabed Country: Jordan

Synopsis: I was born in Damascus for a Palestinian father and an Egyptian mother,holding a Jordanian nationality. My father, Ibrahim AlAbed, was a member of the

"Revolutionary Council".

In 1987, I was 6 years old when my father left for a short mission. But never came back.

My film deals with the story behind the disappearance of my father, the subject that was never talked about in our family.

Project: I Crossed the Hallway Director: Rabih El-Amine Country: Lebanon

Synopsis: "It was two o'clock after midnight, I cross the dark corridor that leads me right to my parents' room. Few steps that seemed to be never ending. I enter my parents room, I find my father lying on the bed, close to him my mother sitting in silence. She looks at me and says, "Your father is dying".

Project: L'échappée Director: Hamid Saïdji Country: Algeria

Synopsis: A kaleidoscopic journey through the streets of Algiers in HOCINE FILALI's ramshackle taxi. With dreams of setting sail for a better life in Italy, Hocine will first have to escape the grip of this magical city and its colorful cast of characters.

Project: The Street of Death and Other Stories Director: Karam Ghossein Producer: Emily Dische-Becker Country: Lebanon

Synopsis: Khaldeh. Gateway to Beirut, highway, coastal town rigged by illegal constructions, Lebanon's only airport, and the sea. I never imagined I would ever come back, to find Ibn Zanuba, nor that I would recollect past experiences or events, and remember how I, as a teenager, lived vicariously through the lives of those who inhabit Khaldeh.



Cinema Jurors





Michèle Tyan is an editor and the co-founder of Djinn House Productions. She worked as a line producer for several feature, short and documentary films co-produced with Europe. She has directed a few corporates for companies as well as a documentary for NGO "Aaks el Seir" that was shown in many festivals and awarded. But her main activity remains editing. She has edited over 50 renowned films (features, short-movies and documentaries), working with acclaimed filmmakers and artists such as Ghassan Salhab, Bahij Hojeij, Akram Zaatari, Jean Chamoun, Mai Masri, Zeina Daccache, Reine Mitri, Tamara Stepanyan... She has taught editing for several years at the ALBA University.

Scandar Copti is Palestinian filmmaker. In 2009, his first full-length feature film "Ajami" won the Camera d'Or Special Mention at the Cannes Film Festival. His film was also nominated for the 82nd Academy Awards in the Best Foreign Film category and won more than 15 awards worldwide. Formerly a mechanical engineer, he has written, directed and edited several fiction, documentary and experimental short films. His video art projects were exhibited worldwide. Copti was part of the team that launched the Doha Tribeca Film Festival and the Doha Film Institute (DFI). He headed DFI's education department until 2011. Currently Copti is developing his next feature film project "DAMANAT" and heading the Film and New Media Program at the New York University in Abu Dhabi.



Yassine Temlali is a writer, journalist, translator and researcher in linguistics and Algerian contemporary history. He studied French literature and linguistics and is pursuing a PhD in History. He is the author of "The genesis of Kabylia: The Roots of Berber Assertiveness in Algeria" (2015) and "A Cinematic and Literary Chronicle of Two Wars'' (2011). He also contributed to several works, including: "A History of Colonial Algeria. 1830-1962" (2012) and "Telling, Broadcasting Mediterranean Stories: a Study on Documentary Film" (Rome: RAI Televisione Italiana, 2010), and "Mediterranean Territories" (2005). Yassine Temlali lives and works between Cairo and Algeria

"Our bodies carry our histories, both personal and collective. Our bodies ar also where we feel bound. Dancing is freedom and also connection. It is a desperate situation and I know art is not going to save the world. But it makes a difference. It is important because it defies the horrifying situations that surround us."

– Samar Haddad King, Palestine Performing Arts grantee, "Min Tala"

Special Programs



ANWP Project Descriptions



Grantee: Mahmoud Hosni Project: Between Blindness and Insight Country: Egypt

Synopsis: It is an imaginary city, crossed by several rivers. A small island had had begun as a refuge for fishermen has now become inhabited by more than a few upper middle class citizens, businessmen, and ministers. This island connected to the rest of the city by pedestrian bridges and paths for cars. One morning, at the end of October and beginning of the November autumn, the people of this island wake up to a disaster, where they find they have completely lost memory. There was no physiological explanation behind phenomenon, and could not be clinically diagnosed, it was a sort of losing all reference of human consciousness and existence, to the simple ability to form sentences and speak words.

Grantee: Nazih Bahraoui

Project: Bye Bye Saddam

Country: Morocco

Synopsis: "Bye Bye Saddam" generational novel about the first Gulf War in the eyes of Moroccan children. The story takes place in the late eighties and is told by ten year old Nayzak who has his own magical way at telling what he manages to remember, where real life events get mixed with details from his own little world. Nayzak was born and raised into a leftist family, and although he had no idea what 'left' meant, he could tell it was about opposing whose pictures where hanging all over the place.



Grantee: Rola El Hussein Project: Fifteen Hours in Prison Country: Lebanon

Synopsis: The novel is set in one place: prison / detention room. The story begins with the arrival of the only character to the prison and ends the moment she leaves. Other characters, other women prisoners, do appear at times, but we know nothing about them, except how our main character sees them. The story takes place in the woman/ main character 's about her shock, fear, expectations about what might be happening outside is happening on the outside while she's in jail, trying to find a positive side of her being here, in an attempt to cope with her existence in this place. We may not know why she was behind the bars or what she did for a living or how old she was, but after 15 hours in prison we will learn her biggest fears and issues, her agonies and promises to herself, her expectations, her dearest people, her weaknesses and her solutions.



Grantee: Asmaa Alatawna Project: Five Memories for Esther Country: Palestine

Synopsis: Esther/ Leila, a forty year old French woman of Palestinian descents, lives her everyday life in an exile which she has chose for herself, as an escape from five painful memories she had experienced, beginning in a refugee camp in Gaza, Palestine, before having to move to the United Arab Emirates. She then left to Spain, and the finally settled in France, where she was trying to find a place with an Arab / European identity for her to live in peace her memories. Grantee: Jamal Gubran Project: Hélène Country: Yemen

Synopsis: Hélène comes to Sana'a in order to save her family residing in Eritrea. Her story is told as seen in the eyes of a man who was born in raised in that part of the country, where agony brought people together closer than joy. Hélène who's now in a place new to her, never knew her beauty would cost her so much, for in a place where people are not familiar with such beauty nor how to handle it, beauty was a curse.

Grantee: Hoda Omran Project: Leaving Home

Country: Egypt

Synopsis: This is the story of Amjad, a young man in his late twenties, a photographer working for a news website, and dreams of a photography project that portrays what he called the "melancholy of women", for as he sees it, a sad woman is a beautiful one as she's had her share of experience in life. Amjad liked experiencing an emotional bond with every woman he portrayed, which would of course end up with them having sex. Although these experiences were passionate, but they never came close to 'love', for as he liked to say, he wanted to experience and remain free. But during the covering of the Rabea' event, Amjad gets shot and loses complete sight in his left eye, only for his doctor to tell him his right eye will gradually weaken to complete blindness, and with that a new phase of his life begins.



Grantee: Nabil Gueddiche Project: Rain in the Heat of August Country: Tunisia

Synopsis: This is the story of a man, "Zizou", in his fifties, who still lives in the ruins of a fourty year old memory. Being a Pisces, he's too sensitive to be able to let this memory go, he accidentally stumbles upon a number of evidence related to the incident (letters and a torn toy), he decides to revisit the old past and the old house that witnessed that incident. He recalls a small entry he had written in his journal as a child, where he predicted a bloody incident to take place and home, and about how he'd survive it and grow old forever overthrown by that event.



Grantee: Ines Abassi Project: Sons of Mimosa Country: Tunisia

Synopsis: This is the story of tw Tunisian brothers, Habib and Noureddine, who immigrated to the United States in the seventies. On the surface the you would think the story is about Habib, the older brother who immigrated to America after a series of coincidences that begin in Paris and go on to Chicago in the seventies, when in fact this story is Tunisia. This story is about Habib, but it's also about his brother Noureddine who joined him in America, only to disappear after less than a year for a reason that remains unknown. Where they separated because of a woman or because of Palestine? Did Noureddine disappear because of a mysterious murder? Was he the murderer or the victim? A series of intertwined events that Jihan, Habib's daughter, tries to narrate.

Juror and Mentor



Jabbour Douaihy is a Lebanese novelist, born in Zghorta, in North Lebanon. He earned a bachelor degree in French Literature at the College of Education in Beirut, then a doctoral degree in Comparative Literature from the University of Paris III (Nouvelle Sorbonne). He has retired from university teaching at the Lebanese University where he used to be a Professor of French Literature. He used to be an editorial writer for the Beirut-based daily, L'Orient Express and a literary critic for the L'Orient Littéraire, a literary supplement. Douaihy has translated several literary and general works from French into Arabic. His own work has been translated to French, English, Italian and German. Two of his novels were on the short list of the International Prize of Arabic Fiction: "June Rain" (2008) and "The Vagrant" (2012). His novel "The American Neighborhood" was on the long list for the same prize in 2015. Douaihy has published a series of novels, "Moderation of Autumn" (1995); "Rayya of the River" (1998); "Rose Fountain" (2002), "June Rain" (2006), "Chased Away" (2006) and "The American Neighborhood" (2013). In addition to a compilation of short stories "Death Among Family is Sleepiness" (1990), and a children's story "Spirit of the Jungle", written in French (2001).

"The question of identity is thorny and complex. In my opinion, it relies on the demolishing of a single identity, allowing multiple identities to evolve and emerge. In my work I research in the contradiction between individual identity nurtured by the neoliberal project, marketing individual success as the only solution to the crisis of society — and the collective identity which is currently in crisis and unable to shape a public opinion capable of a liberation project."

–Yazan Al-Kalili, Palestine Visual Arts grantee, "The Forgotten Ruins"

ADPP Project Desrcriptions



Grantee: Mostafa Bassim Adly Country: Egypt

Title: Post-revolutionary Social Change in Egypt Synopsis: For many youths in Egypt, free expression is not only repressed in the political sphere but also within their own local communities. Family, acquaintances, religious leaders and employers, launch public smear campaigns against those who do not follow social norms. Many find themselves ostracized, subject to harassment and in danger of losing their jobs as a result.





Grantee: Nadia Bseiso Country: Jordan Title: Infertile Crescent

Synopsis: The project describes the reality of what was once called the cradle of civilization. In a region that is no longer "fertile", the crescent is burning in turmoil. This project endeavors to explore the 180 km route of the controversial Dead-Red Sea salvation pipeline that is to supply Jordan with much needed water, by tracing the places it will cross.





Grantee: Hadeer Ahmed Country: Egypt Title: Loss

Synopsis: After the Egyptian revolution, the hope from freedom of expression lingers until a series of arrests begins. People are arrested leaving behind families, wives and lovers who become critically affected by the loss of their beloveds.





Grantee: Sara Sallam Country: Egypt Title: Hide and Seek

Synopsis: This photo-documentary follows two young boys as they lose their awareness of the nature and significance of a graveyard. Full of many secret places to hide, amid graves and tombs, they see the place develop as their natural playground. Juxtaposed with insights from the Pharaonic perspective on afterlife, the project attempts to question the inseparable yet subtle relationship between life and death.





Grantee: Roy Saade Country: Lebanon Title: Dalieh; On the Edge Synopsis: This project is about a place called "Dalieh of Raouche", a place on the edge of disappearing. But more importantly, it is about people who think Dalieh is their last and only escape. How do they engage in this public space and what will its future look like?





Grantee: Carmen Yahchouchi Country: Lebanon Title: Beyond Sacrifice

Synopsis: The project represents a daring portrayal of often forgotten Lebanese women who live lives of celibacy, mostly dedicating their time to helping others. Their life is one long dreary monotonous chapter. These women give up their youth, hopes and happiness, to some sense of duty, and when those for whom they sacrifice everything die, they are left utterly alone.





Grantee: Iman Al-Dabbagh Country: Saudi Arabia Title: Shame

Synopsis: There is a territory between what is legal and illegal, between what is socially acceptable and taboo in Saudi Arabia, but the lines that define it are blurred. This project is about people who pursue their passions boldly and unabashedly, within this uncharted grey area.





Grantee: Mehdi Mariouch Country: Morocco Title: Bribes de Vie

Synopsis: A photographical project about a deserted mine in the eastern-most part of Morocco. The so-called "Black Faces" inhabiting this part of the country came from all over Morocco. Many found themselves jobless after the place closed in 2000. The project tells the stories of those that have no choice but to seriously risk their lives to earn more.









Grantee: Muhammad Salah Country: Sudan Title: Who Said White Is Better? Synopsis: Skin bleaching is the most peculiar social phenomena in Sudan of the last 25 years. The project aims is to document the life of 20-30 years old females in Khartoum in their personal struggles around stories of skin bleaching.



ADPP Jurors



Susan Meiselas (USA)

Susan Meiselas is an award-winning American documentary photographer born in 1948 in Baltimore, Maryland. She has been associated with Magnum Photos since 1976 and a full member since 1980. Her works have been published in newspapers and magazines including The New York Times, The Times, Time, GEO and Paris Match. She received the Robert Capa Gold Medal in 1979 and was named a MacArthur Fellow in 1992. She earned her BA at Sarah Lawrence College and an MA in visual education at Harvard University. She received an Honorary Doctorates in Fine Arts from the Parsons School in 1986 and from The Art Institute of Boston in 1996. In 2006, she was awarded The Royal Photographic Society's Centenary Medal and Honorary Fellowship (HonFRPS) in recognition of a sustained, significant contribution to the art of photography.

Tarek Al-Ghoussein (Kuwaiti)



Tarek Al Ghossein is an artist and Professor of Visual Art with New York University in Abu Dhabi. As a Kuwaiti of Palestinian origin, much of Al-Ghoussein's professional work deals with how his identity is shaped in a context of inaccessibility and loss. His work explores the boundaries between landscape photography, self-portraiture and performance art. Choosing locations much in the same way a film director does, he moves between abstraction and the specific circumstances found in particular places. Relying on subtle interventions and non-invasive interactions, the images consider various aspects of "identity".

Zeina Arida (LEBANON)

A founding AFAC Board Member until 2012. She was born in Beirut in 1970 and educated between Beirut and Paris; Arida studied Literature and Theatre at the Sorbonne in Paris and graduated in 1993. Returning to Beirut, she was involved in several cultural projects and has been the Director of the Arab Image Foundation – a non-profit organization that seeks to preserve and study photographs from the Middle East, North Africa and the Arab diaspora - since its inception in 1997 until 2013. In 2014, she became the Director of the Nicolas Sursock Museum.



ADPP Advisors

Susan Meiselas – Overall Program Advisor

An award-winning American documentary photographer born in 1948 in Baltimore, Maryland. She has been associated with Magnum Photos since 1976 and a full member since 1980. Her works have been published in newspapers and magazines including The New York Times, The Times, Time, GEO and Paris Match. She received the Robert Capa Gold Medal in 1979 and was named a MacArthur Fellow in 1992. She earned her BA at Sarah Lawrence College and an MA in visual education at Harvard University. She received an Honorary Doctorates in Fine Arts from the Parsons School in 1986 and from The Art Institute of Boston in 1996. In 2006, she was awarded The Royal Photographic Society's Centenary Medal and Honorary Fellowship (HonFRPS) in recognition of a sustained, significant contribution to the art of photography.

Randa Shaath – Mentor

Born to a Palestinian father and an Egyptian mother, lived in Beirut from 1969 until 1977 and currently resides in Cairo. She received a BA in Middle Eastern Studies from the American University in Cairo, and a MA in Visual Mass Communication from the University of Minnesota. She worked as a photographer for Agence France Press in Egypt and Gaza in 1994, and for the Al-Ahram Weekly newspaper since 1993. She worked on various projects in Palestine, Nubian villages, and Cairo. In the Cairo project she captured daily life in the city, on the streets and the rooftops, and on its forgotten islands. Recent exhibitions include The state of Palestine, Sony Gallery, American University in Cairo, 1998; In the Heart of the Nile (Islands of Cairo), Atelier Le Caire, Cairo, 1999; Nubian Life, The Nubian Museum, Aswan, Egypt, 2000; and Being There, in Home Works: A Forum on Cultural Practices in the Region, Beirut, Lebanon, 2002.

Eric Gottesman – Mentor

A photographic artist and organizer. Central to his practice is collaboration. He uses photography, writing and film as vehicles to engage others in conversation and critical thought about the social structures that surround them, and him. He works slowly, often spending a long time in a community, and exhibits work locally first, to an audience determined by the co-creators of the work. He has taught at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Amherst College, the International Center for Photography, the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston and in collaborative workshops in Lebanon, Jordan and Ethiopia.

Peter van Agtmael – Mentor

Born in Washington DC. He studied history at Yale, graduating with honors in 2003. Since 2006 he has primarily covered the 9/11 Wars and their consequences, working extensively in Iraq, Afghanistan and the USA. He has won the W. Eugene Smith Grant, the ICP Infinity Award for Young Photographer, the Lumix Freelens Award, as well as awards from World Press Photo, American Photography Annual, The Pulitzer Center, The Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University and Photo District News. In 2008 he helped organize the book and exhibition Battlespace, a retrospective of largely unseen work of 22 photographers covering Iraq and Afghanistan. Peter joined Magnum in 2008 and became a full member in 2013.

Tanya Habjouqa – Mentor

Based in East Jerusalem, born in Jordan and educated in Texas, receiving her masters in Global Media and Middle East Politics from the University of London SOAS. She is known for gaining unique access to sensitive gender, social and human rights stories in the Middle East. Recently, she won the 2014 World Press Award for Daily Life Stories, was a finalist for the 2014 FotoEvidence Book Award, and was a recipient of the Magnum Foundation 2013 Emergency Fund. She is a founding member of Rawiya photo collective, the first all-female photo collective of the Middle East. Her work has been widely exhibited and her series, "Women of Gaza," was acquired by the Boston Museum of Fine Art in 2013. She is represented by East Wing, an international platform for photography, founded in Doha, Qatar.

Jessica Murray – Workshop Coordinator

Jessica has been working in the field of documentary photography since 1997, when she held a position with Magnum Photos in New York. In 2002 she founded The Williamsburg Workshops and in 2004 she founded Al-liquindoi in Spain, which she continues to direct today. As part of Alliquindoi, Jessica has worked as an independent consultant for the Documentary Photography Project of Open Society Foundations on their workshop and grant programs for photographers in the MENA region, Central Asia and the Caucasus, and also for FotoPres "La Caixa" in Spain, providing the layout for their current program. In 2012 she designed and produced the 8-month Visual Storytelling program in Egypt with the Contemporary Image Collective and Noor Foundation. Over the years Jessica has sat on a number of nominating committees and juries for awards and grants in photography and in 2015 she was invited to be the artistic director of the Barcelona documentary photography festival DOCfield>15.

ADP Project Desrcriptions



Project: A Long Breath Director: Remi Itani (Lebanon Producer: Dima Al Joundi

Synopsis: A man is trying to reconcile two opposing forces within him. Torn between the duty to piousness and the temptation of hedonism, he has to deal with a worried mother and an expecting wife on the one hand, and a world of pills, booze, prison and gambling on the other.





Project: Ghost Hunting Director: Raed Andoni (Palestine) Producer: Palmyre Badinier

Synopsis: To free the demons of his former jail, the filmmaker assembles an eclectic group of Palestinian ex-prisoners in an empty yard. From fragmentary memory, day after day, they give shape to the Israeli interrogation center they all experienced, and reenact its stories. As the walls of the cells rise, the tongues and the emotions loosen.





Project: Off Khartoum Sides Director: Marwa Zein (Sudan) Synopsis: When it is illegal to smoke or drink or walk without wearing Hijab, and when coming from minority tribes and with no education, can football dare to save them in Khartoum/Sudan?





Project: The Swing **Director:** Cyril Aris (Lebanon)

Synopsis: By Antoine's 90th birthday, life hangs on a feeble string of his declining health as he anticipates the visit from his daughter, while his wife for 65 years, Viviane, endures the pain of concealing from him the unbearable truth, the truth that will inevitably end the last beats of his fragile heart: their daughter's sudden death.





Project: My Friend Gadhgadhi **Director:** Rafik Omrani (Tunisia)

Synopsis: The most infamous terrorist in Tunisia during the years 2013-2014, Kamel Gadhgadhi, turns out to have been a close friend of the director at college. The latter will start a reflection on terrorism and how his old friend who used to be an "ordinary" person as him turned towards terrorism.





Project: Amal Director: Mohamed Siam (Egypt) Producer: Myriam Sassine

Synopsis: An observational self-discovery journey that follows Amal, an Egyptian teenager, from age 14 to 19 while she's searching for her place in a male-dominant society within a constantly changing country. As she grows up to become an adult, she realizes how restricted her choices are being a young female living in an Arab police state in a postrevolution era.





Project: 194. Us, Children of the Camp Director: Samer Abu Qatmeh (Palestine) The film follows the director's journey as he is forced to join the Palestinian Liberation Army in Syria only a month before the start of the Syrian uprising. The thread develops between the army and the camp, as the director and his friends attempt to document the hopes, struggles, departures and loss they experience.





Project: Last Men in Aleppo
Director: Feras Fayad (Syria)
Producer: Søren Steen Jespersen
Synopsis: After 5 years of war, the remaining citizens of
Aleppo are preparing themselves to come under siege.
Through the volunteers from The White Helmets, the film
tells a personal story about their daily life, death and struggle
to keep the streets a place possible to live in. They fight for
sanity where war has become the norm.





Project: We are not Princesses

Director: Etab Azzam and Bridgette Auger (Syria) **Synopsis:** The ancient Greek heroine Antigone inspires a group of Syrian women living in Beirut's refugee camps to wonder whether new joys and ambitions are possible to conceive. The film captures the women's identification with a story that transcends time and circumstance. Audacious and feisty, Antigone motivates each of these women to rediscover their own strength and face their own Creon.





Project: A Comedian in a Syrian Tragedy **Director:** Rami Farah (Syria)

Synopsis: The film is a chronicle of an uprising and of exile. In the midst of the early months of the Syrian revolution, the director decides to follow the Syrian actor Fares Helou for years with his camera. "A Comedian in a Syrian Tragedy" is an intimate observation of the absurdity of (exiled) existence.





Project: Suspended Wives

Director: Merieme Addou (Morocco)

Synopsis: The film follows three women who were abandoned by their husbands- Ghita, Latifa, and Karima- and their long fight for divorce. After waiting for years, they decide to turn to the courts of their regions. The procedure proves to be not only a long but also an absurd one as the women have to prove first that their husbands are absent.


ADP Jurors







Camille Laemle is a French independent producer. After working as a production manager for more than ten years in several companies, as Point du Jour, she decided to produce more personal projects: L'année de l'Algérie, short by May Bouhada (Arte and TV5 Monde), La Ruée vers l'Est, documentary by Raphaël Girardot and Vicent Gaullier. She joined Les Films d'Ici company several years and since then, she produces documentaries with Serge Lalou. She had produced several films from the region such as Ossama Mohammad's Silvered Water, Syria Self-Portrait and Maher Abi Samra's A Maid for Each. She recently produced the 2016 Berlinale's Golden Bear Winner Fuocoammare by Gianfranco Rosi.

Jihan El-Tahri is an Egyptian writer, director and producer of documentary films. She worked as a news correspondent with U.S. News and World Report and Reuters, TV researcher, and associate producer in Tunisia, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Algeria, and Egypt between 1984 and 1990. As a correspondent, El-Tahri covered politics in the Middle East. In 1990, El-Tahri started directing and producing documentaries for French television and for the BBC since 1995. In 1992 she filmed Osama bin Laden's training camps in Sudan. Among her works are The House of Saud (BBC in 2004 and PBS in 2005) and Behind the Rainbow which screened during the 53rd BFI London Film Festival in 2009.

Kamal Aljafari is a Palestinian filmmaker and a graduate of the Academy of Media Arts in Cologne, where he received the Friedrich-Vordemberge Visual Art Prize of the City of Cologne in 2004. His films include The Roof (2006) and Port of Memory (2009), which received the Prix de l'Institutt français-Louis Marcorelles at Cinema du Réel, Paris. He was a featured artist at the 2009 Robert Flaherty Film Seminar in New York, and in 2009-2010 was the Benjamin White Whitney fellow at Harvard University's Radcliffe Institute and Film Study Center. His most recent film is Recollections (2016).

Jury CENT'S REFE 320 8 514

AFAC is grateful for the immense contribution of jurors in the past ten years. An online Juror's database is an important reference of professionals in the cultural sector. Since AFAC's inception in 2007, around 200 cultural professionals have participated. Abbas Beydoun Abdel Rasool Salman Abdelkader Damani Abdellah Karroum Abdo Wazen Abdulkhaleg Abdulla Ahmad Baydoun Ahmad El Attar Ahmad Mualla Ahmed El Maanouni Alawiya Sobh Ali Abou Shadi Ali Essafi Ali Osman Ali Shaath Alia Arasoughly Alma Salem Amine Al Zaoui Amjad Nasser Ammar Dajani Anas (Anders) Hastrup Andre Al Haje Asem Al Bacha Ayman Bardawil Azza Madian Basma El Husseiny Bayan Kanoo Brahim El Mazned Bruni Burres Camille Laemle Cara Mertes Carlos Chahine Charbel Rouhana Christine Tohme Dora Bouchoucha Elia Suleiman Elias Farkouh Elias Khoury Esra'a El-Shafei Ezzat Al Kamhawi Fadhil Al Azzawi Fadi Abi Samra Fadi Tofayli Fadil Khalel Faouzi Bensaidi Faouzi Skali Faouzia Sahly Farid Al-Zahi Farida Benlyazid Fathi Salama Ferial Ghazoul Ghalia Benali Ghassan Salhab Gilbert Hage Habiba Djahnine Hala Lotfy Hani Kalouti Hania Mroué Haytham Abdul Razzak Hussein Beydoun Ibrahim Al Ariss Ibrahim Jaber Ibrahim Ibrahim Nasrallah

Irit Neidhart Isabel Arrate Fernandez Issa Boulos Issam Bou Khaled Jaber Asfour Jalila Baccar Jamal Al Ghitany Jeryes Samawi Jihan Eltahri Joanna Hadjithomas Joslyn Barnes Joumana Al Jabri Kader Attia Kaelen Wilson-Goldie Kamal Al-Jafari Kamal Boullata Kamilya Jubran Karim Tradia khadija El Bennaoui Khaled Jubran Khaled Mattawa Khaled Mohammed Ali Khalil Benkirane Khalil Joreij Khalil Sweileh Kirsten Johnson Laila Hourani Latifa Lahrarre Laura Boshnak Lina Abyad Lubnan Baalbaki Mahmoud El Lozy Manal Abaza Marcel Khalife Mariam Saleh Marianne Khoury Marie Elias Marie-Therese Abdel Messih Marwa Seoudi Marwan Abado Marwan Rechmaoui Masoud Amrallah Al-Ali Menha Batraoui Michel Khleifi Michele Tyan Mikael Opstrup Mohammed Al Rashdi Mohammed Berrada Mohammed Djehiche Mohammed Makhlouf Mohammed Soueid Mo'jab Al-Zahrani Moufida Tlatli Nadia Kamel Nadine Touma Nadira Laggoune Najlaa Al-Ajeli Najwa Kandakgi Najwan Darwish Nedjma Hadj-Benchelabi Nejib Belkadhi Nidhal Guiga Nizar Rammal

Nouri Al-Jarrah Oussama Ghanam Oussama Hallal Peirre Abi Saab Oassem Haddad Rachida Triki Raed Asfour Rajaa Ammari Rana Sadik Randa Asmar Rania Stephan Ranwa Yehya Rasha El Ameer Rasha Salti Reem Fadda Reem Khattab Rola Kobeissi Said Murad Saleh Barakat Salma Feriani Salwa Mikdadi Samar Martha Sami Ben Said Samia Mehrez Sandi Hilal Sawsan Darwaza Sawsan Jafar Shuroog Amine Skandar Copti Steven Markovitz Sulayman Al Bassam Sultan Al-Bazei Susan Meiselas Tahar Chikhaoui Talal Mualla Taleb Al Refaie Tamer Abu Ghazaleh Taoufik Jebali Tarek Abou El Fetouh Tarek Atoui Tarek Ghossein Tarek Yamani Toufic Farroukh Vera Tamari Wael Abd Al-Fattah Yassin Temlali Zaid Jabri Zeid Hamdan Zeina Arida Zeina Maasri Ziad Doueiri Ziad Khatlan

AFAC



Leyla Bouzid, As / Open My Eyes

Tunis and Carthage May 25- June 1st

Since AFAC's inception in 2007, over 150 film projects have benefited from AFAC's support, a significant mass in the region's landscape of independent cinema production. And yet, Arab audiences are largely out of the picture, as most films enter the festival circuits and then disappear into oblivion. Filmmakers spend years of toil and creativity to produce their cinematic productions, only to be offered disappointing limited opportunities for viewership. Their voices are left unheard and they are unable to connect with their natural audiences, despite the real efforts taking place, from individuals and local film organizations alike, in seeking out traditional and alternative means of film distribution.

In 2014, AFAC Film Week was launched to offer a modest compensation for the general lack of distribution and visibility available for independent Arab film productions. It aims to be a traveling exhibition showcasing contemporary awardwinning AFAC-supported films for Arab audiences and in the presence of their directors for deeper engagement with the themes and the creative processes presented in each film.

AFAC launched its first AFAC Film Week in Beirut, in collaboration with Metropolis Cinema, screening 11 films produced between the years 2012 and

2014 – all of which had received international recognition in festivals and none of which had been screened in Beirut before. Their directors were flown in to Beirut to engage directly with the audiences and the halls were open to the public free of charge. Press and media were also activated with several media outlets in print, radio and television. Metropolis Cinema was vibrant the whole week of AFW with audience and press, despite the tense political situation in the city at the time.

Attendees at the AFAC Film Week included general public, journalists, film students and friends of AFAC. Many attendees were professionals in the independent filmmaking scene who had questions about production and funding. The audience was cospmopolitan, including locals and foreigners as well as multi-generational.

During the nightly QGA sessions, discussions on creative and directorial decisions were brought up in why the filmmakers chose to address their topics the way they did. The current context of transformation, instability and change was an apparent theme in each of the projects and an eye-opener for audiences. As one attendee from Syria, a recent university graduate, commented after watching Sara Ishaq's film, "What I saw was happening in the homes and families in Yemen are the same things that I experienced back home. I didn't realize."

3000 Nights

Mai Masri | Feature Fiction | Palestine – Jordan - Lebanon -France | 2015



Layal, a young newlywed Palestinian schoolteacher is arrested after being falsely accused and sentenced to 8 years of prison. She is transferred to a high security Israeli women's prison where she encounters a terrifying world in which Palestinian political prisoners are incarcerated with Israeli criminal inmates. When she discovers she is pregnant, the prison director pressures her to abort the baby and spy on the Palestinian inmates. However, resilient and still in chains, she gives birth to a baby boy. Through her struggle to raise her son behind bars, and her relationship with the other prisoners, she manages to find a sense of hope and a meaning to her life. Prison conditions deteriorate and the Palestinian prisoners decide to strike. The prison director warns her against joining the rebellion and threatens to take her son away. In a moment of truth, Layal is forced to make a choice that will forever change her life.

*Director in attendance at the Opening

Monumentum

Fadi Yeni Turk | Documentary | Lebanon | 2015



Public monuments visually and physically demarcate space, while claiming a territory of affiliation. In Lebanon, the proliferation of new monuments continues to encroach on so-called public spaces, creating tensions and deepening divisions. Meanwhile, Beirut's Martyrs' Square still awaits the materialization of a new master plan.

A similar state of uncertainty is experienced in varying degrees of similarities by Baghdad's Firdos Square, Cairo's Tahrir Square, Tunis' January 14 Square, and Manama's Pearl Roundabout.

Recently, some Arab countries have seen the tearing down of monuments representing previous regimes, in an effort to

literally leave the floor open to a new page of history. In a region where current political structures are being violently challenged, Monumentum (2015) is an attempt to reflect on these silent monuments encroaching on public spaces, scrutinizing their role as markers of an ever-changing political scenography.

*Director in attendance

And on a Different Note

Mohammad Shawky Hassan | Short Experimental | Egypt | 2015



Today in this house nothing happens, nor does it in the homes of others. The chronology of events is obscured, subversive noise is obliterated, elucidation impossible and language futile. All that remains is a soundscape perpetually occupied by self-proclaimed patriots, and scattered spaces carved by the rhythm of everyday life, all conspiring to maintain the status quo while hiding the humming background noise of the world. And on a Different Note is a navigation of an attempt to carve out a personal space amid an inescapable sonic shield created primarily by prime time political talk shows with their indistinguishable, absurd, and at times undecipherable rhetoric/ noises. Equally repulsive and addictive, these noises travel across geographies gradually constituting an integral part of a self-created map of exile.

Silvered Water, Syria Self-Portrait Ossama Mohammad and Wiam Simav Bedrixan | Documentary | Syria | 2014



In Syria, every day, YouTubers film then die; others kill then film. In Paris, driven by my inexhaustible love for Syria, I find that I can only film the sky and edit the footage posted on YouTube. From within the tension between my estrangement in France and the revolution, an encounter happened. A young Kurdish woman from Homs began to chat with me, asking: "If your camera were here, in Homs, what would you be filming?" Silvered Water is the story of that encounter.

As I Open My Eyes

Leyla Bouzid | Feature Fiction | France – Tunisia - Belgium - UAE | 2015



In the summer of 2010 just before the start of the Jasmine Revolution, Farah joins a rock band as their lead singer. She continues to sing and rebel even as the police begin to follow her and her movements are monitored.

*Director in attendance

Checks and Balances

Malek Bensmail | Documentary | Algeria - France | 2015



Accommodated since Algeria's Bloody Decade of the 1990's in the "House of the Press", the journalists of the famous daily newspaper El Watan await the completion of their new offices, a symbol of their independence.

My camera is embedded in their newsroom as they follow the events of this new Algerian spring... President Bouteflika has set his sights on a 4th term.

Beyond what we call the Arab revolutions and other

mediatized terms, I wanted this film to serve as a memorial to the women and men, young and less young, who battle daily to safeguard the freedom of information in a politically and socially fossilized country.

74 (The Reconstitution of a Struggle) Rania and Raed Rafei | Docu-fiction | Lebanon | 2013



1974: Students demonstrate against a tuition increase at the American University of Beirut. For 37 days, they occupy university offices. With the Lebanese student revolt of 1974 as their starting point, filmmakers Rania and Raed Rafei direct an absorbing documentary on the core issues of revolution and democracy. In addition to a meticulous reenactment, they include theatrical improvisations in which today's activists give their interpretations of the student leaders' actions in '74.

*Directors in attendance

Coming Forth by Day Hala Lotfy | Feature Fiction | Egypt | 2012



Those who have fully enjoyed their bodies cannot be submissive. And those who never have? Can they survive the slavery of solitude and impotent acceptance of what they can't change or embrace? This is the everyday story of two women taking care of their sick man.

The Valley Ghassan Salhab | Feature Fiction | Lebanon | 2014



Following a car accident on a lone mountain road, a man loses his memory. He walks along the deserted path and helps people with engine trouble to repair their car. They are reluctant to leave him stranded, so they take him to their estate in the Bekaa Valley, a place where production is not only agricultural, a place he may never leave again.

*Director in attendance

Family Albums

Mais Darwazeh, Nassim Amouache, Erige Sehiri, Sameh Zoabi | Collective Documentary | France-Palestine-UAE | 2012



A collective feature-length documentary made of four personal narratives which take on the issues of identity and its passage from one generation to the next. Four Arab films set in four different cities reflect the personal experiences of their respective directors and the places they come from. They break through geographic and political boundaries creating a single shared artistic project.

*Director Erige Sehiri and Producer Raed Andoni in attendance

It Was Better Tomorrow Hinde Boujemaa | Documentary | Tunisia | 2012



Through the hubbub of a revolution, "It was better tomorrow" follows Aida, a Tunisian woman who has to rebuild her entire life and who does not wish to look backwards. She spends her time moving from one poor neighborhood to another. Driven by the will to find a roof over her head and for her children, she takes no notice of the historical events taking place around her. Her only goal is to find a way out and she is convinced that the revolution is a blessing. "It was better tomorrow" shows the atypical journey of this brazen and bold woman in the intense interval of a country's revolution.

*Director in attendance

We Were Communists Maher Abi Samra | Documentary | Lebanon | 2010



Tracing the intersecting destinies of comrades who were once bound by a shared ideological affiliation and who remain tightly knit friends, We Were Communists is an uninhibited examination of the legacy of Lebanon's civil war. Four men recount their battlefield stories, broken dreams, and eventual disillusionment in light of the country's ongoing political crises. At once artistically and politically audacious, incisive and tender, the film lays bare the daunting reality of Lebanon's fractured landscape.

*Director in attendance

The Wanted 18 Amer Shomali | Documentary | Palestine | 2014



During the first Intifada in the West Bank town of Beit Sahour a group of townspeople decide to buy eighteen cows and produce their own milk as a co-operative. Their venture is so successful that the collective farm becomes a landmark, and the cows local celebrities, until the Israeli army takes note and declares that the cows pose "a threat to the national security of the state of Israel." Consequently, the dairy is forced to go underground, the cows continuing to produce their "Intifada milk" with the Israeli army in relentless pursuit.

Yasmina and the 60 Names Of Love Nacer Kemir | Documentary | Tunisia | 2013



"Yasmina and the 60 names of love" is a hybrid, an unclassifiable film built on drawing a deeply personal journey with a lot of autobiographical elements. When this ancestor tells his life, the speech is raw. She speaks of suffering, of a harsh and cruel life. The viewer is mesmerized by this being in the twilight of her life. And like a litany, the names of love are listed, translated and hypnotize the ones who hears them. This film is certainly more of a philosophical research, with its share of requirement. A requirement that, according to the author, lacks in today's society and participates in its own decadence.

*Director in attendance

Hedi Mohamed Ben Attia | Feature Fiction | Tunisia | 2016



Hedi a young man with great dream is struggling his way through social conventions in Tunisia. While his mother tries to decide his life for him, Hedi meets Rym and suddenly he discovers that his world goes beyond and above conventions.

*Director and Producer Dora Bouchoucha in attendance

Waves '98

Ely Dagher | Short Animation | Lebanon-Qatar | 2015



Disillusioned with his life in the suburbs of segregated Beirut, Omar's discovery lures him into the depth of the city. Immersed into a world that is so close yet so isolated from his reality, he eventually loses track and finds himself struggling to keep his attachments, his sense of home.

AFAC Board of

























AFAC's board members represent a geographical diversity and hail from a multitude of backgrounds. Convening twice a year, the board has supported AFAC's reach in their own countries, cities and cultural communities.

In 2016, AFAC welcomed four new board members: writer Elias Khoury, writer and historian Farouk Mardam-Bey; Deputy Chairperson for the Middle East at Sotheby's, Roxane Zand; and AFAC's former Executive Director, Oussama Rifahi.

Dr. Ghassan Salamé Chairman

Dr. Ghassan Salamé is Dean of the Paris School of International Affairs/PSIA and professor of International Relations at Sciences-Po (Paris) and Columbia University (New York). Born in1951 in Lebanon, he studied Law (Saint-Joseph University and Paris University); Literature (PhD, Paris University); and Political science (PhD, Paris University). He taught international relations at the American and Saint-Joseph universities in Beirut and, later, at Paris University. Dr. Salamé was Senior Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General (2003-2006) and Political Advisor to the UN Mission in Iraq (2003). In 2000-2003, he was Lebanon's Minister of Culture, in charge of national heritage and the arts; Chairman and Spokesman of the Organization Committee for the Arab Summit (March 2002) and of the Francophone Summit (October 2002) in Beirut. He presently sits on the board and executive committee of the International Crisis Group (Brussels) and the boards of the Open Society Institute (New York), The Bibliotheca Alexandrina (Alexandria), the Center for International Conflict Resolution (New York), the Center for Humanitarian Action (Geneva) and a few other not-for-profit organizations. He is the founding chairman of the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture (Beirut).

Dr. Salamé is the author of (interalia) Quand l'Amérique refait le monde; Appels d'empire: ingérences et résistances à l'âge de la mondialisation; State and Society in the Arab Levant and editor (inter alia) of Democracy Without Democrats: Politics of Liberalization in the Arab and Muslim World; The Politics of Arab Integration and The Foundations of the Arab State. His essays have been published in Foreign Policy, Revue Française de Science Politique, European Journal of International Affairs, The Middle East Journal and other scholarly journals.

Dr. Nabil Qaddumi Vice Chair and Treasurer

Dr. Nabil Qaddumi combines private and public sector roles. He is Chairman of Projacs International, the region's leading Arab project management firm. Dr. Qaddumi is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Welfare Association, Palestine's Governor at the Board of Governors of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, a co-founder of the Hani Qaddumi Scholarship Foundation, and a board member of the Institute for Palestine Studies.

Dr. Suzanne Wettenschwiler Statutory Secretary

A member of the Swiss Bar Association, Dr. Wettenschwiler is a commercial and not-for-profit attorney based in Zug, Switzerland. Having earned a PhD from the University of Zurich Law School, she is a member of the HDV Canton of Zug (Trade and Services Association), the SRO VQF (Association of Quality Assurance in Financial Services) and the International Bar Association (IBA). Dr. Wettenschwiler is also a member of the board of the Open Society Institute Zug and various other Swiss charitable foundations.

Hani Kalouti Member

Hani Kalouti, is the President and Founder of HBK Investments Advisory S.A. based in Geneva, Switzerland. HBK is a multi-family asset management firm providing independent expert advice to high net worth individuals, their families and foundations. Mr. Kalouti started his career with Citibank, New York in 1981 and was chief investment officer of their Swiss Private Bank in Geneva when he left in 1996 to establish HBK. He holds a B. S. degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an MBA from Syracuse University, New York. He is a member of the Board of Trustees and Management Committee of the Welfare Association.

Sawsan Al-Fahoum Jafar Member

Sawsan Al-Fahoum Jafar was born in Lebanon into a Palestinian family and holds a B.S in Economics from the American University of Beirut. She is a founding member of the board of The Friends of Cancer Patients Society in the United Arab Emirates and acted as its chairman from 2000 to 2008. She is a member of the Baden-Powell organization, as well as a board member for the Welfare Association, the Institute for Palestine Studies and the Chairman of the Board for MIFTAH – The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy. Jafar also won a prize for voluntary work in the Emirate of Sharjah, UAE.

Abla Lahoud Member

Abla Lahoud, an engaged philanthropist in the Arab Region, joined AFAC's board of trustees in 2012. She is an active member in several associations' boards including the President's Club Board and The Administrative board of the office of development at the American University of Beirut in addition to the Lebanese Association of SOS Children's Villages.

Amr Ben Halim Member

Amr Ben Halim has served and partnered with multinational engineering and project management firms in developing, building and operating industrial projects. He is a founder, board member and shareholder of AYTB and Maritime Industrial Services Arabia (MISA), companies that are leading providers of hydrocarbon processing, energy, and industrial services in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Qatar. He founded one of the first women-led micro-lending programs in the refugee camps of south Lebanon. He is also a founder board member of the Forum for Democratic Libya, an NGO working to promote transparency, civic engagement, and a culture of democracy in Libya. He continues to be an active member and supporter of various philanthropic and civil society projects in the Arab world.

Olfat Al-Mutlaq Juffali Member

Olfat Al-Mutlaq was born in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Economics and a Master's degree in International Development from the American University of Washington. Fluent in Arabic, English, German, French and Italian, she is dedicated to supporting philanthropic initiatives that benefit the Arab region and support the well-being, health, education and creativity of the next generation. She is married to Saudi businessman Khaled Juffali, with whom she has four children. Among her philanthropic engagements, Olfat is a member of the Board of Trustees for the Arab Thought Foundation and the Al-Elm Foundation of the Dar Al-Hekma College, as well as a Co-Founder and member of the Advisor Council of the Shefa Philanthropy Fund in collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. She joined the Board of Trustees for the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture in 2013.

Elias Khoury Member

The Lebanese writer Elias Khoury was born in Beirut and studied Sociology and History at Lebanese University in Beirut and the University of Paris. He served on the editorial board of Mawakif Quarterly, and as the managing editor of Shu'un Falastinia (Palestine Affairs) and of Al Karmel Quarterly; he also served as Director and Editor-In-Chief of Mulhak, the weekly literary supplement of the An-Nahar Daily in Beirut. Khoury has published 12 novels which have been translated into numerous languages, four books of literary criticism, and many articles and reviews. He is also a known play writer and participated in writing two films.

Farouk Mardam Bey Member

Farouk Mardam Bey was born in Damascus in 1944 and studied Law at the University of Damascus, political science in Cannes and Paris I, and education, history and social sciences at the Paris VII University. He worked as Head of Arabic at the library for the National Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilizations in Paris (1972-1986), an editor then director for a magazine on Palestinian Studies in French (1981-2008), and consultant for the Arab World Institute (1989-2008). Since 1995, he is director Sindbad series, part of publishing house Actes Sud, which aims at translating Arabic works into French. Co-written with Samir Kassir in French, he published a book in two volumes entitled Itineraries from Paris to Jerusalem: France and the Arab-Israeli Conflict (Journal of Palestine Studies, 1992-1993), Being Arab with Elias Sanbar (Actes Sud, 2007), and Our France with Edwy Plenel and Elias Sanbar (Actes Sud, 2011) in addition to three books on the history of food. He also edited and published a number of collective historical, political, literary and bibliographical publications and translated to French the works of Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish. He has lived in France since 1965.

Roxane Zand Member

Harvard and Oxford educated, Roxane Zand began a career in museum and arts administration after three years in UNESCO. She left Iran after the Revolution to resume professional activities in London in the field of education and the arts, and was one of the founding members of the Harvard Club of London. Mrs Zand moved to Asia House in 1999, and also worked as a freelance consultant for numerous projects for the British Museum and elsewhere in the art world before joining Sotheby's in 2006, where she is now Deputy Chairman for the Middle East. Currently she sits on the Advisory Council of the Pictet Art Prize, the Development Board of the University of the Arts London, and has been appointed as a Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London for her services to Middle Eastern art and culture. She is also arts editor for the Encyclopedia Islamica. At Sotheby's she has played an instrumental role in developing and contributing to sales of Arab and Iranian art, and has conducted a number of charity auctions to benefit causes in the MENA region.

Oussama Rifahi Member

Oussama Rifahi was Executive Director of AFAC 2010-2016 and is the latest member to join the Board. Previously, Rifahi was Managing Director for Museum Development in New York with Global Cultural Asset Management GCAM, and provided cultural consultancy services to governments, cities, foundations and private collectors in Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia. As director of special projects for the Guggenheim Foundation, Rifahi led feasibility studies of modern and contemporary museums in Lithuania and France in 2007. From 2003 to 2006, he was project manager at Mubadala in Abu Dhabi and an advisor to the chairman of the Tourism Development and Investment Company TDIC. Rifahi directed the market analysis, strategy definition and development of the business model for tourism and culture in Abu Dhabi and supported the first architectural developments on the cultural district of Saadiyat Island, as well as the initial negotiations between the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and the Louvre and Guggenheim museums.

AFAC



AFAC team 2016

The newly appointed Executive Director is AFAC's former Deputy Director, Rima Mismar. Four staff members moved on in 2016: communications and development, grants coordinator, project coordinator and finance officer. A new finance officer and a second grants manager were recruited in addition to a senior program manager who will focus on institutional development and new initiatives.



Rima Mismar Executive Director

Rima Mismar was appointed Executive Director of AFAC in 2016 building on her extensive experience within AFAC as Deputy Director. Rima Mismar completed her studies in Communication Arts (Radio/TV/Film emphasis) at the Lebanese American University (LAU) in Beirut in 1998. Prior graduation, she began writing for local newspapers and cultural supplements, focusing on cinema and pursuing her professional career as a film critic as of 1999. She had participated in several festivals as jury member or as a member of the selection committee, contributed to serious critical writings on Arab cinema, moderated panels and wrote for several regional media. She worked briefly in television, writing and producing several episodes of "The Arabic Lens" (Al Adasa Al Arabiya), a series on Arab cinema produced and broadcasted by Al-Jazeera channel between 2005 and 2008. She also wrote and researched a number of feature documentaries produced by and broadcasted on Al-Arabiya channel. Rima has joined the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture (AFAC) in June 2011 as the Film Programs Manager and in 2015 was appointed Deputy Director.

Heba Hage-Felder Senior Program Manager

Heba Hage-Felder joined AFAC end 2016 and is responsible for institutional development and overall management of new initiatives and programs. She has an MA in International Relations from the University of Notre Dame, Indiana (1996). She has twenty years of experience in development and institutional capacity building. Heba worked with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs for ten years - first at headquarters in Bern between 2006 and 2011 supporting humanitarian aid and development efforts in the Middle East, and then as director of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Lebanon (2011-2016). Her work experience between 1996 and 2006 covered initiatives in peacebuilding, youth and community intiatives, production of knowledge resources, as well as eco-tourism. She worked with diverse local and international organisations such as Search for Common Ground in Washigton DC and in Jordan, Save the Children in Lebanon, Arab Resource Collective in Lebanon, and UNOPS in Geneva, as well as being a co-founder and volunteer coordinator of Mada, a local NGO in Lebanon. She has conducted independent consultancy work with UN and international donor agencies. Heba was born in Ghana, raised in West Africa and has lived in several countries. She is fond of discovering diverse artistic works from the region and internationally and personally enjoys writing and visual storytelling.

Rachad Chamoun Content Manager

Rachad Chamoun joined AFAC in March 2011 to develop and manage the content of the initiatives' website. He has worked as a freelance facilitator and trainer for civil society organizations including The Youth Advocacy Process and The Social Movement. He also worked as a compliance office/ internal auditor for the Belgium NGO ACTED. A graduate of the Lebanese American University (LAU) in Beirut with a BA in Economics/ Political Science, Rachad worked at UNESCO as a project assistant for the "Youth empowerment and participation project" in Lebanon where he drafted the youth policy briefs and project reports, translated related policy papers, documented roundtables and workshops, and managed the website for the project. Most recently, Rachad was a research assistant at UNDP where he helped building and managing the Program of Governance in the Arab Region's online library database.

Cathy Khattar Grants Manager

Cathy joined AFAC in July 2012. Cathy Khattar completed her studies in Economics at the University Saint Joseph in Beirut in 2001. She worked as the financial coordinator in ASSABIL, Friends of Public Libraries and now she is a member of the administrative committee and treasurer of the association. Since 2006 she started writing books for children and to date has published 9 books. She also animates creative writing workshops in Arabic for children.

Soleil Gharbieh Grants Manager

Soleil Gharbieh graduated with a B.A. in French Literature (2008) from the Lebanese University. She recently joined AFAC as a Grants manager; before that she worked at CIEL, a book distribution company, from 2008 until 2014. As Ciel's Catalogue Manager and then Book Buyer, Soleil focused on promoting literature in Lebanon and at regional and international book fairs. She was especially focused on supporting the development of the literature scene in Lebanon by providing opportunities for new and upcoming Arab authors. In 2014, Soleil married and moved to Egypt where she became heavily involved in the local independent music scene there. As Programs Manager for the Cairo Jazz Club Agency (CJC Agency), she worked on developing and managing new programs to support the growth and development of young musicians. Her projects included the 15 Minutes of Fame showcase at the bi-weekly Fel Park, an event that fused family-centered picnics and live concerts, and Mawaweel, the annual Ramadan festival at Cairo's Darb 1718 which combined culture, music and handicraft arts. Through her role at CJC Agency, Soleil has also consulted on various music-related projects in Egypt. In 2016, she was accepted in Goethe's Kulturakademie and spent six weeks in a specialized training program aimed at connecting Arab cultural managers with arts scenes in Berlin, Leipzig and Hamburg.

Nada Bou Antoun Accounting Manager

Nada joined AFAC as an Accounting Manager in August 2016. She is a Certified Public Accountant from the State of Colorado since 2010, with a BA in Accounting & Auditing from the Lebanese University-Acharfieh. She has more than 10 years of experience in Accounting and Lebanese taxes. Before joining AFAC, Nada worked with a group of companies that specialized in trading commodities and agriculture, operating outside Lebanon.

Julie Terzian Office Manager

Julie joined AFAC in November 2015. She graudated with a Baccalureat Technique (BT) degree in Administration and Accounting at the Polyglot Technical institute in Beirut. She worked as an accountant at the Lebanese Embassy in Lagos, Nigeria, and then for several years, she worked mainly in the hospitality sector, focusing on administration and finance in addition to setting up three restaurants in Lagos and Yerevan.

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