
AFAC JURORS

2007 - 2013

128 CULTURAL CRITICS, CURATORS,
AND PRODUCERS OF THE ARAB REGION



2011 Performing Arts jurors **Lina Abyad, Fadel Khalil, Latifa Lahrarre** and AFAC's Grants Manager **Racha Salah**.

AFAC's Jurors

128 Distinguished Professionals in the Field of Contemporary Arab Arts and Culture

AFAC's juror committees are selected to bring together professionals from all across the region to lend their expertise and insights on the wide scope of artistic genres and independent cultural projects we support, to evaluate the hundreds of applications we receive and to select the most compelling and promising projects. AFAC appoints new juror committees for each of its Annual Grant categories — Cinema, Literature, Music, Performing Arts, Theatre Arts and RTR (Research/Training/Regional Events) — every year. Similarly, AFAC's special programs — the Arab Documentary Film Programs (ADFP), Crossroads, AFAC Express, and AFAC Documentary Program (ADP) — bring together regional and international experts to cater to the particular outlook of each program and to open up the possibilities of co-producing and distributing Arab cultural works with wider audiences.

For AFAC's Annual General Grant, the six juror committees are composed of three people, experts in their respective fields, each hailing from a different country in the Arab region while specializing in different aspects of the pertinent artistic field. For example, a music juror committee may include an artistic director of a prominent Moroccan music festival, a renowned jazz musician and music manager from Egypt and an academic musicologist professor from Iraq. The diversity of the jury members allows for a more engaging analysis and a wider scope of appreciation of the project proposals we receive.

Jurors are called to evaluate on four criteria: Quality, Innovation, Relevance to the Arab Region and Budget. They are given 4 to 6 weeks — depending on the amounts of applications received — to complete their evaluation. The process is automated and the three sets of markings per category are gathered and cross-checked by AFAC's grant management team in preparation for the final selection meeting. These meetings are held in Beirut, at the AFAC office, and are usually over a two day period of intense discussion. Juror committee members remain anonymous to each other until they convene for the final selection meeting. Their identities are disclosed only after the announcement of grantees. The AFAC Board of Trustees reviews the shortlisted selection for final approval.

Since AFAC's inception in 2007 to present, 2013, we have worked with 128 individuals of distinguished reputation in the cultural field. AFAC's jurors include accomplished artists, curators, filmmakers, musicians, actors, playwrights, authors, cultural critics, academics, producers, artistic directors, cultural managers, founders of publishing houses, production labels and art academies. They include journalists, professors, festival directors, community leaders, philanthropists and policy-makers that have played a strong role in shaping and supporting the expression of independent arts and culture in the Arab region.

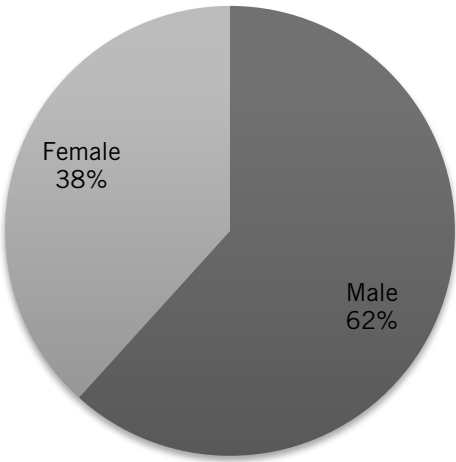


Crossroads juror 2012
Ghassan Salhab

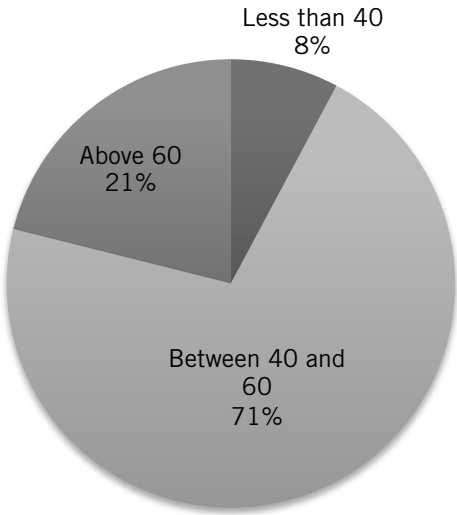
GRAPHS & STATISTICS

AFAC Jurors come from **18** countries, only **8%** have been jurors more than once, and **15%** have also been awarded AFAC grants either before or after the year they served as jurors. The majority of AFAC's jurors are between the age of 40 and 60 with **21 %** above 60 and, **8 %** below 40. Diversity in age group also encourages a healthy discussion and openness towards new trends while upholding the wisdom and experience of seasoned practitioners. **62%** are men and **38%** are women.

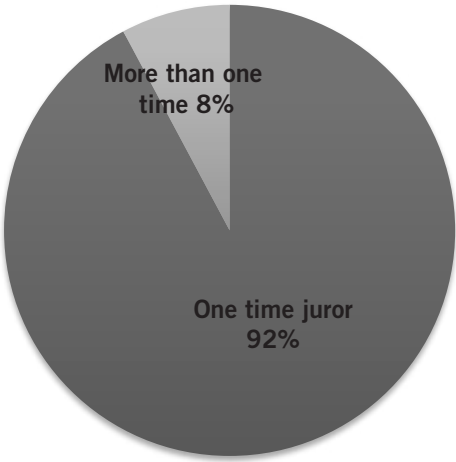
What is the gender ratio of AFAC's jurors?



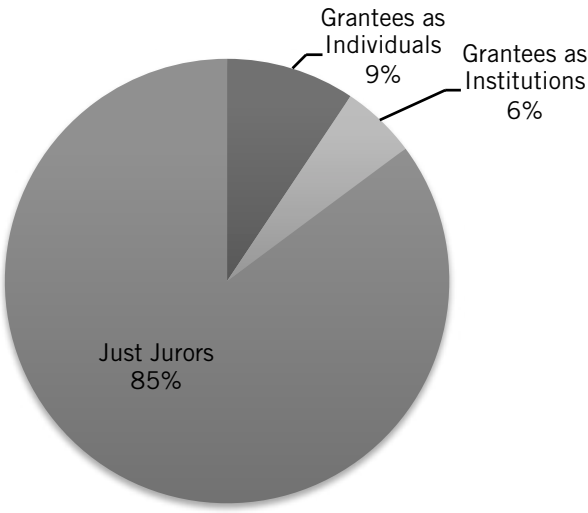
What is the age distribution of AFAC's jurors?



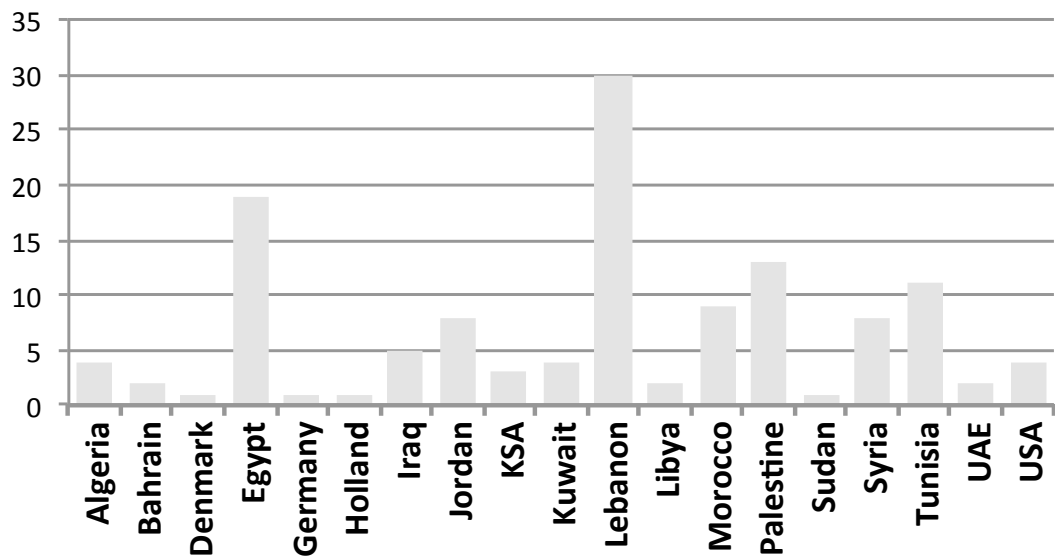
How many jurors have served more than once?



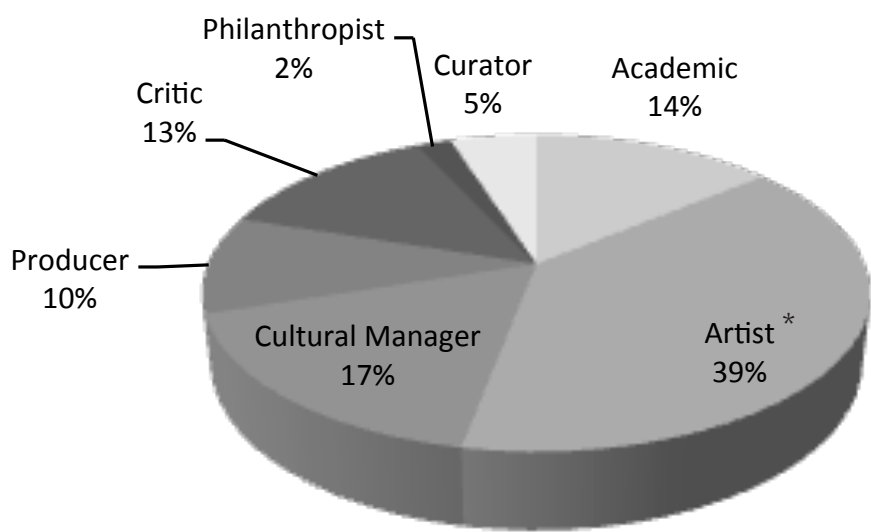
How many jurors have also been grantees?



Jurors by Country



Type of Jurors



* The Type 'Artist' refers to practitioners in the arts, i.e actors, composers, filmmakers, musicians, novelists, poets, painters, sculptors...etc.

LISTS BY CATEGORY



Crossroads juror 2012
Dora Bouchoucha



LITERATURE (22)

Abbas Beydoun (Lebanon)
Abdulkhaleq Abdulla (UAE)
Alaweya Sobh (Lebanon)
Amjad Nasser (Jordan)
Elias Farkouh (Jordan)
Elias Khoury (Lebanon)
Ezzat Al Kamhawi (Egypt)
Ferial Ghazoul (Iraq)
Ibrahim Jaber Ibrahim (Palestine)
Ibrahim Nasrallah (Jordan)
Jaber Asfour (Egypt)
Jamal Al-Ghitany (Egypt)
Khaled Mattawa (Libya)
Khalil Swaileh (Syria)
Mohammed Berrada (Morocco)
Mo'jab Zahrani (KSA)
Najwan Darwish (Palestine)
Nouri Al-Jarrah (Syria)
Rasha Al Amir (Lebanon)
Qassem Haddad (Bahrain)
Samia Mehrez (Egypt)
Taleb Al-Refai (Kuwait)



PERFORMING ARTS (16)

Amin Al Zaoui (Algeria)
Fadi Abi-Samra (Lebanon)
Fadhel Khalel (Iraq)
Issam Bou Khaled (Lebanon)
Jalila Bakkar (Tunisia)
Latifa Lahrarre (Morocco)
Lina Abyad (Lebanon)
Mahmoud El-Lozi (Egypt)
Marie Elias (Syria)
Menha Batraoui (Egypt)
Oussama Ghanam (Syria)
Raed Asfour (Jordan)
Pierre Abi Saab (Lebanon)
Sawsan Darwaza (Jordan)
Sulayman Al-Bassam (Kuwait)
Taoufik Jebali (Tunisia)



VISUAL ARTS (18)

Abdellah Karroum (Morocco)
Ahmad Mualla (Syria)
Asem al-Bacha (Syria)
Bayan Kanoo (Bahrain)
Gilbert Hage (Lebanon)
Kamal Boullata (Palestine)
Mohamed Djehiche (Algeria)
Mohammed Al-Rashdi (KSA)
Nadira Laggoune (Algeria)
Rachida Triki (Tunisia)
Rana Sadik (Kuwait)
Salma Feriani (Tunisia)
Salwa Mikdadi (Palestine)
Samar Martha (Palestine)
Talal Mualla (Syria)
Tarek Abou El Fetouh (Egypt)
Vera Tamari (Palestine)
Zeina Arida (Lebanon)



CINEMA (16)

Ali Abou Shadi (Egypt)
Elia Suleiman (Palestine)
Faouzi Bensaidi (Morocco)
Farida Benlyazid (Morocco)
Ibrahim Ariss (Lebanon)
Marianne Khoury (Egypt)
Michel Khleifi (Palestine)
Moufida Tlatli (Tunisia)
Nadia Kamel (Egypt)
Najib Belkadhi (Tunisia)
Rania Stephan (Lebanon)
Rajaa Ammari (Tunisia)
Rasha Salti (Lebanon)
Ziad Doueiri (Lebanon)
Ziad Khatlan (Iraq)
Wael Abdel Fattah (Egypt)



MUSIC (17)

Ali Osman (Sudan)
Ammar Dajani (Jordan)
Andre Al-Haje (Lebanon)
Azza Madian (Egypt)
Brahim El Mazned (Morocco)
Fathi Salame (Egypt)
Khaled Jubran (Palestine)
Khalid Mohammed Ali (Iraq)
Marcel Khalife (Lebanon)
Marwan Abado (Palestine)
Said Murad (Lebanon)
Sami Ben Said (Tunisia)
Sawsan Jafar (Palestine)
Tarek Atoui (Lebanon)
Tarek Yamani (Lebanon)
Zaid Jabri (Syria)
Zeid Hamdan (Lebanon)

LISTS BY CATEGORY



RTR (20)

Research / Training / Regional

Abdel Rasool Salman (Kuwait)
Abdo Wazen (Lebanon)
Ahmad Baydoun (Lebanon)
Ali Shaath (Egypt)
Ayman Bardawil (Jordan)
Basma El Hussein (Egypt)
Christine Tohme (Lebanon)
Fadhil Al Azzawi (Iraq)
Faouzi Skali (Morocco)
Ferial Ghazoul (Iraq)
Jeryes Samawi (Jordan)
Joumana Al Jabri (KSA)
Laila Hourani (Palestine)
Manal Abaza (Egypt)
Marie-Therese Abdel Messih (Egypt)
Mohammed Makhlouf (Libya)
Nadine Touma (Lebanon)
Nidhal Guiga (Tunisia)
Nizar Rammal (Lebanon)
Ranwa Yehya (Egypt)



SPECIAL PROGRAMS (23)

ADFP (9)
Arab Documentary Film Program
Bruni Burres (USA)
Cara Mertes (USA)
Hani Kalouti (Palestine)
Joanna Hadjithomas (Lebanon)
Joslyn Barnes (USA)
Khalil Benkirane (Morocco)
Kirsten Johnson (USA)
Masoud Amrallah Al-Ali (UAE)
Mohamed Soueid (Lebanon)

AFAC EXPRESS (5)
Faouzia Sahly (Tunisia)
Nidhal Guiga (Tunisia)
Marwa Seoudi (Egypt)
Rola Kobeissi (Lebanon)
Zeina Maasri (Lebanon)

CROSSROADS (5)
Ali Essafi (Morocco)
Dora Bouchoucha (Tunisia)
Ghassan Salhab (Lebanon)
Irit Neidhart (Germany)
Mohammed Soueid (Lebanon)

ADP (4)
AFAC Documentary Program
Habiba Djahnine (Algeria)
Isabel Arrate (Holland)
Mikial Opstrup (Denmark)
Mohammed Soueid (Lebanon)





/ ABBAS BEYDOUN

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** Literature
> **YEAR:** 2007
> **TYPE:** Critic

A prominent contemporary Arab poet. Born in 1945 in southern Lebanon, he studied Arabic Literature at the Lebanese University in Beirut then travelled to Europe to study Islamic Studies at the Sorbonne in France. He worked as editor of the cultural pages for various Lebanese newspapers. He has published several collections of poetry and novels, his first being *Tahlil Damm*, or *Blood Test*, (2002), and his latest novel to date, *Sa3et Takhalli* or, *The Hour of Abandonment* (2012). He has been the editor in chief of the cultural department of the Lebanese daily newspaper, "as-Safir," from 1997 to the present day.



/ ABDEL RASOOL SALMAN

> **COUNTRY:** Kuwait
> **GENRE:** RTR
> **YEAR:** 2008
> **TYPE:** Artist, Cultural Manager

Director of the Kuwait Arts Association since 2004 and of the International Advertising Association (IAA) since 2005, Salman studied in Florida, USA where he got a B.A in Arts in 1998 and continued for a Masters at the University of Central Florida in 2001. He has participated in many judging committees for visual arts and has exhibited locally and internationally since 1975.



/ ABDELLAH KARROUM

> **COUNTRY:** Morocco
> **GENRE:** Visual Arts
> **YEAR:** 2010
> **PREVIOUS YEARS:** 2008
> **TYPE:** Critic; Curator; Cultural manager

Born in 1970, Karroum is a curator, publisher and independent artistic director based in Paris and Rabat. He organized and co-curated numerous international exhibitions and programs for various institutions including; capcMusée d'art contemporain de Bordeaux, where he worked from 1993–1996; the 2006 DAK'ART Biennial for African Contemporary Art; and the 2009 Marrakech Biennale, among others. He is also a member of the Prince Pierre Monaco Foundation's Artistic Council for its International Contemporary Art Prize. Karroum is the founder and artistic director of several art projects, most notably, L'appartement 22, an experimental collaborative space for exhibitions and artists' residencies founded in 2002 in Rabat, Morocco; and the Le Bout Du Monde art expeditions, a long term project which has taken place in different locations around the world since 2000. In 2007, he launched the web radio R22 as an extension of L'appartement 22. Currently, he is the museum director of Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art in Doha, Qatar.



/ ABDO WAZEN

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** RTR
> **YEAR:** 2007
> **TYPE:** Critic; Artist

Born in Beirut in 1957, Wazen is a renowned poet and the cultural editor of the international daily Al-Hayat newspaper. He published his first collection of poetry *Al-Ghaba Al-Muqfala* (*The Locked Forest*) in 1982 and, since then, six others. Copies of his book, *Hadiqat al-Hawas* (*The Garden of Sensation*), published in 1993, were seized by the Lebanese Ministry of Interior on accusations of licentiousness. In 1997, his translation of Jacques Prevert: 50 Poems was published by Dar An-Nahar. He later translated, edited and introduced Nadia Twueini's 20 Poems for a Love: *Diwan al-Hallaj*, receiving high acclaim. His memoir, *Qalb Maftouh* (*An Open Heart*), published in 2010 was written after he underwent a major heart operation and is excerpted in Banipal 40 – Libyan Fiction.



/ ABDULKHALEQ ABDULLA

> **COUNTRY:** UAE
> **GENRE:** Literature
> **YEAR:** 2013
> **TYPE:** Academic

Professor of Political Science at the UAE University, member of Dubai Cultural Council and the General Coordinator of the Gulf Development Forum, he holds a doctorate from Georgetown University in Washington. He is a founder and a member of several professional associations in the cultural field in the UAE, the Gulf and the Arab region. He served as director of studies unit at the Dar Al Khaleej Press, Printing and Publishing, and chief editor of the Journal of Social Affairs. He has published more than 30 academic papers in Arabic and English. His writings include: *The United States and the Dilemma of Security in the Arabian Gulf* (2005), and *Dubai: Journey of an Arab City from Local to Global* (2006) and *Paths of Political Reform in the UAE* (2006).



/ AHMAD BAYDOUN

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** RTR
> **YEAR:** 2010
> **TYPE:** Critic; Artist

Born in 1943, Baydoun is a Lebanese sociologist and writer. He was a professor of sociology at the Institute of Social Sciences at the Lebanese University. He studied in his hometown where he graduated from the Lebanese University with a degree in philosophy. His first book was published in 1988, followed by three other books over the following decade. He has published numerous articles in French and Arabic and served as a founding member of several cultural magazines including *Al-Marqab* and *Kalamon*, both published in Lebanon. He was formerly the President of the Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO and a contributing author for the UNDP's National Human Development Report in Lebanon (2006-2008).



/ AHMAD MUALLA

> **COUNTRY:** Syria
> **GENRE:** Visual Arts
> **YEAR:** 2008
> **TYPE:** Artist; Academic

Syrian painter and arts professor, Mualla obtained a diploma in Visual Communication in 1981 and continued his education in Paris at the National School for Decorative Arts. Mualla returned to Syria and taught at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus University for just under a decade. His works were presented in solo exhibitions as well as group exhibitions in Syria and internationally. Ahmad Mualla is recognized as one of the leading Post-Modern expressionists in the Arab world. Known for his monumental and theatrical paintings and masterly use of color, his career began with figurative painting but he is equally famous for his calligraphic artworks.



/ ALAWIYA SOBH

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** Literature
> **YEAR:** 2011
> **TYPE:** Artist

A Lebanese writer and novelist, she was born in Beirut and studied Arabic and English literature at the Lebanese University. Upon graduation, she pursued a career in teaching and also began publishing articles and short stories in An-Nida newspaper and An-Nahar. She became editor-in-chief of Al-Hasnaa, a popular Arabic women's magazine, in 1986 and launched her own women's magazine in 1990 which runs it to this day. Her debut novel, *Maryam al Hayaka (Maryam the Weaver)*, was published in 2002 and received critical acclaim. *Dunya*, or *Life*, was published in 2006. Her last novel, *Ismuhu Al Hub*, or, *It's Called Love*, was long-listed for the Arabic Booker Prize in 2010. Sobh has also received the Sultan Qaboos prize and has served on the judging panel of the Beirut39 competition. Her work has been translated into various European languages, and has featured in Banipal magazine.



/ ALI ABOU SHADI

> **COUNTRY:** Egypt
> **GENRE:** Cinema
> **YEAR:** 2008
> **TYPE:** Critic; Artist

An Egyptian film critic. He was born in the Egyptian province of Almanoufia. He was the director of the National Egyptian Film Festival since 1998 and director of the Ismailia Film Festival for Short Films and Records since 2002. He was the chairman of the central Censorship Department in Egypt between 1996 and 1999. He had published several books on cinema among which are "Cinema and Politics" and "The Charm of Cinema."



/ ALI ESSAFI

> **COUNTRY:** Morocco
> **GENRE:** Crossroads
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **TYPE:** Artist

A Moroccan filmmaker. His works as a director include *General, Here We Come!* (1997), a documentary about Moroccan veterans of the French army that won the Special Jury Award at the Namur Film Festival in Belgium. His next film, *The Silence of the Root Fields* (1998), was awarded the Grand Prix at the International Festival of Environmental Film & Video in Paris. In 2001, his *Ouarzazat Film* was awarded the Best Mediterranean Documentary at the CMCA, and praised on the international circuit. In 2002, Essafi returned to Morocco where he made other documentaries before getting involved in public television for a 3-year period as an art director. His latest film, *Wanted!*, was commissioned by the 10th Sharjah Biennale and selected by the MoMA's program of the Experimental Arab Film "Mapping Subjectivity." Currently based in Casablanca, he lives between Morocco and Brazil.

/ ALI OSMAN

> **COUNTRY:** Sudan
> **GENRE:** Music
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **TYPE:** Artist

Born in 1958, Ali Osman is a Sudanese composer of contemporary classical music. He has lived in Egypt since 1978 and has been active in Egypt's contemporary music scene. Osman began as a rock musician in 1971 and taught himself to play the drums and the guitar. He studied double bass with Rodney Slatford at the Conservatory of Music in Cairo from 1978-82, and earned his BMus in composition and music theory with distinction and MMus in arts. Among his honors is Third Prize in the Abu Bakr Khairat competition of the Ministry of Culture in Cairo (1995), for Song for Chamber Orchestra and a scholarship from Pro Helvetia to visit Switzerland (2000). His music has been performed in Austria, Egypt, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and the UK.

/ ALI SHAATH

> **COUNTRY:** Egypt
> **GENRE:** RTR
> **YEAR:** 2013
> **TYPE:** Cultural Manager

Founding member of the Arab Digital Expression Foundation – ADEF – a non-profit Arab initiative dedicated to promoting cooperation between technicians, artists and young social activists. The foundation runs summer camps, trainings and workshops for youth that allow for the exchange of knowledge and skills in the fields of documentation, filmmaking, music, graphic design, education and information technology. He spoke of the changes that came from these youth camps at TEDxCairo in 2012. He is a computer engineer, project manager and an inspiring public speaker on ADEF's vision. He passed away unexpectedly on December 4th, 2013.

/ AMINE AL ZAOUI

> **COUNTRY:** Algeria
> **GENRE:** Performing Arts
> **YEAR:** 2010
> **TYPE:** Critic; Academic; Philanthropist

A former Board Member of AFAC and an Algerian novelist. Born in 1956, he has worked as a professor at the University of Oran, teaching Critical Thinking and Cultural Analysis, and a professor at the University of Paris in the department of Women's Studies. At the start of his literary career, Zaoui chose to write in the Arabic language to counterbalance that dominance of francophone works produced in his home country. His first collection of short stories, *And the Waves Come Surging*, (1981) published in Damascus, Syria and reprinted two years later, brought him to the immediate attention of an Arabic-reading public. His works consist of ten novels, written half in French and half in Arabic, as well as two collections of short stories.

/ AMJAD NASSER

> **COUNTRY:** Jordan
> **GENRE:** Literature
> **YEAR:** 2008
> **TYPE:** Artist; Producer

Poet, lyricist, cultural journalist and publisher, Nasser was born in Jordan in 1955 and resides in London since 1987 where he is managing editor and cultural editor of Al-Quds Al-Arabi daily newspaper. He has published numerous works including nine volumes of poetry and a novel. He has also performed poetry readings in many international festivals. Jordanian television has recently produced a documentary about Nasser's life as Arab journalist and poet.

“We chose directors who liberate themselves from the weight of the past and the confusion of the present to create works of singular vision. They are completely taken by the difficult question of where to place the camera when facing urgent and intimate events unfolding before them and they are exploring with personal and original techniques the varying usage of cinematic language to tell their remarkable stories.”

ADFP Jury Committee, 2012



ADFP 2012 jurors **Masoud Amrallah** and **Joanna Hadjithomas** with AFAC's Film Programs Manager **Rima Mismar**.

/ AMMAR DAJANI

> **COUNTRY:** Jordan
> **GENRE:** Music
> **YEAR:** 2013
> **TYPE:** Artist; Producer;
Cultural Manager

A musician and music manager, he is one third of the trio that founded Cairo Jazz Club in 2001. The venue, the first of its kind in Cairo, is recognized as the nucleus of today's vibrant and diverse Egyptian independent music scene. With the partners' involvement in the scene extending well beyond the Club itself, satellite activities and services were formalized in 2010 under the CJC Agency, Cairo Jazz Club's event organizing arm and "live music experts". Dajani was also a founding partner of Studio 32, Cairo's first quality rehearsal studio and music environment. His background is in management and marketing communications, and was once himself an active musician on the independent music scene.

/ ANDRE AL HAJE

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** Music
> **YEAR:** 2008
> **TYPE:** Artist; Academic

A Lebanese oud player, born in 1967, he started learning music at the age of 15 and earned a diploma in oud performance from the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik where he then began to teach in 1989. In 1995, he joined Lebanon's National Conservatory of Music as an Oud Professor and in 2000 he became a member of the Orient-Arabic Orchestra.

/ ASEM AL BACHA

> **COUNTRY:** Syria
> **GENRE:** Visual Arts
> **YEAR:** 2011
> **TYPE:** Artist

Born in Buenos Aires to a Syrian father and an Argentinean mother, Al-Bacha graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus in 1968 and settled in Spain in 1987, where he is currently based in Granada. Al-Bacha has worked as a sculptor, writer and translator for many years. Since his first exhibition in Syria in the mid-1960s, he has been invited to participate in solo and group shows around the world, from Cuba to South Korea. Al-Bacha's works are housed in several private and public collections, both in the Middle East and in Europe. While having experimented with different forms and techniques, Al-Bacha is known for his expressionist sculptures that explore and address the human experience.

/ AYMAN BARDAWIL

> **COUNTRY:** Jordan
> **GENRE:** RTR
> **YEAR:** 2011
> **TYPE:** Producer; Cultural
Manager

Executive director of Radio al-Balad and a civil engineer, Ayman Bardawil has worked in the field of communications and arts managements since 1996. He was the television manager for the educational al-Quds channel in Ramallah and producer of many programs including the Palestinian version of Sesame Street. He has been living in Jordan since 2005 where he manages a capacity building program for the Royal Film Academy.

/ AZZA MADIAN

> **COUNTRY:** Egypt
> **GENRE:** Music
> **YEAR:** 2008
> **TYPE:** Artist; Academic

Egyptian composer, medievalist and music historian, she is the author of Arabic Influence upon Western Medieval Music and Culture. She has worked as the researcher and deputy director at Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

/ BASMA EL HUSSEINY

> **COUNTRY:** Egypt
> **GENRE:** RTR
> **YEAR:** 2008
> **TYPE:** Cultural Manager

Arts manager and cultural activist, El Hussein has been deeply involved in supporting independent cultural projects and organizations in the Arab region for the past 20 years. She was previously the Media, Arts & Culture Program Officer for the Ford Foundation in the Middle East and North Africa, and worked as Arts Manager of the British Council in Egypt. She has also worked as a theatre director, script-writer, organizer of cultural events and arts critic and reviewer, and is also active in the Egyptian women's rights movement, initiating and participating in several campaigns to enhance women's participation in public life. She is currently the Director of Culture Resource (Al Mawred Al Thaqafy), a regional non-profit organization that aims at supporting young artists and writers, and stimulating cultural exchange within the Arab region and with the world.

/ BAYAN KANOO

> **COUNTRY:** Bahrain
> **GENRE:** Visual Arts
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **PREVIOUS YEARS:** 2008
> **TYPE:** Critic

A Bahraini artist and cultural activist, she obtained her BA in Business Administration from the University of Bahrain and founded Al Riwaq Art Gallery in 1998 as a visual arts center and an NGO in her hometown. Her gallery exhibits contemporary art from Bahrain and other countries and organized music and literary events as well as art courses. She has also founded the "Bahrain International Cultural Art Centre" (BICAC) as an initiative dedicated to supporting local institutions, organizations and educational institutions to provide them with artistic training and to further their creative education, particularly for the younger generation. In addition to offering training and exposure to the visual arts, the centre will be dedicated to music, film, theatre, dance, and the new media.

/ BRAHIM EL MAZNEED

> **COUNTRY:** Morocco
> **GENRE:** Music
> **YEAR:** 2013
> **TYPE:** Producer; Cultural Manager

Artistic director of the Timitar Festival of World Music, one of the major events of world music and dedicated largely to Amazigh culture. He was member of the jury of different forums and festivals, such as Babel Med World Music Forum in Marseille, and Sharq Taronalari Samarkand in Uzbekistan since 2005. El Mazneed was named the North Africa regional representative to the Afrifestnet Network, and Maghreb representative to the Office of African Music Export. In recent years, he has initiated over twenty international artistic residencies, participated in the creation of a dozen albums and hundreds of concerts at prestigious festivals and venues around the world. He was elected on 22 March 2013 as a member of the Board of EFWMF (European Forum of Worldwide Music Festivals) the largest network of music festivals in the world.



/ BRUNI BURRES

> **COUNTRY:** USA
> **GENRE:** ADFP
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **TYPE:** Producer; Cultural Manager

A New York-based film producer and consultant whose work focuses primarily on documentary projects exploring contemporary human rights themes. She is a senior consultant with the Sundance Documentary Program (SDP), and a consultant with the Open Society Institute's US National Security and Human Rights Campaign, guiding them towards incorporating arts and culture projects further into their field. She was the co-founder and director of the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival from 1991-2008. Bruni's experience also includes work as an International Marketing Strategist at RM Associates in New York and as an Associate Story Editor at Triad Artists.



/ CARA MERTES

> **COUNTRY:** USA
> **GENRE:** ADFP
> **YEAR:** 2011
> **PREVIOUS YEARS:** 2010
> **TYPE:** Producer; Cultural Manager

The director of Ford Foundation's JustFilms initiative, a global effort that supports emerging and established filmmakers whose works address the most urgent social issues of our time. Before joining the foundation in 2013, she was director of the Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program and Fund. Between 1999 and 2006, she was executive producer Sundance's P.O.V. where she was recognized with eight News and Documentary Emmy Awards, three George Foster Peabody awards, and two duPont-Columbia Awards. Three films executively produced by her have been nominated for Oscars, including *Street Fight*, *My Country, My Country*, and *Nerakoon: Betrayal*.



/ CHRISTINE TOHME

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** RTR
> **YEAR:** 2008
> **TYPE:** Curator; Cultural Manager

A Lebanese art activist, curator and cultural manager born in 1964. She obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Literature from the American University of Beirut and her master's degree in Contemporary Art Theory at the Goldsmiths College in London. In 1994 she co-founded the Lebanese Association for Plastic Arts- Ashkal Alwan- and in 2001, Tohme initiated Home Works: A Forum on Cultural Practices, of which 6 editions have taken place to date. Home Works is a multidisciplinary platform that takes place in Beirut, Lebanon every 2-3 years and has evolved into one of the most vibrant platforms for contemporary cultural practices in the Arab region and internationally. In 2011, Tohme launched the Home Workspace in Beirut, a platform for facilitating artistic research, production and education, and Home Workspace Program (HWP), an annual arts study program at the post-graduate level.



/ DORA BOUCHOUCHA

> **COUNTRY:** Tunisia
> **GENRE:** Crossroads
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **TYPE:** Producer

Since 1994, Dora Bouchoucha has produced and co-produced several Tunisian and foreign documentaries, short and feature films including *Africa Dreaming*, (a series of short African films) *Sabria* by Abderrahmen Sissako, *The Season of Men* by Moufida Tlatli, *Baraket* by Jamila Sahraoui, *Satin Rouge* and *Buried Secrets* both by Raja Amari. Her films have been selected at Venice, Cannes and Berlin. In addition to film production, Dora Bouchoucha founded the Carthage Film Festival Projects' workshop in 1992. She founded the SUD ECRITURE workshops in 1997, which she has been running since. Dora Bouchoucha is actively involved in training and promotion for Southern cinema. She was a permanent member of the International Rotterdam Festival CineMart Board for more than ten years and was consultant for Arab and African films for the selection board of Venice Film Festival from 2007 to 2011. She was head of Carthage Film Festival in 2008 and 2010. In 2010, she was appointed head of Fonds Sud. In 2012, she was appointed President of the CNC "Aide aux Cinémas du Monde".



/ ELIA SULEIMAN

> **COUNTRY:** Palestine
> **GENRE:** Cinema
> **YEAR:** 2011
> **TYPE:** Artist

Born in 1960 in Nazareth, Elia Suleiman lived in New York from 1981 to 1993 where he directed his first two short films : *Introduction to the End of an Argument* and *Hommage by Assassination*, winning numerous awards. In 1994, he moved to Jerusalem, where he established the Film and Media Department at Birzeit University. In the 1996 Venice Film Festival, his first feature film, *Chronicle of a Disappearance*, won the Best First Film Prize while in 2002, *Divine Intervention* won the Jury Prize and the FIPRESCI International Critics Prize of the Cannes Film Festival as well as the Best Foreign Film Prize at the European Awards in Rome. In 2007, he was chosen as one of 35 directors of «To Each His Own Cinema», a collective film for the Cannes Film Festival 60th anniversary. In 2009, *The Time that Remains*, was presented at the official competition of the Cannes Film Festival while his most recent work, a short film called '*Diary of a Beginner*' will be released beginning of next year as part of a collective feature capturing contemporary Cuba called "*7 Days in Havana*". In addition to filmmaking, Suleiman has lectured in many universities, museums and academies. He has been a juror in numerous festivals and has presided over the New Horizons Competition Jury of the Abu Dhabi Film Festival in 2010 where he was awarded the 2009 Black Pearl Award and named the Variety Magazine Middle-East filmmaker of the year. He has authored many scholarly essays on cinema and is currently serving as faculty member of the European Graduate School in Switzerland.



/ ELIAS FARKOUH

> **COUNTRY:** Jordan
> **GENRE:** Literature
> **YEAR:** 2009
> **TYPE:** Artist

A Jordanian writer born in 1948, he acquired a B.A from the Arab University of Beirut in Philosophy and Psychology then worked as a journalist before opening his own publishing house in Amman in 1991. Farkhouh has published six short-story collections and two novels. He has also translated several literary works into the Arabic language.

“Many of the projects we selected were concerned with the current social and political issues of the Arab Region and some were focusing on researching a variety of cultural historical and intellectual subjects. A majority of the projects submitted were created by young and emerging authors whose works were characterized by a contemporary style, experimenting with new forms of writing and new language.”

Literature Jury Committee 2013



Two Literature 2013 jurors, **Dr. Abdulkhaleq Abdulla** and **Rasha Al-Ameer**.



/ ELIAS KHOURY

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** Literature
> **YEAR:** 2007
> **TYPE:** Critic; Artist

A Lebanese novelist, playwright, critic and a prominent public intellectual. He has published ten novels, which have been translated into several foreign languages, as well as several works of literary criticism. He has also written three plays. Between 1993 and 2009 he served as editor of *Al-Mulhaq*, the weekly cultural supplement of the Lebanese daily newspaper *Al-Nahar*.



/ EZZAT AL KAMHAWI

> **COUNTRY:** Egypt
> **GENRE:** Literature
> **YEAR:** 2010
> **TYPE:** Critic; Artist

Born in 1961, Al-Kamhawi is an Egyptian journalist and novelist. He graduated from the department of journalism at Cairo University in 1983 and worked as a journalist in different newspapers - including *Al Ghoumhouriya*, *Al Ahrar*, *Al Akhbar* – and he has worked as the Senior editor of *al-Doha Cultural Magazine*. He writes weekly for *Almasry Alyoum* and *Al-Quds Al-Arabi*. He had published several novels, stories and books. His fourth novel, *Bayt Al-Theeb* (House of the Wolf), was awarded the Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature in 2012, and released in English translation in 2013. His most recent novel, *Al-Ba7r Khalf Al-Satair* (The Sea Behind the Curtains) (2014) was published with Dar al Adab.



/ FADHIL AL AZZAWI

> **COUNTRY:** Iraq
> **GENRE:** RTR
> **YEAR:** 2010
> **TYPE:** Critic; Artist

An Iraqi writer highly respected in the Arab world, Al-Azzawi was born in 1940 and holds a BA in English literature from Baghdad University, Iraq, and a PhD in cultural journalism at Leipzig University, Germany. Al-Azzawi has published seven volumes of poetry, six novels, three books of criticism and memoir, and several translations of German literary works. He participated in Iraq's avant-garde Sixties Generation, and his early controversial work was lauded with great enthusiasm. He also founded the poetry magazine *Shi'r 69*.



/ FADI ABI SAMRA

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** Performing Arts
> **YEAR:** 2013
> **TYPE:** Artist

A prominent actor and director who has worked extensively for Lebanese theatre productions, films and television. Fadi Abi Samra is a graduate of the Lebanese University of Beirut with a master in dramatic arts and theatre studies. He has been director of animation for Future television and has acted in several movies including the award-winning *West Beirut* (1998) as well as *La Maison Rose* (1999) and *Bab al-Shams* (2003) and the latest *Stable/Unstable* (2014). His major plays include *Abajour* (1988), *Jnaynet al-Sanayeh* (1997), *Godot* (2006) and *page 7* (2009).



/ FADIL KHALEL

> **COUNTRY:** Iraq
> **GENRE:** Performing Arts
> **YEAR:** 2011
> **TYPE:** Artist; Academic

A pioneer in Iraqi cinema, theater, and television. Among the prominent founders of the Modern Art Theater Group, he has participated in more than 20 plays as a director and many others as an actor. He writes columns on theater in a number of Iraqi newspapers and Khalel also served as the dean of the Fine Arts Academy in Baghdad in the mid-1990s.



/ FAOUZI BENSAIDI

> **COUNTRY:** Morocco
> **GENRE:** Cinema
> **YEAR:** 2011
> **TYPE:** Artist; Cultural Manager

Faouzi Bensaïdi worked as a director and actor in theater before making his first short film, *The Cliff* (1997), which won 23 festival prizes. In 1999, he co-wrote the script for André Téchiné's *Far*. In 2000, he directed two shorts: Cannes winner *The Wall* and Venice winner *Rain Line*. His 2003 feature debut *A Thousand Months* won two prizes at Cannes and was followed in 2006 by *WWW – What a Wonderful World*. His latest feature, *Death for Sale*, premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2011.



/ FAOUZI SKALI

> **COUNTRY:** Morocco
> **GENRE:** RTR
> **YEAR:** 2009
> **TYPE:** Academic

Born in 1953, Dr. Faouzi Skali, an anthropologist and an ethnologist; he is a professor from the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Fes; an author of many publications including *La Voie Soufi (The Soufi Path)*, *Traces de Lumiere (Traces of Light)* and *Le Face à Face des Cœurs: Le soufisme aujourd'hui (A Dialogue of hearts: Sufism Today)*, he is the Director of the Fes Festival of World Sacred Music. Skali has taken the Festival a step further by coordinating a colloquium to follow the festival called Giving Soul to Globalization, a meeting place for humanitarians and international leaders in the business world to work together to develop more space for spirituality in the working world.



/ FAOUZIA SAHLY

> **COUNTRY:** Tunisia
> **GENRE:** AFAC Express
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **TYPE:** Cultural Manager; Curator

Former chief of staff to the Tunisian ministry of social affairs and the Tunisian ministry of women between 1993 and 1995, president of the National Commission for the purchase of works of art for the Tunisian Ministry of Culture from 1995 in 2004, Fawziya El-Saheli also worked as a consultant for various international exhibitions including Expo Water for Sustainable Development - SAROGOZA 2008 and various shows for arts and crafts. She participated in several jury committees in the field of plastic arts and craftsmanship in Tunisia. Since July 2010 she is founding member of the B'chira Art Center.



/ FARIDA BENLYAZID

> **COUNTRY:** Morocco
> **GENRE:** Cinema
> **YEAR:** 2011
> **PREVIOUS YEARS:** 2007
> **TYPE:** Artist

A Moroccan film director, screenwriter, producer, theater director, documentary filmmaker and journalist. She is one of the first and few female directors from the Maghreb. Born in 1948, she wrote the screenplays for the Mohamed Abderrahman Tazi feature films *Badis* (1988) and *A la recherche du mari de ma femme* (1993), which is still one of the commercially most successful Moroccan films. Starting from *Une porte sur le ciel* (1989), which tells the story of a female recapture of long lost traditions, to the colorful tale of *Women's Wiles* (1999), up to the dark film adaptation of *Casablanca, Casablanca* (2002) and the homage to a mythic city in *Juanita de Tanger* (2005), her films capture Morocco through the stories of its women.

/ FATHI SALAME

> **COUNTRY:** Egypt
> **GENRE:** Music
> **YEAR:** 2009
> **TYPE:** Artist; Producer

An Egyptian musician and composer, he began learning to play the piano at the age of six. He later travelled to Europe and New York to study jazz with some prominent musicians such as Barry Harris, Sun Ra, Roman Bunka, Malik Osman, Hal Galper, Ossman Kareem and Pat Patrick. He made plenty of hits in Cairo during the 80's, and has won two prizes for his film sound tracks for *Fallen Angels Paradise's* and *Signs Of April*, it is with Sharkiat (his own group) that Fathy is making his dreams come true of merging modern and traditional music together, thus expressing both a message from his home country and his love of music. His music reflects his experience from the Orient and from Europe. He works tirelessly on this bridge linking traditional and modern music from the Orient.

/ Ferial GHAZOUL

> **COUNTRY:** Iraq
> **GENRE:** RTR
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **PREVIOUS YEARS:** 2010
> **TYPE:** Academic

AFAC Board member, Ghazoul is a noted Iraqi scholar, critic and translator. She was educated in Iraq, Lebanon, Britain, France and the USA. She obtained her PhD in comparative literature from Columbia University in 1978. Currently, she is chair and professor of English and comparative literature at the American University in Cairo. Ghazoul has a number of significant publications. Her principal research interests are comparative literature and postcolonial studies, and she has written numerous scholarly articles, book reviews and book chapters on these topics. She is the founding editor of *Alif: A Journal of Comparative Poetics*, one of the AUC's flagship journals.

/ GHASSAN SALHAB

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** Crossroads
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **PREVIOUS YEARS:** 2008
> **TYPE:** Artist

In addition to making his own films, Ghassan Salhab collaborates on various scenarios in Lebanon and in France, and teaches film in Lebanon. He has directed four long films : *Beyrouth Fantôme* (selected by Trois Continents/Nantes 1998 and various international film festivals), *Terra Incognita* (selected by Sélection Officielle/«Un Certain Regard » - Cannes 2002, and by several other international film festivals), *The Last Man* (selected by « Cinéastes du Présent » - Locarno 2006, Montpellier, Torino, Dubai, Singapore, Tribeca, "Tous les cinemas du monde" – Cannes 2007), and *1958* (selected by FID Marseille, Locarno, MEIFF Abu Dhabi), in addition to numerous short films and videos, including *(Posthume)*; *Narcisse Perdu*; *My living body, my dead body*; *La Rose de personne*; *Baalbeck* (co-directed with A. Zaatari and M. Soueid); *Afrique Fantôme*; *Après la Mort*. He has also published articles in various magazines.



/ GILBERT HAGE

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** Visual Arts
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **TYPE:** Artist; Academic

A Lebanese photographer, he studied at the Université Saint-Esprit de Kaslik and teaches there since 1990. He also teaches at the Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts ALBA. He often collaborates with curator and researcher Ghada Waked, his wife and is co-publisher and co-editor, with Jalal Toufic, of Underexposed Books. From the beginning of the 1990s, Gilbert Hage has been exploring various forms and themes in photography. Far from remaining confined within Lebanon's borders, Gilbert Hage has exhibited his works in Syria, France, Germany, Brazil, England, Hungary, Spain and Austria.



/ HABIBA DJAHNINE

> **COUNTRY:** Algeria
> **GENRE:** ADP
> **YEAR:** 2013
> **TYPE:** Curator; Producer

An Algerian documentary films producer, curator of international film festivals, writer, essayist and feminist. Djahnine was born in 1968 in Tizi Ouzou. In the nineties, she was one of the prominent feminists in her country, together with her sister who was killed by Islamic fundamentalists during the Algerian Civil War. After the civil war, Djahnine co-founded Association Kaina Cinema and, in 2007, she established the Cinema et Memoire Association. She also published a volume of poetry "*Outre-Mort*" (*Beyond Death*). Since 2003, Djahnine has been a consultant and curator for several international film festivals, like Rencontres Cinematographiques de Bejaia where fifty to sixty new films are presented annually. With her own atelier, Bejaia Doc, she offers film education to young Algerians with attention to all facets of the profession: film history, production, distribution and film scripting. In 2012 she won the Prince clause Award for her part in reviving Algerian cinema and for 'creating sensitive, challenging and insightful documentaries on contemporary realities.'



/ HANI KALOUTI

> **COUNTRY:** Palestine
> **GENRE:** ADFP
> **YEAR:** 2009
> **TYPE:** Philanthropist

An art patron and cultural philanthropist. Hani has a B. S. degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an MBA from Syracuse University, New York. He worked for Citibank in 1981 and was the chief investment officer of Citibank's Swiss Private Bank in Geneva. Since 1996, Kalouti has founded and presided over HBK Investments Advisory. He is also a founding board member of the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture, since 2007.



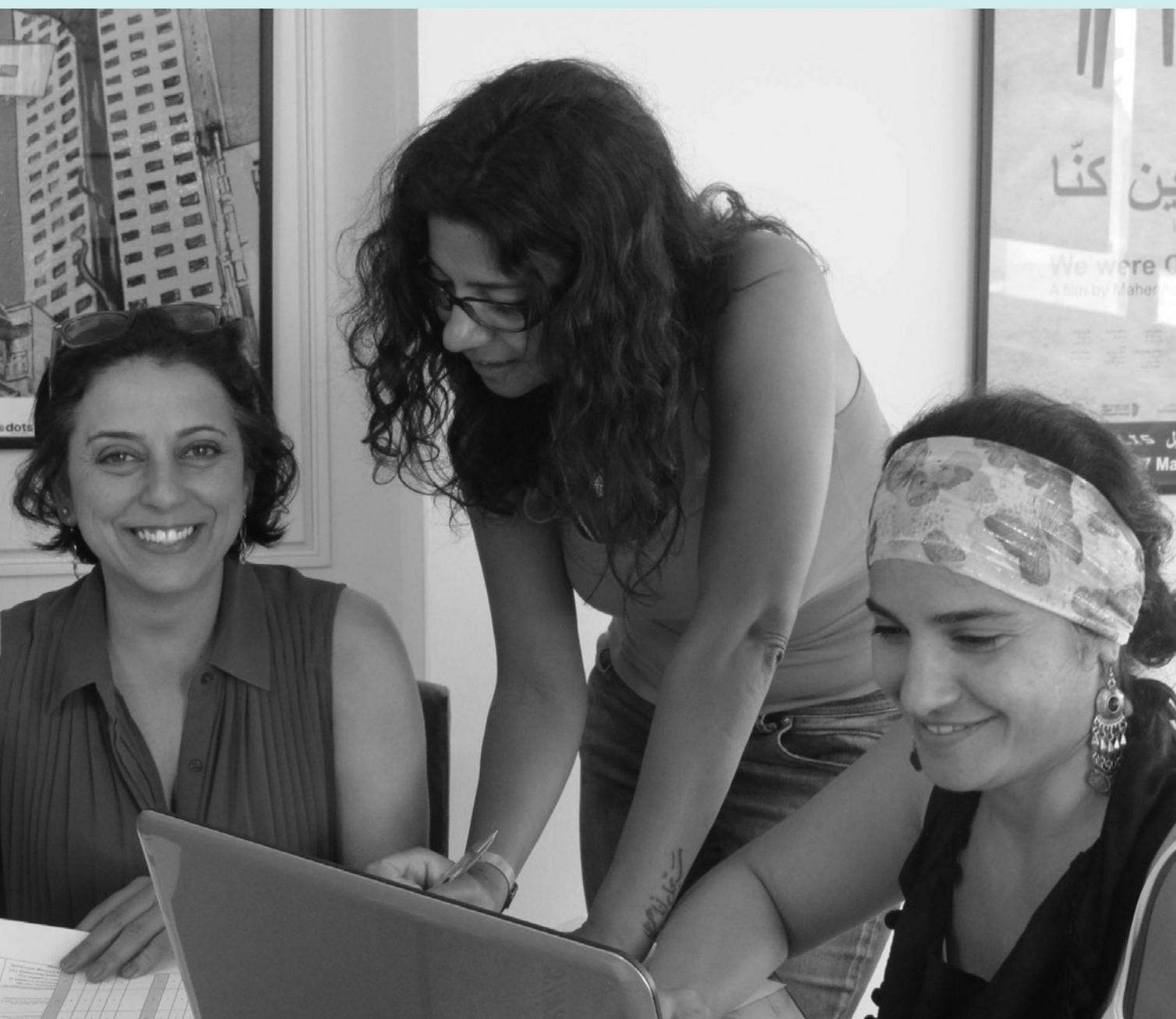
/ IBRAHIM AL ARISS

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** Cinema
> **YEAR:** 2008
> **TYPE:** Critic

A Lebanese critic, translator, historian and journalist born in 1946. At the start of his career he worked as a set designer and then as an assistant director. Al Ariss took part in writing film scripts for a number of films. He studied film directing in Rome and script writing and criticism in London. He has been working in journalism since 1970 and has been cultural editor with several Arabic newspapers. Al Ariss now heads the cinema section of "Al Hayat" newspaper, where he also writes a daily column on human heritage and world cultural history. He founded and headed two monthly magazines: "Al Masira" and "Al Maqasid". He has published more than 15 books on cinema, journalism and culture.

“Artists are reacting to the general state of turmoil and amnesia caused by wars, disappearances and diasporas by focusing on reviving elements of individual and collective memories such as photographs of archival documents and abandoned places; one way to reclaim, through art, a common space that is fading into oblivion.”

Visual Arts Jury Committee, 2013



Visual Arts 2013 juror **Samar Martha** with AFAC Grant's Manager **Racha Salah** and Grant's Coordinator **Cathy Khattar**.



/ IBRAHIM JABER IBRAHIM

> **COUNTRY:** Palestine
> **GENRE:** Literature
> **YEAR:** 2007
> **TYPE:** Critic; Artist

Born in 1966, Ibrahim is a Palestinian novelist, playwright and journalist. He was educated in Morocco where he obtained a college degree in 1987. He is a journalist and columnist for the “Emirates Today” newspaper based in Dubai, and contributes political and cultural essays to several other Arab online and printed publications including Al-Dastoor, Al-Liwa, and the Oman Cultural Magazine. He has also been a writer for “Al-Arab Al-Yowm” since this publication was first launched up until 2007. He has also been editor in chief of the weekly Al-Ahaly Paper and the monthly ‘Al-Hasad’ Magazine.



/ IBRAHIM NASRALLAH

> **COUNTRY:** Jordan
> **GENRE:** Literature
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **PREVIOUS YEARS:** 2009
> **TYPE:** Artist; Academic

A Jordanian professor, photographer, painter and poet. Born in 1954, he studied at the UN Agency for Palestinian Refugees and went to their Teacher Training College before acquiring a position as a teacher in Saudi Arabia. He worked as a journalist for just under 20 years and is considered one of the most influential and widely read contemporary Arab authors. His works are acclaimed by general readers and critics alike. Nasrallah has published several volumes of poetry, novels, children's books, as well as monographs nonfiction publications about literature and poetry in the Arab world. He has won several prizes and has been regularly long-listed and short-listed for the Arabic Prize for Arabic Literature. His works has been translated to many languages.



/ IRIT NEIDHART

> **COUNTRY:** Germany
> **GENRE:** Crossroads
> **YEAR:** 2011
> **TYPE:** Artist; Producer

German-born filmmaker dedicated to Middle Eastern cinema, Irit Neidhardt currently runs ‘mec film’ (middle eastern cinemas), a distribution company for films exclusively from the Middle East. She has worked as a dramaturgical consultant together with Sayed Kashua for the film “*Dancing Arabs*” and on the screenplay adaptation of his novel “*Let it Be Morning*”. Her theatrical catalogue also includes films like “Rana’s Wedding” by Hany Abu Assad and “*Atash*” (Thirst) by Tawfik Abu Wael. In World Cinema sales, mec film distributes Simon El Habre’s “*The One Man Village*” and others. Irit is associate producer of Mahmoud al-Massad’s award winning feature-documentary “*Recycle*” and co-producer of Simon el-Habre’s highly acclaimed “*The One Man Village*” as well as his latest “*Gate #5*”. She is a curator, consultant and author of various articles on subjects related to cinema and the Middle East.



/ ISABEL ARRATE

> **COUNTRY:** Holland
> **GENRE:** ADP
> **YEAR:** 2013
> **TYPE:** Critic; Cultural Manager

Isabel Arrate Fernandez is the manager of the IDFA Bertha Fund (formerly known as Jan Vrijman Fund) since 2002. She has an MA in Film Studies from the University of Amsterdam, and worked in festival production, programming and film financing before joining IDFA. As head of the IDFA Bertha Fund she has participated in juries and works regularly as consultant for documentary projects. In 15 years the IDFA Bertha Fund has developed into an internationally renowned institution with a broad network supporting over 500 documentaries projects and film organisations in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, the Middle-East and Latin America.



/ ISSAM BOU KHALED

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** Performing Arts
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **TYPE:** Artist

Lebanese actor and director with a wide scope of performing experience for stage, TV and cinema. His filmography includes *Bullet Time* (2010), *Carlos the Jackal episode 1.3* (2010), *Un Homme Perdu* (2007), *Falafel* (2006), *Maarek Hob* (1999) and *Autour de la Maison Rose* (1999). He directed many plays, the most known are *Archipelago* (1999), *Maaarch* (2004), *Page 7* (2007), *World without voice* (2007), *Banajfsaj* (2009) and most recently *Black Box* (2013).



/ JABER ASFOUR

> **COUNTRY:** Egypt
> **GENRE:** Literature
> **YEAR:** 2007
> **TYPE:** Academic

A prominent Egyptian Professor born in 1944, he obtained his PhD from the Arabic Department at the Faculty of Arts at Cairo University with first honor distinction in 1973 and is currently assisting dean at the Faculty of Literature at Kuwait University. He is also head of Egypt's National Center for Translation, General Secretary of the Higher Council for Culture, and the director of the Arabic Department at the Faculty of Literature at Cairo University. Asfour has received several scientific awards for his accomplishments.



/ JALILA BAKKAR

> **COUNTRY:** Tunisia
> **GENRE:** Performing Arts
> **YEAR:** 2008
> **TYPE:** Artist

A Tunisian actress and playwright. Born in 1952, she co-founded the first private theatre company in Tunisia, the New Theatre, together with her husband Fadhel Jaibi. In 1993, they collaborated together with theatre producer Habib Belhadi to found the Familia Production Company. Baccar has become a guardian of liberty and an icon for enlightened Tunisians.



/ JAMAL AL GHITANY

> **COUNTRY:** Egypt
> **GENRE:** Literature
> **YEAR:** 2009
> **TYPE:** Artist

An Egyptian editor, journalist, novelist and short story writer. Born in 1945, he began writing at a young age, publishing his first short story at the age of 14. Since becoming a journalist in 1969, el-Ghitani has continued to write historical fiction and has maintained an active pen on current cultural and political topics. Ghitany has worked as editor-in-chief of *Al Akhbar*, and *Akhbar Al-Adab*, one of Egypt's primary literary magazines, since 1993. He has won several prizes, including the State Merit Novel Award (1980), Knight of French Legion of Honour French Award for translated literature "Laure Bataillon" for his giant work *Kitâb al-Tagalliyyât* or *Book of Illuminations*, in 2005. In 2009, he was awarded the Sheikh Zayed Book Award for *Rinn*, *Dafater Al-Tadween* (*Ring, Notebooks*). Many of his works were translated into French, Swedish, English, Dutch, German, and Italian.



/ JERYES SAMAWI

> **COUNTRY:** Jordan
> **GENRE:** RTR
> **YEAR:** 2009
> **TYPE:** Artist; Cultural Manager

A Jordanian poet, writer and translator. He has worked as Director of the Jerash Festival of Culture and the Arts from 2001 to 2006 and served as Secretary General of the Ministry of Culture and then Minister of Culture. Jeryes studied English Literature, philosophy and communication art in the U.S.A and Jordan. He wrote in several Arabic newspapers and magazines. Some of his poems were translated into English, French and Italian languages.



/ JOANNA HADJITHOMAS

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** ADFP
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **TYPE:** Artist; Producer

Lebanese film director, screenwriter and producer. She often collaborates with Khalil Joreige. *A Perfect Day* (2005) is one of their most acclaimed films, and earned them the Don Quixote Award and the FIPRESCI Prize at the Locarno International Film Festival. They also received acclaim for *Around the Pink House*, which was Lebanon's official Best Foreign Language Film submission at the 72nd Academy Awards. The directors have also created several photographic and video installations such as *The Wonder Beirut Project*, *The Circle of Confusion and Faces*, and filmed experimental videos such as *Don't Walk*, *Lasting Images*, *Distracted Bullets or Rounds*. Their work has been exhibited in a number of art galleries, centers and international museums in individual and collective exhibits. They are also the authors of the publications *Bayreuth: Fictions Urbaines*, *A State of Latency*, *Tels des Oasis dans le Désert* and *Aida Save Me* and have taught scriptwriting and experimental cinema for 15 years in Lebanon. In 2009 Joana Hadjithomas was an AFAC ADFP grantee for her *Lebanese Rocket Society Film*. In 2010, Hadjithomas and Joreige were invited as artists and professors by the Fresnoy Studio National des Arts. In 2012 she won the prestigious Abraaj Capital Art Prize.



/ JOSLYN BARNES

> **COUNTRY:** USA
> **GENRE:** ADFP
> **YEAR:** 2011
> **TYPE:** Artist; Producer

An award-winning screenwriter and producer, she has authored and co-authored numerous commissioned screenplays for feature films, including the upcoming epic, *'Toussaint'*, and the award-winning film, *'Battu'*, directed by Cheikh Oumar Sissoko for which she was also associate producer. Since co-founding Louverture Films with Danny Glover in 2005, Barnes has executively produced or produced the features *'Bamako'*, *'Salt of this Sea'*, *'Trouble the Water'*, *'Soundtrack for a Revolution'* (shortlisted for the Oscars), *'Dum Maaro Dum'*, and the award-winning *'Black Power Mixtape'*. Barnes associate produced Elia Suleiman's *'The Time that Remains'* and the 2010 Cannes Palme d'Or winner *'Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives'* by Apichatpong Weerasethakul. Barnes also wrote and directed the short film *'Prana'* for Ciné-télé France as part of an internationally distributed series of 30 short films to promote awareness on environmental issues. She has also served as an expert consultant and program officer at the United Nations.

“We found that projects received in the RTR category are truly a reflection of society’s needs. They are community-centered, seeking to develop and deepen the understanding of one’s environment through creative and interactive means. They are responding to current changes in order to plant promising seeds for the future.”

RTR Jury Committee, 2013



RTR 2013 jurors **Joumana Jabri, Ali Shaath* and Nadine Touma**

**Our sincerest condolences to Ali Shaath who passed away on December 4th, 2013 His passion and dedication for empowering a new generation of Arabs will be deeply missed.*



/ JOUMANA AL JABRI

> **COUNTRY:** KSA
> **GENRE:** RTR
> **YEAR:** 2013
> **TYPE:** Cultural Manager

Co-founder of Visualizing Impact, an organization dedicated to using graphic design to promote factual narratives of equality and dignity, she is a knowledge and development architect based in Beirut and Dubai. She graduated with a bachelor of Architecture and a bachelor of Fine Arts from Rhode Island School of Design. She developed her architectural skills in Beirut where she worked with Pierre Khoury Architects and Bernard Khoury. She completed her executive MBA with the EuroMBA program. Co-founder of Febrik, a non-profit organization registered in Beirut, she works in close collaboration with other architects and designers based in Beirut and London on projects addressing the dynamics and practices of public spaces and their users in relation to social and urban change. She has contributed to publications of which Abitare magazine and Y08: The Skira Yearbook of World Architecture. She has also collaborated on a mobility project for the Rotterdam International Architecture Biennale in 2003.



/ KAMAL BOULLATA

> **COUNTRY:** Palestine
> **GENRE:** Visual Arts
> **YEAR:** 2011
> **TYPE:** Artist

Born in Jerusalem in 1948, Boullata is a Palestinian artist and an authority on Arab art history. His works as a painter are primarily done in acrylic and are abstract in style, often merging geometric form with Arabic calligraphy. He explores themes of separation and alienation in Palestinian identity. He studied at the Fine Arts Academy in Rome and at the Corcoran Gallery School of Art in Washington DC, and was awarded Fulbright Senior Scholarships to conduct research on Islamic art in Morocco in 1993 and 1994. He has been exhibited throughout Europe, the United States and the Middle East.



/ KHALED JUBRAN

> **COUNTRY:** Palestine
> **GENRE:** Music
> **YEAR:** 2010
> **PREVIOUS YEARS:** 2008
> **TYPE:** Artist

A Palestinian oud and buzuq player born in 1961 in Galilee, he is an educator and a music theorist. In 1994 he founded and headed the Arabic music department of the Palestinian National Conservatory of Music in Ramallah as well as being a member of its Oriental Music Ensemble. In 2000, he founded the Urmawi Centre for Mashriq Music, named after the Abbassid musician. An independent institution, the centre brings together Palestinian musicians, teachers and students, preserving existing or potential practitioners' knowledge of the musical heritage, producing contemporary music and putting on performances throughout the country.



/ KHALED MATTAWA

> **COUNTRY:** Libya
> **GENRE:** Literature
> **YEAR:** 2009
> **TYPE:** Artist; Academic

A Libyan writer, poet and professor. Born in 1964, he is also a prominent literary translator of Arabic poetry into English. Mattawa completed his bachelor's degree in political science and economics from the University of Tennessee then went on to earn an MA in English and an MFA in creative writing from Indiana University where he taught creative writing. Mattawa is currently teaching in the Graduate Creative Writing Program at the University of Michigan. He has published poetry books, translations and 2 anthologies of Arab American Literature. Mattawa is the 2010 recipient of the Academy of American Poets Fellowship, he also received a Guggenheim fellowship, the PEN American Center Poetry Translation Prize, three Pushcart Prizes and other prizes. In 2014, Mattawa was elected a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets.



/ KHALED MOHAMMED ALI

> **COUNTRY:** Iraq
> **GENRE:** Music
> **YEAR:** 2009
> **TYPE:** Artist

Oud player, born in Mosul, Iraq, in 1961. He began playing the oud as early as 1969 when his uncle, Fadhil Hamdoun, showed him the basics, and he went on to study with Akram Ahmed Habib. However, by 1972 he had decided to shift his focus to the violin, although the oud would remain an important part of his life. Ali composed his first piece of music in 1977, and this paved the way towards a highly successful career as a composer, especially of film music. In 2008 he was awarded a prize by the Arab League for best musical composition. Ali's first solo oud album, *Awtar Haera*, appeared in 1994, followed by a number of CDs with oud and Arab ensemble. He has recently made several recordings of oud with orchestra, and has been working on a collaborative project with Lebanese oud player Charbel Rouhana and Azeri mugham singer Alim Qasimov.



/ KHALIL BENKIRANE

> **COUNTRY:** Morocco
> **GENRE:** ADFP
> **YEAR:** 2011
> **TYPE:** Producer; Cultural manager

He holds a BA from San Francisco State University in film studies and production. He directed the Arab Film Festival, Cinemayaat in San Francisco from 1998 to 2002, has curated Arab films for a range of institutions and has collaborated with various cinémathèques. He produced and directed his first feature documentary "*The White Thread*" in 2006 and run the documentary section of the Casablanca International Film Festival in 2007. Khalil moved to Doha, Qatar in early 2008 to produce films for Al Jazeera Children's Channel until the end of 2010 and currently heads the grant unit of the Film Financing Department at the Doha Film Institute.



/ KHALIL SWEILEH

> **COUNTRY:** Syria
> **GENRE:** Literature
> **YEAR:** 2013
> **TYPE:** Critic; Artist

A Syrian novelist and journalist, Khalil Sweileh was born in Al-Hasakah District and studied literature at the Damascus University. He has worked for a number of cultural publications in various capacities and has published several novels since 1995. In 1996, Khalil has also experiment with writing for television in collaboration with some of Syria's foremost actors and directors, including the renowned Khaled Taja. Sweileh received the Naguib Mahfouz Medal in 2009 for his novel *The Scribe of Love*. In his acceptance speech, Sweileh mentioned that as a village boy, his chance discovery of a tattered copy of Mahfouz's novel *Khufu's Wisdom* was partly responsible for inspiring his love of literature. His previous novels include *Express Mail* (2004), *Do Not Blame Me* (2006), and *Zuhur, Sara, and Nariman* (2008). Sweileh's novels are honest explorations of the relationship between cultural practitioners - novelists, playwrights, actors - and the societies in which they live. His latest novel, *Saya'teek al-Ghazal (The Gazelle will Come to You)*, won an AFAC literature grant and was published in 2011. He was selected to participate as a literary Juror for AFAC in 2013.



/ KIRSTEN JOHNSON

> **COUNTRY:** USA
> **GENRE:** ADFP
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **TYPE:** Artist

An award-winning New York-based documentary filmmaker and cinematographer known for her versatility and fairness. She graduated from Brown University in 1987, with a BA in Fine Arts and Literature. After two years in West Africa working on local fiction and documentary film projects, she attended the FEMIS (the French National Film School) in Paris. Since graduating from the FEMIS cinematography department in 1994, her first film was *Foreign Body* produced in 1996 and her 1999 film *Innocent Until Proven Guilty* which examines the numbers of African American men in the U.S. criminal justice system. Her film credits include *Derrida* (2002) a documentary on the French philosopher, *Deadline* (2004) which premiered at Sundance 2004 and was picked up for an NBC primetime broadcast. *Asylum*, a short documentary, she shot in Ghana, was also nominated for an Academy Award in 2004. The 2006 documentary *Darfur Now*, and the 2008 *Pray The Devil Back to Hell* which won the Tribeca Film Festival Best Documentary are also part of her repertoire. Her most recent work is *The Oath*, directed by Laura Poitras, about Osama bin Laden's driver, Abu Jandal, for which Johnson won an award from Sundance.



/ LAILA HOURANI

> **COUNTRY:** Palestine
> **GENRE:** RTR
> **YEAR:** 2008
> **TYPE:** Artist; Cultural Manager

A Palestinian novelist and cultural facilitator, she worked as the British Council Regional Manager for Creativity for the Near East and North Africa, contributing to drawing the strategy of the British Council in the area of creativity and supervising the arts file. Hourani has over fifteen years' experience of working in Arts, Culture and media. She is currently Program Officer for Arts, Culture & Media at the Ford Foundation, based in Egypt and overseeing the Middle East and North African region. Hourani has academic training in television journalism and worked as communication and media assistant in UNICEF Syria. She has also published cultural essays in many Arab newspapers and magazines.

“Arab musicians are seeking to develop different types of modern music, in parallel with the traditional and classical Arabic ones. There is a lot of chaos and experimentation at the moment, allowing the coexistence of good and bad music at the same time. This is fertile ground, where new experimentations and collaborations, with varying results. It is also pushing listeners to compare and experience new music and to develop a taste for contemporary sounds.”

Music Jury Committee, 2013



Music 2013 jurors **Brahim El-Mazned, Ammar Dajani and Tarek Yamani**



/ LATIFA LAHRARRE

> **COUNTRY:** Morocco
> **GENRE:** Performing Arts
> **YEAR:** 2011
> **TYPE:** Artist

A controversial theatre and film actor who has participated in numerous films and popular television sit-coms, she won several awards in national and regional festivals. Her works and public appearances have focused on physicality and the female body, often challenging social taboos, for which she has gained much notoriety among more conservative circles. She studied physical expression and personification techniques at the Center for Theatrical Formations in Rabat.



/ LINA ABYAD

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** Performing Arts
> **YEAR:** 2011
> **TYPE:** Artist; Academic

A Lebanese stage director. She has a Doctorate in Theater Studies, from Sorbonne Nouvelle, in France. She is an assistant professor of communication arts (theater) and fundamentals of oral communication at LAU–Beirut. She has been staging plays at LAU and in professional theaters. She has adapted and translated several plays to Arabic. She has directed different acting workshops in Beirut and the region.



/ MAHMOUD EL LOZY

> **COUNTRY:** Egypt
> **GENRE:** Performing Arts
> **YEAR:** 2013
> **TYPE:** Artist; Academic

An actor, stage director, playwright, and professor of drama at the American University in Cairo (AUC). After obtaining a B.A. and an M.A. in English and Comparative Literature from AUC, he moved to the USA where he obtained his Ph.D. in Dramatic Art at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He has written on contemporary Egyptian theatre and playwrights with a special focus on the issue of censorship. El Lozy has directed and acted for the stage in English, French and Arabic.



/ MANAL ABAZA

> **COUNTRY:** Egypt
> **GENRE:** RTR
> **YEAR:** 2011
> **TYPE:** Academic

A cultural research and a sociology professor at the American University of Cairo, Egypt. Abaza is an activist and a social work for development and NGO's and she has been working in this field for over a decade. As of 2008, Abaza has been the manager of the Cairo-based Consulting and Training Center for Supporting Development.

/ MARCEL KHALIFE

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** Music
> **YEAR:** 2007
> **TYPE:** Artist

Lebanese composer, singer and oud player. Born in 1950, Khalife studied the oud at the Beirut National Conservatory of Music and graduated in 1971 where he then taught until 1975. He also taught in public universities and other private music institutions. In 1976, he created Al Mayadeen Ensemble and became famous all over the world for songs like *Ummi (My Mother)*, *Rita w'al-Bunduqiya (Rita and the Rifle)* and *Jawaz al-Safar (Passport)*, based on Mahmoud Darwish's poetry. In 1999 he was granted the Palestine Award for Music. In turn, he contributed the financial portion of the award to the National Conservatory of Music at Birzeit University in Palestine. In 2005, Khalife was named UNESCO Artist for Peace.

/ MARIANNE KHOURY

> **COUNTRY:** Egypt
> **GENRE:** Cinema
> **YEAR:** 2008
> **TYPE:** Artist; Producer

A Cairo-based filmmaker and producer. Despite an educational background in Economics, she gravitated towards the cinema world soon after graduating. She directed her first documentary film, *The Times of Laura*, in 1999 followed by *Women Who Loved Cinema* in 2002 and *Shades* which was an official entry in the Venice Film Festival 2010. She's a key figure at Misr International Films and the one to set up the Panorama of the European Film in Cairo in 2004. She kicked off Misr Film Focus which is dedicated to the development and production of films made by emerging Egyptian talents.

/ MARIE ELIAS

> **COUNTRY:** Syria
> **GENRE:** Performing Arts
> **YEAR:** 2009
> **TYPE:** Critic; Academic

A Syrian author, translator, workshop facilitator and professor of literature and theater. She teaches at Damascus University, Faculty of Arts, Department of French Language and Literature and at the Saint Joseph, University Beirut, Lebanon. She also lectured at the Institute of Dramatic Art in Damascus, Theater Studies Section, until 2007. Marie Elias facilitates and directs interactive theater projects based on stories inspired from the oral tradition. She holds the Palmes Academiques Chevalier Award and the Commandeur Award in recognition of her research missions, writings, translations and management of cultural projects. She is the Artistic Director of the Interactive Theatre in Public Schools initiative which was launched in 2009.

/ MARIE-THERESE ABDEL MESSIH

> **COUNTRY:** Egypt
> **GENRE:** RTR
> **YEAR:** 2010
> **TYPE:** Critic; Academic

Professor of English & Comparative Literature at the University of Cairo. She studied at the Universities of Cairo, Essex, and Madrid, and was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Kent. In addition to her own works, she has published a number of translations of creative and critical texts from Arabic and English, and authored several books. Judge for the State Fiction and Arts Prizes, the Writer's Union Fiction Prize and the Sawiris Fiction Prize. Member of the International Advisory Board & Associate Editors of CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture; The Advisory Board of the National Centre for Translation; The European Network of Comparative Literary Studies (ENCL); The International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA); The American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA); The Egyptian Society of Comparative Literature (ESCL); The Egyptian Writer's Union.



/ MARWA SEOUDI

> **COUNTRY:** Egypt
> **GENRE:** AFAC Express
> **YEAR:** 2011
> **TYPE:** Cultural Manager

Founding member of the graduate support initiative Nahdet el Mahroussa, she has been active in various civil society projects in Egypt including “Fathet Kheir”. She lived in Jordan and worked with Nasseej - Resources for Community Youth Development - where she was project coordinator for SAFAR Arab Youth Mobility Fund and the Arab Education form. She has been managing the theatre group El Warsha in Egypt for few years and was the coordinator of Tamasi, a network of cultural institutions and theatre companies in the Arab world. She is currently managing Da3m program at the Arab Digital Expression Foundation.



/ MARWAN ABADO

> **COUNTRY:** Palestine
> **GENRE:** Music
> **YEAR:** 2011
> **TYPE:** Artist

Palestinian singer, composer and oud player. He has lived in Vienna for over 20 years and has played with many musicians from various cultures and styles, including among others Timna Brauer, Franz Hautzinger, Kamila Jubran, and Charbel Rouhana. Abado was selected best artist in the category folk & world-international by the Austrian music magazine Concerto in 2005. In 2006 Abado was selected second best artist in the same category for his album Kabila. In November 2008 Abado received the Federal Medal of Intercultural Dialogue from the Austrian Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture, for his engagement in intercultural dialogue. Besides his own musical programs Abado has also composed for film and theatre. His latest theatre compositions can be heard in Vienna's renowned Akademietheater in the play Incendie by Wajdi Mouawad.



/ MASOUD AMRALLAH AL-ALI

> **COUNTRY:** UAE
> **GENRE:** ADFP
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **TYPE:** Cultural Manager

Artistic Director of the Dubai International Film Festival, Masoud curates all Festival programming, overseeing the feature films, documentaries and shorts selected for the Arab and international sections. He also oversees the Festival's competitive Muhr Arab and Muhr AsiaAfrica Awards. Masoud has been closely involved with DIFF since its inception. In its early years, he was responsible for its Arabic programming, including the popular Arabian Nights section and UAE-focused Emerging Emiratis, which has since evolved into a pan-Gulf showcase. His dedication to the region's talent led Masoud to found the Emirates Film Competition in 2001. The UAE's first showcase for local film talent, the annual competition is widely recognized as a turning point for Gulf cinema and a critical launch pad for its talent. Today, Masoud serves as director of its successor entity, the Gulf Film Festival. Masoud's involvement with DIFF is the most recent step in a career steeped in the arts. A lifelong creative, the Emirati national first emerged into the public spotlight with his passion for poetry. After moving into filmmaking as a visual exploration of the written word, he produced his first short films and documentaries in the late 1980s and early 1990s. His wealth of film knowledge, first-hand experience in writing, directing and producing films, and passion for encouraging talent from the region makes Masoud one of the defining voices and leading mentors of contemporary Arab cinema. A graduate of UAE University, Masoud has previously worked for the Dubai Police and as artistic director for the Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation.



/ MENHA BATRAOUI

> **COUNTRY:** Egypt
> **GENRE:** Performing Arts
> **YEAR:** 2008
> **TYPE:** Artist

An Egyptian actress. Her films include *Fallen Angels Paradise* (2000), *The Aquarium* (2008) and *Scheherazade Tell Me a Story* (2009).



/ MICHEL KHLEIFI

> **COUNTRY:** Palestine
> **GENRE:** Cinema
> **YEAR:** 2010
> **TYPE:** Artist; Producer

A Palestinian director, producer and film writer born in 1950, he moved to Belgium in 1970 where he studied television and theatre directing at the Institut National Supérieur des Arts du Spectacle (INSAS) and graduated in 1975. Khleifi has directed several feature and documentary films after working in Belgium television.



/ MIKAEL OPSTRUP

> **COUNTRY:** Denmark
> **GENRE:** ADP
> **YEAR:** 2013
> **TYPE:** Producer

Head of studies at the European Documentary Network. A dedicated documentarist since his first 8mm documentary in 1977. Most of the 80's Mikael worked with distribution and theatrical release of documentaries. He was a producer of international documentaries since the 90's and Production Adviser at The Danish Film Institute 1998-2002. From 2002 – 2008, he was co-owner of Final Cut Productions in Copenhagen. His films include “*Young Freud in Gaza*” (2008), “*The German Secret*” (2004).



/ MOHAMMAD DJEHICHE

> **COUNTRY:** Algeria
> **GENRE:** Visual Arts
> **YEAR:** 2013
> **TYPE:** Cultural Manager; Academic

An arts professor and currently the director of the National Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art of Algiers (MAMA), Mohamed Djehiche is author of several writings on art and Algerian artists. He has also curated several exhibitions including M'hamed Issiakhem, Mohamed Khadda, Olivier Debré, Mahdjoub Ben Bella and Hakkar Lazhar.



/ MOHAMMED AL RASHDI

> **COUNTRY:** KSA
> **GENRE:** Visual Arts
> **YEAR:** 2009
> **TYPE:** Artist; Cultural manager

A Saudi Arabian poet and cultural editor. Al Rashdi is currently the supervisor of the royal educational program in the city of Yanbo and he has worked as the content manager and presenter for the Arabic television program *Fadaa' al-Thaqafa* (*The Space of Culture*).



/ MOHAMMED BERRADA

> **COUNTRY:** Morocco
> **GENRE:** Literature
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **PREVIOUS YEARS:** 2010
> **TYPE:** Artist; Academic

AFAC Board member, Berrada is a Moroccan writer, translator and literary critic, Berrada was born in 1938. He He teaches Arab literature at the Mohammed V University in Rabat and is a member of the advisory board of a Moroccan literary magazine. Berrada holds a PhD degree from France in criticism and literary sociology and was for a long time the president of the Moroccan writer's union. He has published many works including novels, short stories and essays.



/ MOHAMMED MAKHLOUF

> **COUNTRY:** Libya
> **GENRE:** RTR
> **YEAR:** 2008
> **TYPE:** Cultural Manager

A Libyan journalist and film director. Makhlof founded the first Arab Independent Film Festival in London 1999 and served as jury president of the Emirates Film competition in 2003. Makhlof also organized the Dubai International Film Festival's Short Films program in 2004 and 2005.



/ MOHAMMED SOUEID

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** Cinema
> **YEAR:** 2013
> **PREVIOUS YEARS:** 2011
> **TYPE:** Critic; Artist

Editor of al-Arabiya TV Channel, Mohammed Soueid was born in Beirut and began his career as a film criticism for the daily newspapers of Al-Safir and An-Nahar. He directed an award-winning autobiographical trilogy of documentaries: *Tango of Yearning* (1998), *Nightfall* (2000) and *Civil War* (2002). His books include the non-fiction directory *Postponed Cinema-The Lebanese Civil War Films* (1986) and the novel *Cabaret Souad* (2004). He is currently a commissioning editor at Al-Arabiya News Channel for which he had directed a number of documentaries including: *My Heart Beats Only For Her* (2009) and *How Bitter My Sweet* (2010).



/ MO'JAB AL-ZAHRANI

> **COUNTRY:** KSA
> **GENRE:** Literature
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **TYPE:** Critic; Academic

An academic researcher, critic, and poet. He holds a doctorate in comparative literature from the University of Sorbonne in Paris. Currently working at the King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Zahrani is considered as the pioneer of literary modernity in Saudi Arabia.

“Guiding our selection were several criteria, privileging singularity of cinematic vision, originality in story-telling and boldness in form as well as choice of themes or issues. The selection process proved at once rewarding and challenging with a remarkably high incidence of captivating projects. We concluded our granting session with the conviction that the landscape of Arab film talents is witnessing a thrilling surge in creativity and courage.”

Cinema Jury Committee, 2013



Cinema 2013 jurors **Rasha Salti, Najib Belkadhi and Ziad Khatlan**



/ MOUFIDA TLATLI

> **COUNTRY:** Tunisia
> **GENRE:** Cinema
> **YEAR:** 2010
> **TYPE:** Artist

A Tunisian film director born in 1947, she was the first Arab woman to direct a full featured-film – *The Silences of the Palace* – in the whole Arab world which, released in 1994, received critical acclaim and won several awards: Cannes Film Festival's Golden Camera, the Golden Tanit of Carthage, British Film Institute Awards' Sutherland Trophy, Toronto Film Festival's International Critics' Award and Istanbul International Film Festival's Golden Tulip. Tlatli was born in Sidi Bou Said suburb of the capital city of Tunis and studied cinema at the French Institut des Hautes Etudes Cinematographiques in 1968. She returned to Tunisia where she worked as a film editor for a variety of Tunisian films. Her second film, *The Season of Men*, was screened in the 'Un Certain Regard' section at the 2000 Cannes Film Festival. Following the downfall of president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in 2011, she was appointed Minister of Culture in the provisional government.



/ NADIA KAMEL

> **COUNTRY:** Egypt
> **GENRE:** Cinema
> **YEAR:** 2010
> **TYPE:** Artist

An Egyptian filmmaker born in 1961, she studied microbiology and chemistry until 1990 when she turned her attention to cinema and began working as an assistant director. Kamel directed documentaries as well as feature films then went on to direct productions of her own in 2000.



/ NADINE TOUMA

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** RTR
> **YEAR:** 2013
> **TYPE:** Cultural Manager;
Artist

Artist, cultural activist, producer and interdisciplinary pedagogue, Nadine Touma is the conceiver of several educational kits that integrate art, science, design, human rights, anthropology, and literature. She has worked with governmental and non-governmental sectors since 1997 and has achieved great success in introducing new ways of thinking and tools for education. She participated with several committees as a consultant and an adviser in the development of a comprehensive education strategy. She founded Dar Onboz in 2006 as a multidisciplinary creative platform based on her educational and pedagogical principles and beliefs and has won several prestigious international awards including three awards at the Bologna Children Bookfair in Italy, a first in the Arab world.



/ NADIRA LAGGOUNE

> **COUNTRY:** Algeria
> **GENRE:** Visual Arts
> **YEAR:** 2009
> **TYPE:** Curator; Critic

An Algerian curator and art critic. She has a degree in Law, an MA in audiovisual criticism and art theory, and a researcher / PhD position in art. She teaches the history of contemporary image and ran a seminar on contemporary art in parallel with the mastery of critical analysis and aesthetics at the Higher Institute of Dramatic Art and the Higher Institute of Music in Algiers until 2000. She is the curator of many international and local exhibitions, such as Contemporary African Art in the 2nd PANAFA Algiers in 2009, Emissaries (Algeria Year in France 2003), Art Women (2007), the 1st and 3rd International Festival of Contemporary Art in Algiers, Dak'Art 2012, and the 10th Biennale of Dakar. Nadira lives and works in Algiers, to give visibility to the new generations that are emerging in the field of contemporary art in Algeria, North Africa and on the African continent.



/ NAJIB BELKADHI

> **COUNTRY:** Tunisia
> **GENRE:** Cinema
> **YEAR:** 2013
> **TYPE:** Artist

Actor and film maker, born in Tunisia in 1972. His acting debut was in 1995 in Salma Baccar's film "*La Danse du Feu*" and Mohamed Kouka's film "*L'école des femmes*." He received great public acclaim for his role in Slaheddine Essid's series "*Khottab El Bab*" between 1997 and 1998. His debut as a director took place on Canal+ Horizon where he produced a series covering "*Les Journées Cinématographique de Carthage*." This was followed by a satirical series "*Chams Ali*" which marked a turning point for Tunisia audio-visual production. The series continued to run up until October 2001. In 2002, he founded Propaganda Production with his friend Imed Marzouk through which he created and produced a polemical faux reality show "*Dima Labess*" for Canal 21. His most famous production is "*VHS Kahloucha*" (2006) which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival under the section "Tous les cinémas du monde" and won the best documentary film at the Dubai International Film Festival later that year as well as official selection for the "world documentary" section at the Sundance Film Festival in 2007.



/ NAJWAN DARWSIH

> **COUNTRY:** Palestine
> **GENRE:** Literature
> **YEAR:** 2011
> **TYPE:** Critic; Artist

A Palestinian poet, critic and journalist from Jerusalem. Born in 1978, he published his first collection in 2000, called *Kana Yaduqqu Al-Bab Al-Akheer* (*He Was Knocking on the Last Door*), Darwish's poetry has been translated into ten languages, including a recent selection in French translation compiled by Antoine Jockey called *Je me lèverai un jour* (2012). In 2009, the Hay Festival Beirut 39 pronounced him one of the best Arab writers under the age of 40. He is the literary advisor to the Palestinian Festival for Literature (Palfest) and has co-founded, directed and advised on several key projects in the fields of literature, visual arts, theatre, creative writing, education, cultural journalism and publishing in the Arab region and in Europe. He also worked as the editor-in-chief of the magazine "To and Fro," and a writer and critic for the Lebanese magazine "Al-Akhbar."

/ NIDHAL GUIGA

> **COUNTRY:** Tunisia
> **GENRE:** AFAC Express & RTR
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **PREVIOUS YEARS:** 2011, also 2012
> **TYPE:** Artist; Academic

An actress, author, director and university professor. She has worked with Mohamed Driss on Haddith, in its first edition of 1997 - 1998, and, together with Taoufik Jebali, on the adapted works of Kahlil Gibran in 2000. Nidhal Guiga has authored and directed her own works, such as *An Hour and a Half after Me*. She was a jury member of the American Festival of Independent Short Films (programmed by Digipro) and in the first feature competition of the Carthage Film Festival together with Marco Muller and Nour Sabbagh. She participated in coaching scenarios at the Ten Shorts for a Cause festival programmed by Ibrahim Letaïef.

/ NIZAR RAMMAL

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** RTR
> **YEAR:** 2011
> **TYPE:** Cultural Manager

A consultant and expert in the field of training and social development. He studied popular movements and development at the University Saint Joseph in Beirut and has run several workshops and training programs for the administration of local organization interested in social development.

/ NOURI AL-JARRAH

> **COUNTRY:** Syria
> **GENRE:** Literature
> **YEAR:** 2011
> **TYPE:** Critic; Artist

Syrian poet. He moved to Beirut in 1981, then to Cyprus and finally to London working as journalist in a number of Arabic newspapers and magazines. Al-Jarrah established a literary magazine named Al-Katiba of which 15 issues have been published and has also published a number of poem collections. He is also a director of The Center for Arabic Geographical Literature-Exploration Prospects which is based in Abu Dhabi and London. The institute has published a number of works relating to Arab travel literature, most significantly Hassan Taufik al Idl travels in late 19th century Germany.

/ OUSSAMA GHANAM

> **COUNTRY:** Syria
> **GENRE:** Performing Arts
> **YEAR:** 2007
> **TYPE:** Artist

Born in Damascus in 1975, Oussama Ghanam is a theatre director, dramaturge and translator. He has lectured at the Institute of Higher Education for Dramatic Arts in Damascus. He is the founder and technical director of a unique initiative, the Damascus Theatre Workshop, an independent art circle for theatre based in Damascus. He holds a PhD in Drama Studies from Paris 8 University. He served as an arts evaluator and as the cultural manager for the theatre programs, Arab dance programs and international programs during the yearlong festivities of Damascus Arab Cultural Capital in 2008. As a director, his productions are inspired by, and adapted from, the works of Samuel Becket, Henry Miller, Harold Pinter, Dario Fo and Mark Ravenhill. Since 2011, he has been running long-term training programs for young syrian playwrights in Damascus interested in dramaturgy and stage performance, both in the modern and contemporary styles. He continues to reside in Damascus.

Performing Arts Jury Committee 2013





/ PIERRE ABI SAAB

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** Performing Arts
> **YEAR:** 2008
> **TYPE:** Critic

Journalist and cultural critic. Born in Beirut in 1961, he has been immersed in witnessing and commenting on the evolution of artistic innovation and cultural expression in Lebanon and the Arab region since the latter half of the 1970's. His scope of interest involves the Arab region from the Maghreb to the Levant. Abi Saab has worked between Paris, London, and Beirut, contributing to Lebanon TV and to numerous periodicals including as-Safir newspaper, al-Yowm al-Sabi3 (The 7th Day), Arabies, al-Wasat, and al-Hayat just to name a few. He is the founder and the editor-in-chief of Zawaya, a cultural newspaper for Arab youth. He has also participated in the establishment of the Beirut-based newspaper al-Akhbar in which he is currently editor of the cultural sections covering developments in arts and media.



/ QASSEM HADDAD

> **COUNTRY:** Bahrain
> **GENRE:** Literature
> **YEAR:** 2009
> **TYPE:** Artist

A Bahraini poet born in 1948, Haddad is currently the chairman of the Bahraini Writer's Union which he also cofounded. Haddad worked in construction when he was young to help support his family and also worked in the public library of his hometown and as a clerk for the Department of Education. He was self-taught and has published over twenty collections of poetry since his first publication in 1970.



/ RACHIDA TRIKI

> **COUNTRY:** Tunisia
> **GENRE:** Visual Arts
> **YEAR:** 2013
> **TYPE:** Cultural Manager;
Academic

A professor of Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Art at the University of Tunis, president of the Tunisian Aesthetic Association ATEP, vice president of the International Society of Poetics, founding member of the Mediterranean Aesthetics Society and member of International Aesthetic Association IAA. She was also a member of the International Cultural Festival of Sfax (Tunisia 1992-1996) and a member of the Scientific Committee of Arts festival of Mahares (Tunisia 1998 - 2002). She has organized contemporary arts exhibitions in Tunisia, Brussels, Bamako and Paris. She has also directed twenty-five documentary films on Tunisian painters. She has published essays on Tunisian artists and has organized many international conferences and seminars in arts and aesthetics in Tunisia, Algeria and France. Her publications on aesthetics and critical analysis of the arts have been translated to many languages.



/ RAED ASFOUR

> **COUNTRY:** Jordan
> **GENRE:** Performing Arts
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **TYPE:** Cultural Manager

Scenographer, theatre director and cultural manager working in Jordan and the Arab region. Asfour has a BA in theatre arts and extensive experience in theatre, film and TV production in Jordan and Syria over the past 20 years. He served as executive director of the Amman International Theatre festival from 1994 – 2004. In 2005, he led the process of transforming an old cinema house in down town Amman to become Al Balad Theatre: a multi-purpose cultural center which he currently directs. Asfour is also executive director of the Arab Theatre Training Center, ATTC, a Lebanese based pan-Arab organization aiming to develop the performing arts in the region through training and research.



/ RAJA AMMARI

> **COUNTRY:** Tunisia
> **GENRE:** Cinema
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **TYPE:** Artist

Born in 1971 in Tunis city, Rajaa Ammari is a filmmaker with a bachelor's degree in French literature and a post-graduate degree in audio-visual communication and scenography. She won the best short film award during the 11th African Film Festival in Milan, Italy, in 2001 with her film "*One Night in Gueileh*" and first prize for her narrative feature "*Al-Dawwa7a*" during the ART Film Festival for Mediterranean Cultures, France, in 2009 and again at the Valencia Film Festival in Spain that same year.



/ RANA SADIK

> **COUNTRY:** Kuwait
> **GENRE:** Visual Arts
> **YEAR:** 2007
> **TYPE:** Philanthropist

An art collector and philanthropist of Palestinian descent, Rana Sadik is a Board Member of the Welfare Association, a Board Member of Ashkal Alwan, Beirut and Bidoun. She is also the director of MinRASY Projects. As an avid support of contemporary cultural projects, her interest is academic, artistic and curatorial. Sadik is a life-long resident of Kuwait. She conceived a four part public space project in Kuwait city thematically exploring Palestinians in Kuwait which has culminated into a museum project – Museum of Manufactured Response to Absence.



/ RANIA STEPHAN

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** Cinema
> **YEAR:** 2011
> **TYPE:** Artist; Producer

A filmmaker. Her career in film production has been long and diverse. She has worked as a sound engineer, camera editor, first assistant director and producer with renowned filmmakers such as Simone Bitton and Elia Suleiman. Her recent films as a director include *DAMAGE, for Gaza The Land of Sad Oranges* (2009), *Smoke on the Water, 7 X El Hermel* (2007), *Lebanon/War* (2006), *Wastelands* (2005), *Arrest at Manara & Kimo the Taxi* (2003), and *Train-Trains (Where's the Track?)* (1999). Her latest film, *The Three Disappearances of Souad Hosni* (2011), was supported by AFAC and was a festival winner during 2011.



/ RANWA YEHYA

> **COUNTRY:** Egypt
> **GENRE:** RTR
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **TYPE:** Cultural Manager

A journalist and social activist, Ranwa is an Iraqi Lebanese born in Nigeria and raised in Lebanon. She is married and living in Egypt since several years. As a journalist who worked in several Arab countries, she and her husband Ali Shaath, together with a few other activists, founded the Arab Digital Expression Foundation (ADEF). ADEF has accumulated an inspiring body of knowledge on issues and practices around digital expression, incitement of self-expression, collaboration, open-source models of development, Arabization of education practices and others.



/ RASHA EL AMEER

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** Literature
> **YEAR:** 2013
> **TYPE:** Artist; Producer

Novelist and founder of a publishing house for contemporary Arabic literature. Rasha El Ameer's passion for writing and literature has led her to be a regular contributor to the cultural periodicals of the An-Nahar Al-Arabi and the An-Nahar International, published in Paris where she lived during the Lebanese civil war. On her return to Beirut, she founded a new publishing house – Dar al-Jadeed – together with her brother, Lokman Slim and they are together running the helm of independent publishing and playing an active role in highlight the Arab cultural landscape.



/ RASHA SALTİ

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** Cinema
> **YEAR:** 2013
> **TYPE:** Critic; Curator;
Cultural manager

A curator, film researcher and writer. She is presently an international programmer for the Toronto International Film Festival. From 2004 until 2010 she was the film programmer and creative director of ArteEast in New York. Her curated projects include: Mapping Subjectivity: Experimentation in Arab Cinema from the 1960s until Now (co-curated with Jytte Jensen), for the Museum of Modern Art, New York, 2010–2012; 10th Sharjah Biennial (co-curated with Suzanne Cotter), Sharjah, 2011; and the retrospective of Syrian cinema The Road to Damascus (co-curated with Richard Peña), for the Film Society at Lincoln Center, 2006. Her essays have appeared in publications such as Afterall, The London Review of Books, and Naqd. She collaborated with Ziad Antar on the exhibition and publication *Beirut Bereft, The Architecture of the Forsaken and Map of the Derelict* (2009) and edited the book *Insights into Syrian Cinema: Essays and Conversations with Filmmakers* (2006). Salti lives in Beirut and works in New York, Paris, and Toronto.

“Of course the Arab context is exceptionally moving... Of course the social changes and ‘engulfing’ Islamization are now shaking the balance of “petty bourgeois” countries in uprising... These parameters emerge in the AFAC Express projects that I have read; they are the mirror of multifaceted Arab consciousness in all their diversity. It was important for me to discover such consciousness/sensitivity that brought together more than ever the concerns of the peoples of the south. The search for solutions was not absent but it was striking to see, in the projects, how the work of retrospection was crucial for artists.”

AFAC Express juror Nidhal Guiga, 2012



AFAC Express juror Nidhal Guiga, 2012

/ ROLA KOBEISSI

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** AFAC Express
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **TYPE:** Cultural Manager

A graduate from the Lebanese American university with a BA in Communication Arts, Radio/TV/Film, she worked in Beirut Theatre as an executive producer. She completed a one-year program entitled "PROFFIL", specializing in Cinema production. 2 years later, she moved to the British Council as a Cultural Officer. In 2002, Rola Kobeissi got her master's degree in Strategic and Cultural Development in Paris. From 2003 until 2010, she worked at Zico House as a cultural manager, organizing a number of festivals, exhibitions, concerts, workshops, etc. Since 2011, she is the project coordinator at Beirut DC.

/ SAID MURAD

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** Music
> **YEAR:** 2010
> **TYPE:** Artist

Lebanese electric music composer. Born in 1968, he started his career as a DJ in 1989. He received recognition for his innovative remixes of classical Arabic songs and he released his first album 2001, entitled *2001 Nights*. The album was a big seller at the time, and was named as The Best Selling Arabian Album in the history of Arabic music. The following year, Murad gave the legendary Um Kulthum a fresh rebirth by introducing techno-driven mixes of her famous tunes, a revolutionary and not uncontroversial step. The up-beat re-interpretation of the queen of Tarab to dance club music was positively received worldwide, particularly in the international night-club scene, where Murad has been playing his music and DJ-ing in many famous clubs in Cyprus, Beirut, Sharm El Sheikh, Jordan, Dubai and Ibiza.

/ SALMA FERIANI

> **COUNTRY:** Tunisia
> **GENRE:** Visual Arts
> **YEAR:** 2009
> **PREVIOUS YEARS:** 2007
> **TYPE:** Curator

A Tunisian curator and founder of a prominent London-based art gallery, the Salma Feriani Gallery, dedicated to exhibiting contemporary visual arts from North Africa and the Near East as well as works from South America.

/ SALWA MIKDADI

> **COUNTRY:** Palestine
> **GENRE:** Visual Arts
> **YEAR:** 2008
> **TYPE:** Curator; Academic

An independent curator and art historian whose work spans over twenty-five years in the field of Arab art and museums. She is the author and editor of several books and essays on art of the Arab world, and was the curator of the first Palestinian Pavilion for 2009 Venice Biennial. Her publications and exhibitions focus on gender and politics in art, art by Arab Americans, Palestinian artists, museums and visitors, art interpretation, and Arab art institutions and support systems in art production. She is the Executive Director of the Arts and Culture Program at the Emirates Foundation in Abu Dhabi and a Founding Board Member for the Association of Modern and Contemporary Art of the Arab World, Iran and Turkey.



/ SAMAR MARTHA

> **COUNTRY:** Palestine
> **GENRE:** Visual Arts
> **YEAR:** 2013
> **TYPE:** Curator; Cultural manager

Co-founder and director of ArtSchool Palestine and a freelance curator. Martha has worked with Visiting Arts – London on a range of projects across the Middle East. She is a co-founder of Al Mamal Foundation for Contemporary Art - Jerusalem. She has been writing, lecturing and curating exhibitions in the UK and abroad with a particular focus on Palestinian and Middle Eastern contemporary art practices, such as *This Day* at the Tate Modern (2007), *Still on Vacation* at Nobel Peace Centre, Oslo (2007), solo exhibitions by artist Khalil Rabah *50,320 Names* at Brunei Gallery, London (2007), and *In/Scene* video art exhibition at Al Hoash Gallery – Jerusalem (2008); *Mapping* an exhibition by Palestinian artists at Dubai, (2009), *In/Progress* at Forum Schlossplatz, Aarau, Switzerland (2010), and *Future Movements Jerusalem* at Liverpool Biennial (2010). Since 2005 she has co-curated the annual Palestine Film Festival at the Barbican Centre.



/ SAMI BEN SAID

> **COUNTRY:** Tunisia
> **GENRE:** Music
> **YEAR:** 2011
> **TYPE:** Artist; Academic

A pianist, composer, orchestra maestro and music conductor at the Higher Institute of Music in Tunisia. He is a graduate of musical sciences from the Sorbonne University in Paris where he lived and worked for several years as a professional musician and composer at various studios. His wide scope of experience in different types of musical projects includes collaborations with Arab, African, European and Latin American composers. He has also composed soundtracks for documentaries and short films. After many years of teaching at the Tunisian Higher Institute of Music, where his courses included studying the relationship between music and image, and the various ways of notating sound, he is currently based at the Higher Institute of Multi-Media Arts at the University of Manouba and, since 2011, has held public office at the agency of musical vocations in Tunisia.



/ SAMIA MEHREZ

> **COUNTRY:** Egypt
> **GENRE:** Literature
> **YEAR:** 2009
> **TYPE:** Artist; Academic

An Egyptian literary scholar, university professor of modern Arabic and founding director of the Center for Translation at the American University in Cairo, before which she taught at Cornell University from 1984-1990 in the Department of Near Eastern Studies. She has published numerous articles in the fields of modern Arabic literature, postcolonial literature, translation studies, gender studies and cultural studies. She is the author of *Egyptian Writers between History and Fiction: Essays on Naguib Mahfouz, Sonallah Ibrahim and Gamal al-Ghitani*, AUC Press, 1994 and 2005 and *Egypt's Culture Wars: Politics and Practice*, Routledge 2008, AUC Press 2010. Her edited anthologies *A Literary Atlas of Cairo: One hundred Years in the Life of the City* and *The Literary Life of Cairo: One Hundred Years in the Heart of the City* are published by AUC Press 2010, 2011 and will soon be appearing in Arabic by Dar Al-Shorouk, Cairo. She is currently working with a group of scholars on an edited volume titled *Translation, Gender and Knowledge Production*.



/ SAWSAN DRAWAZA

> **COUNTRY:** Jordan
> **GENRE:** Performing Arts
> **YEAR:** 2013
> **TYPE:** Artist; Producer

Darwaza is a Jordanian theatre and film director who works on collective projects. She started her career as a filmmaker, introducing the audio-visual medium of film and video within her theatre pieces, and is now director and managing partner of a production company named Mir'at Media Productions in Amman, as well as the creative director of Al Ma3mal 612 Think Factory. Born in Syria, in 1985 she moved to Amman and worked on producing, writing and directing more than fifteen plays. Working on a major television series of documentaries about theatre artists in the Arab world, she entered into a new world of encountering the realm of different artists. She is also the president of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) (UNESCO)/ Jordan Centre and the head director of Karama Human Rights Film Festival.



/ SAWSAN JAFAR

> **COUNTRY:** Palestine
> **GENRE:** Music
> **YEAR:** 2010
> **TYPE:** Philanthropist

AFAC Board member and philanthropist. Born to a Palestinian family, she 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, and has been a founding board member of the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture.



/ SULAYMAN AL BASSAM

> **COUNTRY:** Kuwait
> **GENRE:** Performing Arts
> **YEAR:** 2007
> **TYPE:** Artist

A Kuwaiti British playwright and theatre director. Born in 1972, he is founder of Zaoum Theatre Company (London 1996-2001) and its Arabic arm, Sulayman Al-Bassam Theatre Kuwait (2002). Al-Bassam Theatre has been celebrated across four continents by the world's most prestigious cultural powerhouses. Its projects are characterized by a radical approach to text (new writing and re-workings of Shakespeare), bold production styles and an uncompromising engagement with issues concerning the contemporary Arab world. Over the last four years, the company has created a string of internationally acclaimed productions such as *The Al-Hamlet Summit*, *Kalila wa Dimna*, *The Mirror For Princes*, *Richard 3*, *an Arab Tragedy*. The work of Al-Bassam Theatre challenges the negative preconceptions surrounding Arab and Muslim culture today; it champions the Arab voice internationally and creates an intercultural space for Arab culture on the world stage.

“It was a privilege to consider so many high quality projects spanning a range of stories, strategies and regions in the recent round of AFAC funding.”

Cara Mertes, USA, ADFP 2011



ADFP juror **Cara Mertes**, 2011



/ TALAL MUALLA

> **COUNTRY:** Syria
> **GENRE:** Visual Arts
> **YEAR:** 2009
> **TYPE:** Critic; Artist

Syrian visual artist, poet, and cultural critic, Mualla is the director of the Arab Center for Arts and the Sharjah Art Institute. He is a graduate of Tishreen University in Damascus where he obtained his B.A in Arabic Language. He has participated in several group exhibition and solo exhibitions throughout the Arab region and has been a member of numerous fine arts committees. His most recent publication *The Despair of Knowledge* is a critique of visual arts in the Arab region and the impact of information technology and new art forms on cultural field that lacks sufficient critical analysis and is undergoing radical change. He has also been a speaker in public panels on the need to preserve cultural heritage and to protect national art items from illegal markets.



/ TALEB AL REFAIE

> **COUNTRY:** Kuwait
> **GENRE:** Literature
> **YEAR:** 2008
> **TYPE:** Artist

A Kuwaiti writer born in 1958. As a young adult he began writing in the 1970s while studying engineering at a university in his hometown until he became successful as a full-time writer. Many of his literary studies have been published in local newspapers and cultural magazines. He has also published six collections of short stories - "*Abu Ajaj, May You Be Long of Life*", "*I Close my Spirit on You*", "*Sandy Tales*" and "*Small Thefts*" – and several novels – "*The Shadow of the Sun*", "*The Scent of the Sea*", "*The Thowb*." Some of his works have been translated to English, French and German. He has been appointed head of the jury committee for the third edition of the Arabic Booker Prize in 2010.



/ TAOUFIK JEBALI

> **COUNTRY:** Tunisia
> **GENRE:** Performing Arts
> **YEAR:** 2008
> **TYPE:** Artist; Academic

Tunisian actor, comedian, dramaturge and theatre director born in Ksar Hellal in 1944. He studied the art of theatre making both in his home country and in France. He co-founded a collective dedication to diffusing Arabic culture in the French context (CADCAF). On returning to Tunisia, he was a professor of theatre at the Center for Dramatic Arts in Tunis and collaborates at the New Theatre Company. In 1987m he founded the first ever private theatre company in Tunisia, El Teatro. Under the artistic direction of his partner, Zeynab Farhat, El Teatro became a reference in terms of contemporary performing arts and continues to grow and cater to the aspirations of theatre lovers. Taoufik's performances and his adaptations of international works - Shakespeare, Diderot, Genet – have been performed throughout Tunisia and the prominent capital cities of the Arab world and internationally.



/ TAREK ABOU EL FETOUH

> **COUNTRY:** Egypt
> **GENRE:** Visual Arts
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **TYPE:** Curator; Cultural Manager

Born in Cairo and based in Brussels, he is an independent curator, architect and Director of the Young Arab Theatre Fund and the Meeting Points Festival. Abou El Fetouh has worked on designing and re-habilitating abandoned or misused buildings internationally, transforming them to be used as art venues. As a curator he has produced various festivals, including: the Amman International Festival, Jordan (1996 -2000), It's Happening in the Garage, Egypt, DisOrientation, House of World Cultures, Germany (2003), Roaming Inner Landscapes, Egypt (2004) and the Sharjah Biennial 9 (2009). He initiated the Meeting Points -Festival of Contemporary Arts and curated the first four editions of the festival. Abou El Fetouh is also the Founder and Director of the Young Arab Theatre Fund (YATF), a Brussels-based foundation working in the field of contemporary visual and performance arts since 2002.



/ TAREK ATOUI

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** Music
> **YEAR:** 2011
> **TYPE:** Artist

Born in Lebanon in 1980, Tarek Atoui moved to France in 1998 where he studied sound art and electro-acoustic music. In 2006, he released his first solo album in the *Mort Aux Vaches* series for Staalplaat Records, and in 2008, he served as artistic director of the STEIM Studios in Amsterdam, a center for the research and development of new electronic musical instruments. Atoui is a sound artist who initiates multidisciplinary interventions, events, concerts and workshops in Europe and the Middle East, and specializes in creating computer tools for interdisciplinary projects and youth education.



/ TAREK YAMANI

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** Music
> **YEAR:** 2013
> **TYPE:** Artist

A New York-based Lebanese musician, Yamani is a self-taught award-winning jazz pianist, and composer who got exposed to Jazz around the age of 19. He explored this great Black American art form on his own, decoding theory books & transcribing Jazz records. In 2010, Yamani won the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Composer's Competition for his composition *Sama'i Yamani* which was released as a single featuring singer Rasha Rizk. The track is also featured in his debut album, *Ashur*, released on edict records and with the collaboration of Goran Krmac on tuba & Kristijan Krajncan on drums.



/ VERA TAMARI

> **COUNTRY:** Palestine
> **GENRE:** Visual Arts
> **YEAR:** 2010
> **TYPE:** Artist; Cultural Manager

Born in Jerusalem in 1945, Tamari received her undergraduate degree in Fine Arts from Beirut in 1966. She specialized in Ceramics at the Institute of Statale per la Ceramica in Florence, Italy in 1974, and obtained a M. Phil. degree in Islamic Art and Architecture from the University of Oxford in 1984. Tamari held solo exhibitions in Jerusalem, Ramallah, and Amman, and participated in a variety of group exhibitions in the Arab World, Europe, and the US. Tamari helped organize and participated in numerous exhibitions highlighting women's art. She is a lecturer on Islamic Art and Architecture at Birzeit University.



/ WAEL ABD AL-FATTAH

> **COUNTRY:** Egypt
> **GENRE:** Cinema
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **TYPE:** Critic; Artist

A writer, journalist and poet. He is a prominent media figure in Egypt and has contributed articles to many daily newspapers and magazines across the Arab world on politics, literature and cinema. He has written several poetry publications and co-wrote a number of screenplays.



/ ZAID JABRI

> **COUNTRY:** Syria
> **GENRE:** Music
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **TYPE:** Artist; Academic

Born in Damascus, Jabri began his musical education by studying the violin with Riyad Sukar in his native town. He completed his M.A. degree with honors from the Music Academy of Cracow in Poland where he studied composition with Zbigniew Bujarski. He won the first prize at the Adam Didur Composers' Competition in Sanok in 1997 for his piece (*Two Songs for Soprano and String Orchestra*). Jabri's works have been performed in Poland, Germany, Dubai, Egypt (Opera House), Tunisia, France, Italy, USA, Armenia, Syria, Slovakia, Belgium during the young composers forum Tactus 2011, Ukraine (by Lviv philharmonic during Contrast Festival, Uzhgorod philharmonic & by Kiev Kam-era-ta during The Festival of Modern Music), Holland and the United Kingdom.



/ ZEID HAMDAN

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** Music
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **TYPE:** Artist; Producer

Lebanese musician and underground music producer. Born in 1976, Hamdan is the music producer behind some of the most successful bands on the Lebanese and regional alternative scene today. Notable amongst them are Soap-kills (Arabic trip hop), The New Government (pop rock), Katibe5 (Arabic Hip hop), Shiftz (Arabic electro), Kanjha Kora (Guineean Pop), Kazamada (Arabic electro pop), Maryam Saleh (Arabic electro pop), and Zeid and the wings (New Arabic pop). He also scored the music of several movies; *From Beirut with Love* by Wael Nureddine (2008) *Tangerine* by Irene von Alberti (2009), *Yanoosak* by Elie Khalife (2009), *Hadouta min Sag* by Aida Kachef (2010), *Che gue Vara died in Lebanon* by Christina Foerch Saab (2011), *Beirut Hotel* by Danielle Arbid (2012), *Rehle* by Meyar El Roumi (2012). In July 2012 he was distinguished by CNN as one of the 8 leading lights on the Lebanese Cultural scene.



/ ZEINA ARIDA

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** Visual Arts
> **YEAR:** 2008
> **PREVIOUS YEARS:** 2010
> **TYPE:** Artist; Cultural Manager

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 since its inception in 1997 – a non-profit organization that seeks to preserve and study photographs from the Middle East, North Africa and the Arab diaspora.



/ ZEINA MAASRI

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** AFAC Express
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **TYPE:** Artist; Academic

Associate Professor of Graphic Design at the American University of Beirut and a practicing independent graphic designer, Zeina Maasri has been conducting visual arts research since 2004 focusing on the political posters of Lebanon's civil war. She is the author of *Off the Wall: Political Posters of the Lebanese Civil War*, (London: I.B.Tauris, 2009). She curated an exhibition of political posters entitled Signs of Conflict in 2008 within the context of Beirut's 4th edition of Home Works by Ashkal Alwan and as part of the 11th edition of the International Istanbul Biennial in 2009.



/ ZIAD DOUEIRI

> **COUNTRY:** Lebanon
> **GENRE:** Cinema
> **YEAR:** 2012
> **TYPE:** Artist

Cinematographer, film director and writer. He is best known for his award winning film "*West Beirut*" in 1998, and most recently for his latest film, "*The Attack*" which screened as a Special Presentation at the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival which is an adaption of Yasmina Khadra's international best-seller of the same name.



/ ZIAD KHATLAN

> **COUNTRY:** Iraq
> **GENRE:** Cinema
> **YEAR:** 2013
> **TYPE:** Critic; Cultural Manager

A film critic, author and film festival jurist. He was a jury member for the Gulf Film Festival (2009); Chief Programmer for the Dubai International Film Festival (2005); a Senior Editor of Al-Quds Online (2008–2010) and curator of the Nour Festival Film Series: 18 Days (2011) at the Leighton House Museum, London.



Cinema 2012 jurors **Ziad Al Doueiri, Rajaa Ammari and Wael Abdul Fattah** with AFAC Film Programs Manager **Rima Mismar**.



آفاق AFAC