

# constructions of history

Aesthetic Transcriptions in Arab Contemporary Arts



30/4-1/5/2010

**“ Arab culture has sunk into a century long sleep.”**

This lamentation is commonly heard and includes Arab intellectuals who widely bemoan an atmosphere of stagnation or reactionist attitudes. They state that the reasons for this perception are to be found in narrow constructions of history which led to the discourse of “Orientalism” or the feeling of an “Arab misfortune”.

Contrary to that, artists in the Arab World seem to move in a cultural interspace. Through complex cultural translations and with new aesthetic forms and concepts they challenge and compete with common views on history. The question remains whether the impact of the Arts can suffice to counter concepts of cultural defeat or whether their realm is mainly to be perceived as a place of introverted refuge.

# A Conference of the Collaborative Research Centre 626 Aesthetic Experience and the Dissolution of Artistic Limits

Programme 30/4 – 1/5/2010

[www.sfb626.de](http://www.sfb626.de)

## Conference Venue

ICI Kulturlabor Berlin  
Christinenstr. 18–19  
Haus 8, 10119 Berlin  
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**ici** KULTURLABOR  
BERLIN INSTITUTE FOR CULTURAL INQUIRY

Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft

**DFG**



Sonderforschungsbereich 626  
Ästhetische Erfahrung im Zeichen  
der Entgrenzung der Künste  
Freie Universität Berlin

The conference is being realised with the kind support of ICI Kulturlabor Berlin. Open to the public. Admission free.

## Friday 30/4 Constructions of History

- 10:00** Opening **Angelika Neuwirth**
- 10:30** **Hazem Saghieh** The Question of Identity in the Arab Middle East vis-à-vis the West
- 11:30** **Nada Shabout** Historically Considered: Conflicted Aesthetics in an Uncertain World
- 14:00** **Kirsten Scheid**  
The Political Aesthetics of Slumber and Amnesia
- 15:00** **Muhsin al-Musawi** Between Narrative and Painting: The Iraqi Cultural Experience since the 1950s
- 16:30** **Friederike Pannewick** Historical Memory in Times of Decline: Saadallah Wannous and Rereading History
- 17:30** **Kamal Salhi** Assia Djebar at the Académie Française: Overturning the Colonial Legacy, Constructing Post-canonical Memories (Afterwards: Reception)

## Saturday 1/5 Aesthetic Transcriptions

- 10:00** **Silvia Naef** Art from the Arab World Today: Between Globalization and Local Considerations
- 11:00** **Huda Lutfi** Silence is Silver: The Politics of Representation and Art Production in Egypt
- 13:30** **Osama Esid** A Play on Representation – the Egyptian Experiment: Orientalism and Stereotypes
- 14:30** **Lamia Joreige** An Artist Talk
- 16:00** **Sarah Rifky** Performative Power: From Speech to Action (or From Script to Accident)

Organisation: **Amina Avdovic, Monique Bellan, Osman Hajjar, Hannelies Koloska**