Venice Biennale and the Arab World

Conference on modern and contemporary art from the Arab world and the role played by the Venice Biennale of Art

19-20 October 2017
h 9-18
Aula Baratto, Ca’ Foscari
Dorsoduro 3246

Organisers:
Roberta Marin, Cristina Tonghini
(DSAAM, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice)

Scientific committee
Stefano Carboni
(Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth)
Tamara Chalabi
(Ruya Foundation, Baghdad)
Melanie Gibson
(New College of the Humanities, London)
Giuseppe Moscatello
(Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah)
Silvia Naef
(University of Geneva)
Stefania Portinari
(DSU, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice)
Nico Stringa
(DSU, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice)
CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Thursday, 19th October, 2017

9.00 Registration

9.30 Keynote address
Prof. Flavio Gregori, Provost for Ca’ Foscari Cultural Activities and Relations
Prof. Marco Ceresa, Director, Department of Asian and North African Studies

9.45 Opening remarks
Roberta Marin and Cristina Tonghini, conference organisers

10.00 Panel One: COLLECTING ARAB ART
Elsa Despiney Ben Hammouda (Independent consultant, Tunis, Tunisia),
The role of private collections in writing an art history of the MENA region: the case of the Kamel Lazaar Foundation collection
Maymanah Farhat (Writer and curator, New York, USA),
After Daraa: Syrian Art Today
Catherine Cornet (Journalist and researcher, Rome, Italy),
The Academy of Egypt in Rome and the Egyptian pavilion in Venice: Questioning Egyptian soft power from the State sector to International Contemporary art arenas

11:00 Panel discussion

11:15 Break (refreshments provided)

11:45 Panel Two: CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF ARTWORKS BY A SINGLE ARTIST AND/OR A GROUP OF ARTISTS
Jenna Ann Almontone (Assistant professor, Mississippi State University, USA),
Playing Tourist: Trauma and Satire in Adel Abidin’s Abidin Travels
Claudio Cravero (Curator, The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia),
Art as a space of possibilities. Public censorship and challenges in the Arabian Peninsula through Abdulsasser Gharem’s artwork
Charlotte Bank (Art Historian and Independent curator, University of Geneva, Switzerland),
Fragmented Voices. Politics, critique and constraints in Syrian Contemporary Art

12:45 Panel discussion

13:00 Lunch (not provided)

13:00 Panel discussion

14.00 Panel Three: ARTISTIC MOVEMENTS IN THE ARAB WORLD
Nele Lenze (Senior Research Fellow and Editor, Middle East Institute, Singapore),
Gulf art movements
Candida Pestana and Eman Bukhari (Curators, The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia),
The abstract paradigm of Saudi Contemporary Art
Fatenn Mostafa Kanafani (Founder ArtTalks, Cairo, Egypt),
The Permanent Revolution with the Egyptian Surrealists

15:00 Panel discussion

15:15 Break (refreshments provided)

15:45 Panel Four: ARAB WOMEN ARTISTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE
Adila Laidi-Hanieh (Post-doctoral fellow, Arab Council for the Social Sciences, Beirut, Lebanon),
Female and Middle Eastern in Post War New York and Europe: How to write a revisionist biography of Fahrelnissa Zeid
Samia Halaby (Painter, writer, and activist, New York, USA),
A Theoretical Perspective by an Arab painter
Rehab Nazzal (Artist and PhD candidate, Palestine and Western University, London, Canada),
Critical Art and State-Censorship
Nadine Atallah (PhD candidate, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris, France),
The international exhibitions of Egyptian painter Inji Efflatoun (1924-1989)

17:05 Panel discussion

Friday 20th October 2017

9.30 Panel five: MODERN ART AT THE BIENNALE
Nadia Radwan (Assistant Professor, University of Bern, Switzerland),
The Venice Biennale as a cultural platform for (re-)presenting Egyptian Modernism
Mercedes Volait (Research Professor, CNRS, Paris, France),
Overlapping worlds: the geography of art in multicultural Cairo (1881-1963)
Yasmine al-Dorghami (Editor, Cairo, Egypt),
Writing on Art in Egypt

10:30 Panel discussion

10:45 Break (refreshments provided)

11.15 Panel six: ART AND POLITICS, THE IMPACT AND LIMITATION OF POLITICS ON ART AND VICE VERSA
Bahia Shehab (Artist and associate professor, American University in Cairo, Egypt),
Painting a revolution
Alexandre Kazerouni (Researcher, École normale supérieure, Paris, France),
The New Cultural Platforms in the Gulf and Arab visibility at the Venice Biennale: a socio-political approach
Rose Issa (Independent curator, writer and publisher, London, UK),
Commodified Revolutions? Contemporary Arab Art from the Biennale to the Global Market

12:35 Panel discussion

13:00 Lunch (not provided)

14.00 Panel seven: INTERRELATIONS BETWEEN THE ARAB ARTISTIC SCENE, VENICE AND THE BIENNALE
Ilaria Conti (Research Curator, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France),
Sarah C. Johnson (Phd candidate, Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany),
National Peculiarities and Individual Characteristics: Iraqi contemporary art exhibitions in Europe in the 1970s from the German Democratic Republic to the Venice Biennale
Gregory Buchakjian (Assistant professor, Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts (ALBA), Sin el-Fil, Lebanon),
2007: The Pavilion of Lebanon The first national Lebanese participation in Venice materialized in 2007

15:00 Panel discussion

15:20 Break (refreshments provided)

16.00 Keynote Lecture
Prof. Silvia Naef (Full professor, University of Geneva, Switzerland),
Venice and Beyond – Exhibiting Artists from the Arab World

17.00 Closing remarks