"Subtitled: With Narratives from Lebanon"
The Association for Visual Preservation and Exhibition of the Arts in Lebanon (APEL) presents the first comprehensive exhibition of contemporary Lebanese art. The exhibition opened on 8 November 2011 at the Royal College of Art in Kensington, London.

Structural along five compelling themes the exhibition is designed to help interpret the layered and complex modern history of Lebanese artists living in and outside Lebanon. It will delve into Lebanon's socio-political realities, the determinative parameters of which have shaped and influenced a unique brand of post-war contemporary art.

re-title.com

BM Box 5163
London
WC1N 3XX
United Kingdom
+44 (0) 870 922 0438

Nael El Khoury, The Flag / Beirut City / Lebanon series, 1992

selected works from the exhibition: 100 x 150 cm

Saudite Arts Center in Lebanon Foundation

Participating Artists

Zohe Axel | Ayman Baalbak | Oussama Baalbak | Ayah Bdeir | Naggaat Caland | Chouca
Charaisdine | Ghneou Charolet | Flore Colot | Tagreed Darheesh | Rabih Dibeha | Nabha

A special viewing and reception will be held on Thursday 3 November from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.
"Subtitled: With Narratives from Lebanon"

The Association for the Promotion and Exhibition of the Arts in Lebanon (APEAL), www.apeal-lb.org presents the first comprehensive exhibition of contemporary Lebanese art in the UK from 3 to 6 November 2011 at the Royal College of Art in Kensington, London. Structured along five compelling themes the exhibition is designed to help interpret the country's varied and complex modern history by Lebanese artists living in and outside Lebanon. The exhibition will delve into Lebanon’s socio-political realities, the determinant parameters of which have helped shaped and influenced a unique trend in post war contemporary art.

Fouad El Khoury, The Flag “Beirut City Center” series 1982
edition 1/5, inkjet on fine art paper, 120 x 150 cm
Courtesy of the Christia von Siemens Foundation

Participating Artists:

A special viewing and reception will be held on Thursday 3 November from 6.00 to 9.00 pm
Hanibal Srouji, Terre/Mer 2011
acrylic and fire on canvas, 242 x 142 cm
Courtesy of Galerie Janine Ruboiz

A PANEL DISCUSSION will form part of the event on Thursday 3 November, at 7:30pm in the RCA Senior Common Room:

"Art, Testimonial or Impulse to Looming Change?"

Moderator Monita Rajpal, CNN Correspondent
Panelists include visual artists:
Nadim Karam
Nada Sehnaoui
Zena El Khalil
and Nora Boustany, former journalist and correspondent of The Washington Post.
Art, Testimonial or Impulse to Looming Change?

Freedom of expression in Lebanon has long been the most unfettered in the Arab world. However, the oppressive context of violence from internal conflicts and the intrusion and meddling of neighboring countries had dented that legacy considerably in the waning years of the war and its aftermath. Artists in Lebanon, who mostly remained under the political radar but continued to produce and create, have emerged as that small nation’s most authentic conveyors of anomalies, jarring discrepancies and inconvenient truths.

We are witnessing an unprecedented ferment in Arab democratization forces in the region and a widespread clamor for social change and long due reforms. In Lebanon, which has seen years of upheaval and instability, this ferment of indignation and frustrations has mostly erupted through the channels of creativity. During much of the past decade, Lebanese artists have spilled their sensitivity to scenes of dissonance and discomfort with their environment onto their canvases and captured the fallout of a modernizing society in the aftermath of a devastating war with their lenses and installations.

The Association for the Promotion and Exhibition of the Arts in Lebanon has invited three artists and a journalist to comment on their experience and reaction through art to what has gone around them. Nadim Karam will focus in his talk on the galloping urban sprawl that has taken hold of the city Beirut and some of its Arab sisters, like Dubai and others, and how a rapidly changing skyline can gut as well as rebuild the spirit.

Nada Sehnaoui will talk about the importance of Lebanon’s visual collective memory in the wake of wars and horrific episodes of destruction. Her conceptual art and installations have sought to reconstruct in artistic form the heart-wrenching mosaic of shattered lives through ordered physical presentations which only give more intensity to the impact of demolition in a war zone. Her massive
installations, though simple in their basic concept, like dozens of stacked or leaning brooms, meant to sweep whatever is undesirable or inconvenient under the carpet, speak volumes about the immensity of denial, amnesia and self-delusion that hovers over Lebanese society. Zena El Khalil the youngest of the artists, who had to study abroad and then returned to experience Beirut and Lebanon immediately after the war, will share her reactions to a postwar city where deprivation and ruin still loomed large. She came face to face with glaring social problems engendered by unwanted regional intrusions and waves of wanton destruction, which ravaged her ancestral home and marred her new experiences as a young woman returning home and coming to grips with her identity.

Nora Boustany, a former journalist and correspondent of The Washington Post who covered the war in Lebanon through its many stages will attempt to compare the impact and emerging consciousness of Lebanon’s contemporary artists in chronicling and stylizing the truth as the visual novelists of an uncharted new era in the rise of a modern nation.

The Association for the Promotion and Exhibition of the Arts in Lebanon (APEAL) is a non-profit organization dedicated to showcasing and encouraging Lebanese artists by projecting their artwork beyond conventional borders and onto a larger screen. One of APEAL’s goals is to create a common platform and magnet for creativity by presenting eclectic collections gathered from a universe of gifted visual, literary or performing artists. APEAL strives to be a point of connection in vital cultural conversations between civilizations. Composed of Lebanese citizens and supporters the APEAL committee aims to launch exchange programs between artists in Lebanon and their counterparts from international universities and art academies. APEAL is also dedicated to granting scholarships to promising talent, and contributing to the formation of trained curators and professionals to help put them on a par with their peers the world over. By creating these opportunities, APEAL is helping nurture the seeds of Lebanon’s artistic potential and preserving its cultural fabric in a vibrant, forward-looking post-conflict society.

Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige, Barmé (Rounds), 2001
photographic still from video of 7min 30s
Arabic with English and French subtitles

ZENA ASSI. My City in Carrelage, 2011
mixed media and collage on canvas, 220 x 180 cm
Courtesy of Alwane Gallery

APEAL
www.apeal-lb.org