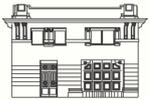


I AM ONE ACQUAINTED WITH THE NIGHT

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN STUDIO LA CITTÀ, VERONA AND GALERIE TANIT, BEIRUT



Shirin Abu Shaqra - detail from the video still *Conversations with Changes*, 2010



**STUDIO
LA CITTÀ**

I am one acquainted with the night

Adel Abidin | Shirin Abu Shaqra | Sadik Kwaish Alfraji
Abed Al Kadiri | Nadim Asfar | Jean Boghossian
Roy Dib | Simone Fattal | Chafa Ghaddar
Gilbert Hage | Rania Matar | Randa Mirza
Kevork Mourad | Ghassan Zard | Cynthia Zaven

curated by Marc Mouarkech

with an essay by Marco Meneguzzo

6.07 – 9.18, 2021

Opening June 5 - 2021, by reservation

6:08

After an apocalyptic event, one might expect a surreal temporal disorder to follow.

6:09

Time did not stop.

The Beirut port explosion on August 4, 2020 might be the culmination of Lebanon's history but it is not its completion. What this explosion represents is the destructive system that became a part and parcel of Lebanese people's everyday life.

EXHIBITION PERIOD

6.07 – 9.18, 2021

OPENING

JUNE, 5 - 2021

BY RESERVATION ONLY

VENUE

**STUDIO LA CITTÀ,
LUNGADIGE GALTAROSSA
21, 37133 VERONA - IT**

OPENING HOURS

MONDAY 2 - 6 PM

TUESDAY/FRIDAY 9 AM - 1 PM

AND 2 - 6 PM

SATURDAY 9 AM - 1 PM

**GUIDED TOURS BY
RESERVATION**

With a strategy that consists in creating an existential incoherence between the people and the communities; in imposing precariousness as a condition and individualism as an ideology; in obscuring history to sow ignorance of the conditions for the realization of the current situation of the country, this system reigns triumphant. A system carried out by the ambassadors of a war that began in 1975 and did not end.

This year is an aggravated representation of the last 45 years and of the culture of annihilation we've come to accommodate in our daily lives. So how does a long-lasting destruction culture affect the creative process? And what are the ethics and responsibilities that shape that production?

This exhibition offers the possibility of a reading beyond the current state of emergency, freeing the reflection from the temporal and spatial confinement, transcending disciplinary boundaries and allowing for an open debate around the notion of destruction, the constant flow of interruptions and the cyclic chronic presence of this energy.

It sheds a gaze on the productions of artists from Lebanon and the region, that translate the witnessing of destruction during the past four decades and question the games of memory, unconsciousness, and defense mechanisms that come into play in the creation of performative utterances, which not only describe a given reality, but aim to resist and transform it. It delves into how artists protect their identities and voices in a context that seems to want to eradicate them.

I am one acquainted with the night is a collaboration between Studio la Città and Galerie Tanit, Beirut reflecting solidarity and resilience. It borrows its title from a poem by Robert Frost. It declares familiarity with darkness, to allow the light to come back through the work of 15 artists.

The exhibition is part of a program that began in April 2021 with the group show *Today I would like to be a Tree*, in which Studio la Città exhibited Al Kadiri's charcoal drawings, sold to finance the reconstruction of the buildings destroyed by the explosion at the port of Beirut.

GALERIE TANIT BEIRUT

On August 4, 2020, shortly after 6 pm, a violent explosion devastated the harbor of Beirut. Over two hundred people were killed, six thousand were injured and a large part of the city was damaged.

The Lebanese headquarters of the historic German gallery Tanit located on the ground floor of the East Village building on Armenia Street in Beirut's Mar Mikhael area was devastated by the explosion.

Galerie Tanit was established in 1972. The program of the 1980/90ies focused on Minimal Art, Conceptual Art, and Arte Povera. The roster of the gallery - that temporarily had additional spaces in Brussels and Cologne - was later extended and exhibitions indicated a gradual shift towards representation of a younger generation of international artists.

In 2007 Naila Kettaneh Kunigk opened an additional gallery in Beirut where she shows local and foreign artists with the intention to participate in the cultural and artistic revival of Lebanon.

Based in the vibrant Mar Mikhael district, the gallery supports young Lebanese artists while maintaining a lively international program.

Since its launch in Beirut, it encourages innovation with openness to the diversity of contemporary art, offering new experiences to the public. In the thriving local art scene, Tanit provides stimulating encounters with visual arts to build cultural bridges and open meaningful discussions.

For further information and images, please contact:

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