



WORKSHOP

# The Avant-Garde and its Networks

Surrealism in Paris, North Africa  
and the Middle East from the 1930s

14 - 15 November 2016

VENUE

Orient-Institut Beirut



**OIB** ORIENT  
INSTITUT  
BEIRUT  
مركز الأبحاث في الدراسات الشرقية

DEUTSCHES FORUM  
FÜR KUNSTGESCHICHTE  
CENTRE ALLEMAND  
D'HISTOIRE DE L'ART  
PARIS

**Monday, 14 November 2016**

**11:30** *Welcome:* Stefan Leder (Director, OIB)  
*Introduction:* Monique Bellan (OIB) and Julia Drost (DFK Paris)

**KEYNOTE LECTURE**

*Discussant:* Nadia Bou Ali (American University of Beirut)

**12:00** **The Art and Liberty Group and the Reworking of Surrealism in Egypt**

Sam Bardaouil (Curator, Independent Scholar, Co-founder of Art Reoriented, [www.artreoriented.com](http://www.artreoriented.com))

**13:30 – 14:30** Lunch Break

**CONCEPTS OF MODERNITY**

*Discussant:* Nadia Bou Ali (American University of Beirut)

**14:30** **Rethinking Concepts of Modernity within the Egyptian Art Discourse: The so-called “Surrealists” of the Nile**

Judith Bihl (Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe / ZKM Karlsruhe)

**15:15** **Paris-Istanbul Axis of the Avant-Garde and the Paradoxes of Turkish Surreal/ism in a Mediterranean Context**

Eyüp Özveren (Middle East Technical University, Ankara)

**16:00** Coffee Break

**TRANSLATION PROCESSES**

*Discussant:* Sonja Mejcher-Atassi (American University of Beirut)

**16:15** **Syria and Surrealism: Urkhan Muyassar’s Pioneering Role in Translating Surrealism in Arabic**

Arturo Monaco (Sapienza University of Rome)

**17:00** **Specialists in Revolt: The Turkish Surrealist Group and the Future of the Surrealist Movement**

Catherine Hansen (American University of Beirut)

**17:45** Coffee Break

**18:00** **We entered Art from the Kitchen Door: Being Twenty in Beirut of the Thirties**

Jad Tabet (Beirut / Paris)

**Tuesday, 15 November 2016**

**RECEPTION AND CIRCULATION**

*Discussant:* Monique Bellan (OIB)

**10:00**    **Ardeshir Mohasses or the Surrealist Hypothesis in Iran**  
Morad Montazami (Tate Modern, London)

**10:45**    **Réseaux de diffusion et réception: Le surréalisme Égyptien  
à la lumière de la presse francophone d'Égypte**  
Cléa Daridan (Paris IV Sorbonne)

**11:30**    Coffee Break

**11:45**    **« Je vous prie de dire, avant tout, que je suis un fils du surréalisme » –  
Georges Schéhadé et les surréalistes parisiens**  
Julia Drost (DFK Paris)

**12:30 – 13:30**    Lunch Break

**ARTISTIC AND LITERARY INTERCONNECTIONS**

*Discussant:* Julia Drost (DFK Paris)

**13:30**    **European Surrealists in Beirut in the 1960s–70s:  
Reception and Connections**  
Monique Bellan (OIB)

**14:15**    **Oriental Germs on the Mediterranean Surreal:  
Crossing Antonin Artaud with Habib Tengour**  
Megan C. MacDonald (Koç University, Istanbul)

**15:00**    **Joyce Mansour et le surréalisme**  
Fabrice Flahutez (Université Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense)

## Conception and Organization

Monique Bellan, Orient-Institut Beirut (OIB)

Julia Drost, Deutsches Forum für Kunstgeschichte Paris (DFK)

Research into Surrealism in the Middle East and North Africa is still in its infancy, despite an increased interest in the subject in the last couple of years, especially in Egypt's Art and Freedom group. It is generally assumed that the artistic and cultural exchanges took place mainly between the "center" in Paris and the respective "peripheries", and less so between the peripheries themselves. The workshop seeks to shed light on Surrealism as a political, social, literary and artistic phenomenon that migrated beyond Europe and was translated into different contexts. It focuses on international networks and translation processes between Paris, Beirut, Cairo, and other cities from North Africa to Iran. The question of how the circulation and reception of artistic and literary ideas and practices have affected the concepts of Surrealism and modernity is another point the workshop seeks to address.

## Venue

Orient-Institut Beirut (OIB)

Next to City International School (CIS)

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**OIB** ORIENT  
INSTITUT  
BEIRUT

المعهد الأجنبي للدراسات والبحوث  
الشرقيتية



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PARIS

Max Weber  
Stiftung

Deutsche  
Geisteswissenschaftliche  
Institute im Ausland