

attitudes
espace d'arts contemporains

rue du beulet 4
ch-1203 genève
tél +41 22 344 37 56
attitudes@attitudes.ch
www.attitudes.ch

THE BEIRUT EXPERIENCE

An exhibition of contemporary art in Beirut

with

Lara Almarcegui / Marc Bauer / Tony Chakar
Marcelline Delbecq / Latifa Echakhch
Eric Hattan / Mark Lewis / Adrien Missika
Estefania Penafiel Loaiza / Dan Perjovschi

Main Venue

Beirut Art Center

12 October – 19 November 2011

Opening 12 October from 6 to 9 pm

Special venue

The HANGAR / UMAM D&R

Project by Estefania Penafiel Loaiza

12 October – 18 December 2011

Opening 11 October from 6 to 9 pm

Coordination in Beirut

Zico House

Curators & producers

Jean-Paul Felley & Olivier Kaeser

attitudes, Geneva, Switzerland

THE BEIRUT EXPERIENCE

THE PROJECT

The exhibition *The Beirut Experience* brings together 10 international artists selected for their interest in notions which are essential to the Beirut and Lebanese context, such as architecture, urban planning, memory, history or cultural identity, as well as their capacity to adapt themselves to the very complex but stimulating Lebanese situation.

The subject of the exhibition is precisely Beirut and Lebanon. Every artist produces a new work specifically linked to this context. The title of the show points to the experience of the context, with all nuances that this word contains. Almost all the artists have stayed at least twice in Beirut, once in November 2010, and then during the installation period, just before the opening of the show. Some went to Beirut to work during the summer 2011. All works are commissioned and produced by Attitudes (www.attitudes.ch).

A book will be published after the show, in three languages : English, French, Arabic. It will contain an introduction by the curators, a documentation of the works, and a long essay by Paris based German art critic and author Jens Emil Sennewald.

This book will be ready for the second version of *The Beirut Experience*, planned at Art Center Villa Bernasconi in Geneva / Lancy (CH), in April 2012. (www.villabernasconi.ch)

THE CONTENT OF THE SHOW

All the artists will be present with new works in the show at Beirut Art Center. There will be a solo presentation of new works by Estefania Penafiel Loaiza at The HANGAR, Umam D&R.

Lara Almarcegui will publish a printed guide of buildings in ruins located in Beirut. About 40 buildings of the XXth century, selected for their architectural qualities, will be documented by photos and texts. The guide will be part of a series of guides of buildings in ruins or wastelands already realized by the artist in different cities. The guide will be ready for the second version of *The Beirut Experience*, in Geneva in April 2012.

Marc Bauer will present a series of drawings, which propose a double portrait of Beirut, one physical with well know areas as Pigeon Rock, and one more psychological with extracts of the video game *Call of Duty*, played by several people in Beirut, and where fragments of the city appear in their past or imagined state.

Tony Chakar is developing his project *The Sky Over Beirut*, a series of architectural tours in two areas in the city, Ashrafjeh and the Historical City Area. During the public tours proposed during the exhibition, he speaks about the history, the memory, the architectural and the urban evolution of each area. The tours are documented and an interactive website will be produced for the show.

Marcelline Delbecq is working on a scenario focused on the Observatory building, located in the American University campus in Beirut. She will shoot and edit a film in October, during the days before the opening.

Latifa Echakhch is preparing new sculptures, a series of poppies realized with the red earth of Beirut. This work is referring to one of the Charly Brown's story, in which he is telling the legend of the poppies, which used to be white, and then became red with the blood coming from the wars and contained in the earth.

Eric Hattan plans to show an amateur film shoot by his father in Beirut in the 1960's, in a bus of the same period which will be parked in front of the BAC. He also will present elements of furniture inspired by the chairs or tables over tinkered which are often in the streets in Beirut.

Mark Lewis did shoot a new film in the Hamra area, between the buildings of Hotel Napoleon and Hotel Mayflower. The film, intitled *Beirut*, proposes, with a sharp narrative sens, a stunning glance on the architecture of the area with a panoramic view from the roof of the building.

Adrien Missika realized a very poetic new film, *The Dom*, shot in super 8 in the site of The International Fair, built by Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer in Tripoli (Lebanon) from 1968. Due to the civil war, the site was never achieved and never opened to the public.

Estefania Penafiel Loiza is working on her project *No Vacancy*, composed from the archives of the Carlton Hotel in Beirut, which are kept by UMAM D & R. At The HANGAR (UMAM D & R), she will make a display of several new pieces (video, sculpture, photographs), coproduced by The HANGAR, and at BAC, she will present a video.

Dan Perjovschi is sending to Beirut, for several weeks, original postcards with drawings about Beirut, Lebanon and the Middle East, perceived from where he is and considering the news about these areas. He will also propose several drawings freely dispatched on the walls of the art centre.

THE ARTISTS

Lara Almarcegui (E/NL, 1971, based in Rotterdam)

She had solo shows at Künstlerhaus, Bremen; Tent, Rotterdam (2011); Secession, Wien; Art Statements, Art Basel (2010); Gallery Ellen de Bruijne, Amsterdam; Sala Rekalde, Bilbao ; La Box, Bourges (2008); CGAC, Santiago di Compostela (2007); Frac Bourgogne, Dijon.

She was part group shows in Museo Tamayo, Mexico; Kunstverein, Worlfburg; Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam ; Aknank Sanat, Istanbul ; Bozar, Bruxelles (2010) ; Barbican Art Centre, London; Evento, Bordeaux; Steirische Herbst, Graz (2009), as well as in the followings biennials : Taipei (2010); Moscow; Athens ; Shenzhen (2009); Taipei; Gwangju (2008); Sharjah (2007); Sevilla; Sao Paulo (2006); Liverpool (2004).

She made guides of wastelands in the followings places: Flushing river, Queens, New York ; Rotterdam Harbour; Ebro's banks, Saragossa ; Estuary, Bilbao ; Sao Paulo ; Amsterdam. She made already two guides of ruins: *Burgundy XIX-XXIrst Century* (2009) ; *Netherlands XIX-XXIrst Century* (2008).

Marc Bauer (CH, 1975, based in Berlin)

He had solo shows at ReMap 3, Athens (2011); Kunstmuseum, St-Gallen (2010) ; Mamco, Genève ; Frac Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand (2009) ; Art Statement, Art Basel (2008); attitudes, Genève (2007) ; Stedelijk Bureau, Amsterdam (2004).

He was part of group shows at Centre Pompidou, Paris; Centre d'art Hangar à bananes, Nantes (2011); Kunstmuseum, Solothurn; Museum Ostwall, Dortmund; Musée Rath, Genève (2010); Kunstmuseum, Bern; Centre culturel suisse, Paris (2009); Kunsthaus, Zürich (2008); MAC, Santiago de Chile (2005).
www.marcbauer.ch

Tony Chakar (LB, 1968, based in Beirut)

Architect, artist, writer. He teaches history of art and architecture at Lebanese Academy of Art (ALBA) in Beirut. Some projects : *One Hundred Thousand Solitudes*, Meeting Points 6, Middle East/North Africa/Europe; *An Endless Quick Nightmare*, MED11-The Colombia Biennial (2011); *The Sky Over Beirut*, Ashkal Alwan, Beirut (2009); *The Eighth Day*, lecture/performance (2008); *Yesterday's Man*, performance written with Rabih Mroué and Tiago Rodrigues, presented in various cities in Europe; *Memorial to the Iraq War*, ICA, London (2007); *Various Small Fires*, The Royal College of Art, London (2007); *My Neck is Thinner than a Hair*, lecture / performance with Walid Raad and Bilal Khbeiz, presented in Beirut, Brussels, Paris, Berlin, London, Basle and Singapur (2004); *Beirut, the Impossible Portrait*, Venice Biennial (2003).

Marcelline Delbecq (F, 1977, based in Paris)

She had solo projects at Galerie Xippas/La Chambre, Paris; Chert Gallery, Berlin (2009); Musée Zadkine, Les Arques (2008); Art in General, New York (2007); Swiss Institute, New York (2006).

She was part of group shows at Lab Labanque, Béthune; Musée Camondo, Paris; Kunsthalle Mulhouse (2011); Printemps de Septembre, Toulouse; MUDAM, Luxembourg; EACC, Castellon; Credac, Ivry-sur-Seine (2010); Centre Pompidou, Metz; Fri-Art Fribourg (2009); Ferme du Buisson, Marne-la-Vallée; Bard College, Hessel Museum, New York (2008); Espace Paul Ricard, Paris; Kadist Art Foundation, Paris (2007); Frac PACA, Marseille (2006).

She made performances at Frac Alsace, Strasbourg (2011); Chelsea Art Space, London (2010); Festival Les Urbaines, Lausanne; Maison du livre, de l'image et du son, Villeurbanne (2009); Musée du Louvre, Paris; Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2008); attitudes, Genève (2007); Fondation Cartier, Paris (2006).

www.marcellinedelbecq.net

Latifa Echakhch (Mar/CH/F, 1974, based in Martigny and Paris)

She had solo shows at Museum Haus Esters, Krefeld, Fondation Louis Moret, Martigny (2011); Gamec, Bergamo; Frac Champagne-Ardenne, Reims; MACBA, Barcelone; Fri Art, Fribourg (2010); Swiss Institute, New York; Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel; Galerie Kamel Mennour, Paris (2009); Tate Modern, London (2008); CNAC Le Magasin, Grenoble (2007).

She took part to several group shows such as La Biennale di Venezia (2011); Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane; Kunsthalle, Basel; Sculpture Center, New York (2010); Biennale de Lyon; Zacheta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw (2009); Manifesta 7, Bolzano; Jerusalem Foundation, Jerusalem; Kunsthaus, Zürich; Studio Museum Harlem, New York (2008); Thessaloniki Biennial; Brooklyn Museum, New York; Kunsthalle Mucsarnok, Budapest (2007)

Eric Hattan (CH, 1955, based in Basle)

He had solo shows at Oslo 8, Basel (with Silvia Bächli); Kunsthalle, Nürnberg (with Silvia Bächli) (2011); Mac/Val, Vitry-sur-Seine; MAP Markus Ambach Projekte, Düsseldorf (2010); Mac/Val, Vitry-sur-Seine (2009); Printemps de Septembre, Toulouse; Galerie Art Attitude Hervé Bize, Nancy (2008); Kasseler Kunstverein, Kassel (2007); MAMS, Musée d'art moderne et contemporain, Strasbourg; Frac Alsace, Sélestat (2005).

He took part to group shows at Môtiers Art en plein air, Môtiers (2011); Art Public, Art Basel; Centre d'art La Passerelle, Brest (2010); CAC Ivry, Galerie Fernand Léger, Ivry-sur-Seine (2009); Les Ateliers de Rennes, Biennale d'art contemporain, Rennes (2008); PS1, New York (2006); attitudes, Genève; La Biennale di Architettura di Venezia (2004); MAMbA, Museo de arte moderno, Buenos Aires (2003).

www.hattan.ch

Mark Lewis (Can/UK, 1957, based in London)

He had solo shows at Forte di Bard, Aosta (2010); Canadian Pavillon, La Biennale di Venezia; University of Brighton Gallery, Brighton; Art Gallery Og Ontario, Toronto; Museo Marino Marini, Firenze (2009); Akademie der Bildende Künste, Wien; Le Grand Café, Saint-Nazaire; Indianapolis Museum of Art (2008); BFI Southbank, London; Vancouver Art Gallery; Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporaneo, Sevilla; PS1, New York; Musée d'art contemporain, Montréal (2007); FACT, Liverpool, MUDAM, Luxembourg (2006); Hamburger Kunstverein (2005). He took part to group shows or festivals such as Mostra Internazionale d'Arte Cinematografica, Venezia (2011), International Film Festival, Rotterdam (2010); Biennale de Lyon; Vancouver International Film Festival; Argos,

Bruxelles (2009) ; Kunsthalle, Wien ; Printemps de Septembre, Toulouse ; Insa Art Space, Seoul (2008) ; Centre Pompidou, Paris (2006).

He is co-founder and co-editor of *Afterall - A journal of art – Context and Inquiry*, London and Los Angeles.
www.marklewisstudio.com

Adrien Missika (F/CH, 1981, based in Geneva and Paris)

He had solo shows at Marz Galeria, Lisboa ; SpazioA Galleria, Pistoia (2011) ; La Rada, Locarno ; Galerie Blancpain Art Contemporain, Genève (2010) ; Rencontres internationales de photographies, Arles ; Module, Palais de Tokyo, Paris ; Centre d'art contemporain, Genève (2009). He took part to groups shows at Fondation Ricard, Paris ; Cneai, Paris ; Palais de Tokyo, Paris ; Live in your Head, Genève (2011) ; Bâtiment d'art contemporain, Genève ; Istituto Svizzero di Roma, Milano ; Musée des Beaux-Arts, La Chaux-de-Fonds (2010) ; PhotoForum, Biel ; Fotomuseum, Winterthur (2009) ; Biennale de Bourges ; Circuit, Lausanne ; Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts, Lausanne (2008) ; Centre culturel suisse, Paris ; Forde, Genève (2007).
www.adrienmissika.com

Estefania Penafiel Loaiza (EC/F, 1978, based in Paris)

She had a solo show at Galerie Alain Gutharc, Paris; Centre d'art Bastille, Grenoble (2009).
She took part to group shows at La Galerie, Noisy-le-Sec/Paris; Centro cultural, Sao Paulo (2011); Centro Fundacion Telefonica, Lima; Institut français, Berlin ; La Box, Bourges ; ENSBA, Paris ; Museode Arte Moderno, Guayaquil (2010) ; Printemps de Septembre, Toulouse ; Frac Haute-Normandie, Sotteville-lès-Rouen ; Centre culturel suisse, Paris ; CRAC, Altkirch (2009) ; International Triennial of Contemporary Art, Praha ; Museum of Art, Shanghai (2008) ; Musée d'art contemporain, Lyon ; Credac, Ivry-sur-Seine (2007).

Dan Perjovschi (RO, 1961, based in Sibiu and Bucarest)

He had solo shows at Kunsthalle, Lingen; Para/Site Art Spaces, Hong Kong; Macro, Roma; Galerija Gregor Podnar, Berlin (2011); EACC, Castello; Kunstverein, Ulm; Institute for Contemporary Culture, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto ; San Francisco Institute of the Arts ; Museum of contemporary art, Novi Sad (2010) ; Castello di Rivoli, Torino; Kiasma, Helsinki (2009) ; Ludwig Forum, Aachen; Wiels, Bruxelles (2008); MoMA, New York; Kunsthalle, Basel (2007); Tate Modern, London; Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven; Portikus, Frankfurt (2006); Ludwig Museum, Cologne (2005).
He was part of group shows Center for contemporary Art, Riga; Museo de Colecciones ICO, Madrid (2011); Centre Pompidou, Paris ; Kunstverein, Hamburg; NBK, Berlin; South London Gallery, London; Lotz Biennial (2010) ; Biennale de Lyon; Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart; Tri Postal, Lille (2009) ; Sydney Biennial; Tate, Liverpool (2008) ; La Biennale di Venezia; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2007); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Limerick Biennial; Biennial Internacional de Arte Contemporanea, Sevilla (2006); Istanbul Biennial (2005)
www.perjovschi.ro

THE VENUES

Beirut Art Center (BAC)

Beirut Art Center (BAC) is a non for profit association. It's the main space dedicated to contemporary art in Lebanon. Since its creation in 2009 by curator Sandra Dagher and artist Lamia Joreige, it acquired an international reputation. The spaces, designed by architect Raed Abillama, have a surface of 1'500 m2 on two floors. There is also an auditorium, a media centre and a bookshop. www.beirutartcenter.org

The HANGAR / UMAM Documentation & Research

UMAM Documentation Research (UMAM D&R) was founded in Beirut, Lebanon as a non-profit civil company in 2004 and received official recognition as a non-governmental organization (NGO) by the Lebanese Ministry of Interior and Municipalities in 2005. In general UMAM D&R is guided by the belief that acknowledging Lebanon's relatively recent

past requires that important evidence and artefacts of its history be carefully collected, protected, and promoted to the public. UMAM D&R continues to tackle Lebanon's past by engaging in diverse activities that include archival projects, cultural initiatives, technical workshops, and exhibitions in its space The HANGAR. www.umam-dr.org

THE COORDINATION IN BEIRUT

Zico House

Zico House is an association based in a house built in 1935, located in the centre of Beirut. After the civil war, Zico – the owner of Zico House – transformed the building in an independent space dedicated to contemporary creation. It gained an official status in 1999, when Beirut was elected as cultural capital of the Arab world. There is regularly exhibitions, poetry, video screening, performances, concerts, etc. www.zicohouse.org

THE CURATORS & PRODUCERS

Attitudes

Attitudes is an independent art structure based in Geneva, Switzerland, founded in 1994 and directed by Jean-Paul Felley & Olivier Kaeser. Attitudes conceives, organizes and produces projects in the fields of contemporary art, in Geneva, in Switzerland and elsewhere. Among the projects realized elsewhere, *Buenos días Buenos Aires* at MAMbA, Buenos Aires in 2003, and *Buenos días Santiago – an exhibition as expedition* at MAC Santiago de Chile in 2005. Attitudes worked with about 400 artists, and organised about 250 exhibitions and 250 other special events such as performances, films screenings or lectures.

Attitudes had an exhibition space in Geneva up to the end of 2008. Attitudes is working now on two axes: publishing editions of books, mainly artist's books, and the curating of exhibitions in various places. Attitudes has the status of a non for profit cultural association. www.attitudes.ch

Jean-Paul Felley & Olivier Kaeser are also co-directors of Centre culturel suisse (Swiss Cultural Center) in Paris, their main activity from the end of 2008.

THE SUPPORTS

The project *The Beirut Experience* get the support of the following organisations :
Pro Helvetia – Swiss foundation for culture / Swiss Exhibition Award 2008 given to attitudes by Julius Bär Foundation and Swiss federal Office for culture / Fonds cantonal d'art contemporain, Etat de Genève (Contemporary Art Fund, State of Geneva) / Mondriaan Foundation / Institut français (French Institute) / French Embassy in Lebanon / Swiss Embassy in Lebanon / Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation / Georges Foundation.