



THE MOSAIC ROOMS Winter / Spring 2012



Contemporary Arab Culture in London



03.02-30.03.12

A TRIBUTE TO ADONIS A MAJOR EXHIBITION AND LITERARY CELEBRATION

A major tribute to the great Syrian poet Adonis, including an exhibition of his stunning drawings and a series of literary events

Adonis is today considered one of the most important figures in the Arabic literary history of the last fifty years, and the Arab world's greatest living poet. His work has spanned poetry, literary criticism and history, Sufism, politics and contemporary cultural affairs. His drawings are inspired by and include sections of poetry, handwritten in Arabic calligraphy and collaged with layers of found objects. These pieces, like his literary work, combine traditional and contemporary influences.

Exiled to France after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, he worked to bring to Arabic poetry the international recognition it deserved. Even today, when he is more than eighty years old, he retains his fresh and critical outlook on the events of his homeland, attracting controversy and debate because of his cautionary and critical words on the Arab Spring. In 2011, Adonis was awarded the highly prestigious Goethe Prize.

The exhibition will include over 100 pieces of Adonis' exquisite works of ink on paper.

Exhibition open Tue-Sat 11-6pm, entrance free

A TRIBUTE TO ADONIS LITERARY PROGRAMME

03.02.12 / 7pm

Opening evening

Adonis will be introduced by Khaled Mattawa, Libyan American poet and translator of an award-winning selection of Adonis' poetry published in 2010 by Yale University Press. The evening will include readings, in Arabic, by Adonis and, in English, by Khaled Mattawa.

04.02.11 / 12pm

Arab Civilization Beyond Monotheism

A discussion of pre-Islamic Arabic poetry, the Qur'an and the development of Arabic after the advent of Islam, with a focus on Adonis' groundbreaking critical work *The Permanent and the Evolving*.

07.02.11 / 7pm

Sufism versus Islam? Surrealism and Religion in Poetry

In his 1992 book, *Al-Sufiyya wa Al-Suryaliyya (Sufism and Surrealism)*, Adonis argued that the deeper sources from which symbolism and surrealism flow are identical to those of Sufism. The evening will include a discussion of this influential book.

08.02.11 / 7pm

Reflections on the Role of the Intellectual in Society

A literary and historical discussion followed by reflections on literature and revolution and the influence of English Modernism on Arabic poetry.

Talks: £8; Students & OAPs £5

Details of the special guest speakers and further information on the accompanying literary programme can be found at:

www.mosaicrooms.org/talks-events/



Adonis © Torstein Blixford

20.04-08.06.12

HANAA' MALALLAH & KENNARDPHILLIPPS IRAQ - HOW, WHERE, FOR WHOM?

A collaborative exhibition between Iraqi artist Hanaa' Malallah and the UK duo kennardphillips.

The work of Hanaa' Malallah and kennardphillips share a mutual skepticism of claims that the invasion/occupation of Iraq has brought freedom and a better future to its people. kennardphillips' work uses up-to-date archives of press photography and digital print technology. Malallah's work takes its form from the materials she uses, creating tragic and beautiful forms by creasing, burning and folding.

Working together to create an exhibition of new works whilst responding to each other's practises, the artists aim to engage in a powerful and unique conversation.

Considered one of the most original and expressive Iraqi artists of her generation, Hanaa' Malallah has been working in London since 2007, when she was forced to flee Iraq. kennardphillips is a collaborative, London-based collective of the two British artists Peter Kennard and Cat Phillips, which began in 2003 in response to the invasion of Iraq.

A special programme of lectures and debates on the nature of democracy, WHAT PURPOSE FREE SPEECH WHEN NO ONE LISTENS, will accompany this exhibition, including talks by the three artists.

Exhibition open Tue-Sat 11-6pm, entrance free



WHAT PURPOSE FREE SPEECH WHEN NO ONE LISTENS?

Almost a million people demonstrated in London in April 2003 against the invasion and occupation of Iraq and opinion polls showed overwhelming public opposition to the war. Nonetheless, the government went ahead with its plans anyway. Ordinary citizens, while angered and frustrated, were left with pressing questions about the role of free speech in our societies when the expression of public opinion was so flagrantly ignored.

Today many difficult questions persist about the effectiveness of public protest in the West. The “Occupy” movement in Autumn 2011 was at once compelling yet without clear political objectives. Similarly, the initial force of popular revolt in the Arab World soon tottered in the face of military violence and civilian strife. At the same time, the use of military force in the region, both to crush revolt or wage wars of invasion or occupation, has increased rather than retreated in the face of the popular will.

WHAT PURPOSE FREE SPEECH WHEN NO ONE LISTENS will invite audiences to reflect upon the pressing issues of public influence on government policy, particularly with regards to international relations and on the value of free speech in society. The programme will also propose reflections on the role of art in democratic protest, and, inevitably, on the appalling consequences of war.

Speakers and dates to be confirmed. Please visit us on www.mosaicrooms.org/talks-events/ for updates and details.

Talks: £8; Students & OAPs £5



THE ARAB SPRING @ THE MOSAIC ROOMS
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS IN JANUARY 2012

20.01.12 / 7pm

Book Launch

Ahdaf Soueif - Cairo: My City, Our Revolution

For years the celebrated Egyptian novelist, commentator and activist Ahdaf Soueif had shied away from writing about Cairo. *"It hurt too much,"* she admits: *"But the city was there, close to me, looking over my shoulder, holding up the prism through which I understood the world, inserting herself into everything I wrote. It hurt. And now, miraculously, it doesn't. Because my city is mine again."*

In this unique and beautiful personal document of an extraordinary historical moment, Soueif navigates her own history of Cairo and her journey through the revolution that is redrawing its future. Through a map of stories drawn from private memory and public record, Soueif charts a revolution that is both intimately hers and publicly Egyptian.

To reserve your place please contact info@mosaicrooms.org or call 020 7370 9990.

On May 25, Ahdaf Soueif will also be giving the 2012 Edward W Said Annual Lecture at the British Museum, supported by the A.M. Qattan Foundation and the London Review of Books. Book now on www.lrbshop.co.uk/edwardsaid



26.01.12

The New Statesman Middle East Debates @ The Mosaic Rooms
HAS THE ARAB SPRING TURNED INTO AN ARAB WINTER?

Following the success of their *What Future Syria* debate in November 2011, the Mosaic Rooms and the New Statesman magazine are once again teaming up to reflect on revolution in the Arab World one year after the toppling of the Tunisian and Egyptian dictatorships. The debate, chaired by New Statesman senior political editor Mehdi Hassan, will be centred on the question: Has the Arab Spring turned into an Arab Winter?

For tickets and full panel details, please visit www.newstatesman.com/events

NewStatesman



Ahdaf Soueif @ Eamonn McCabe

ABOUT THE MOSAIC ROOMS

The Mosaic Rooms are a cultural space showcasing progressive and innovative contemporary culture from and connected to the Arab World.

Since opening three years ago, we have produced seventeen group and solo shows and a raft of literary and current affairs programmes, as well as film screenings. We also offer residencies to visiting artists and cultural practitioners in our studio apartment; and run educational outreach projects in the local area.

The Rooms also comprise a specialist bookshop stocking contemporary fiction, non-fiction, and art books relating to the Arab World. The bookshop is open during exhibition times or online, www.mosaicrooms.org/purchase-books

The space is also available for hire for private and corporate events. Please visit www.mosaicrooms.org/venue-hire-details/



www.mosaicrooms.org

NOTES



Front Cover Image: Photo Op / KennardPhillips / 2005

Opening times: Tues - Sat 11am to 6pm

Nearest Underground station: Earl's Court (Earl's Court Road exit)
Buses: 74, 328, C1, C3

Parking: One disabled parking space is available by prior arrangement.
Parking meters are available in Lexham Gardens behind the building.

the
mosaic
rooms



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The Mosaic Rooms are an A.M Gattan Foundation project. The Foundation is today considered as a leading independent cultural and educational institution focusing on the Arab region

www.qattanfoundation.org/en