

The Paradox of Creative Constraints

Saturday 7 September 2019

The Mosaic Rooms

- 10:00 **Arrival and registration** (tea/coffee provided)
- 10:30 **Welcome and Introduction**
Shohini Chaudhuri, Film scholar and symposium organiser
- 10:35 **Panel 1: The Fundamental Constraints of Film Funding and Distribution**
Funders and programmers discuss the practicalities of supporting filmmaking in the Middle East and fostering freedom of cinematic expression.
- Rima Mismar, Executive Director, Arab Fund for Arts and Culture
Fay Breeman, Manager, Hubert Bals Fund of the International Film Festival Rotterdam
Elhum Shakerifar, MENA programme advisor for the BFI London Film Festival and Film Curator for Shubbak, festival of contemporary Arab culture
- Chair: Malu Halasa, Writer and editor
- 11:50 **Film screening:** *Submarine* (Mounia Akl | Lebanon, US, 2016 | 21 mins), *Ave Maria* (Basil Khalil | Palestine, France, Germany, 2015 | 15 mins), extracts from *Tehran: City of Love* (Iran, UK, Netherlands, 2018 | 102 mins) and *Freedom Fields* (Naziha Arebi | UK, Libya, 2018 | 97 mins)
- 12:50 **Break for lunch** (provided)
- 13:35 **Panel 2: Creative Solutions to Constraints**
Filmmakers present their experiences of different types of constraints and their creative responses to them.
- Ali Jaberansari, Director, *Tehran: City of Love*
Mounia Akl, Director, *Submarine*
Naziha Arebi, Director, *Freedom Fields*
Basil Khalil, Director, *Ave Maria*
- Chair: Yael Friedman, Documentary filmmaker and film scholar
- 14:50 **Film screening:** *Profession: Documentarist* (Shirin Barghnavard, Firouzeh Khosrovani, Farahnaz Sharifi, Mina Keshavarz, Sepideh Abtahi, Sahar Salahshoor, Nahid Rezaei | Iran, 2014 | 80 minutes) followed by Q&A with Director Shirin Barghnavard

16:30 **Break** (tea/coffee provided)

16:50 **Panel 3: The House of Cinema and Other Alternative Spaces of Free Expression**

This panel will focus on cultural venues, such as The House of Cinema in Iran and Cimatheque in Egypt, which offer alternative spaces of free expression in their respective countries. It will also reflect on how cinema itself acts as a space of freedom for filmmakers seeking to overcome constraints and avoid repercussions.

Persheng Sadegh-Vaziri, Documentary filmmaker and film scholar

Naghmeh Samini, Screenwriter

Tamer El Said, Film Director and Co-founder, Cimatheque, Cairo

Julia Farrington, Associate Arts Producer, Index on Censorship

Chair: Shohini Chaudhuri, Film scholar

18:10 **Event closes**