

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

Graphic Design Exhibition • 7–29 June 2014 • The Bluecoat, Liverpool

Cynthia Merhej

About • Cynthia is a visual artist who explores the fine line between the real and the imaginary. Working across different disciplines and mediums, she draws from diverse historical and cultural influences to create humorous and surreal narratives. Having grown up in Beirut, she graduated from Central Saint Martins and from the Royal College of Art in Visual Communication. cynthiamerhej.com

Chosen Adventure • *Nothing like kitsch*

Marwan Shahin

About • Marwan is an Egypt-based artist influenced by pop art and neo surrealism. Working on his unique style from his studio/home, he creates mystical pieces infused with dark humour. Marwan's work has been exhibited worldwide, and he has collaborated with various fashion brands on collections featuring his distinctive style. marwanshahin.com

Chosen Adventure • *The Real Headlines*

Studio Kanaba

About • Studio Kanaba is a design studio based in Haifa, Palestine. The Studio was founded by Nina Zidani and Sana Jammalieh in 2013. It serves a variety of clients in the Middle East. The scope of work focuses on multi-cultural design and re-creating classical ideas with a certain "edge". studiokanaba.com

Chosen Adventure • *There is the past and the present, but never the future*

Maures

About • Maures is a stationery and t-shirt brand launched by Abdellah Aboulhamid and Abdelmounaim Youfi. Maures works on developing a cultural and visual identity around forgotten and neglected aspects of Moroccan culture through the use of humour and education rather than through folklorisation. maures.ma

Chosen Adventure • *The imagination of new transport, Part I & The Real Headlines*

Marwa Boukarim

About • Marwa is a Lebanese graphic designer and web designer. After graduating from the American University of Beirut in 2009, she worked in the creative field for four years with a particular interest in information design. She recently moved to Milan and is currently pursuing a dual master's programme in both visual and web design at Scuola Politecnica di Design. behance.net/MarwaBoukarim

Chosen Adventure • *A map of monuments, a city in prints*

Dina Khorchid

About • Dina is passionately curious about all things illustration and design. She holds a BS in Visual Communication from the American University of Sharjah and has a background in print, editorial design and illustration. Dina is Palestinian, living and working in the UAE. dinazmi.com

Chosen Adventure • *The imagination of new transport, Part I*

Mohammed Mousa

About • Mohammed is a graphic designer and a visual artist. He graduated from Yarmouk University in Jordan and now works as a freelance graphic designer. His body of work deals mostly with politics and social matters – attempting to reflection through the use of sarcasm. almohamed.com

Chosen Adventure • *The Real Headlines*

Aya Jaffar

About • Aya Jaffar (Aya al Kadhimi) is a design thinking visual artist, paper lover, world traveller, and foodie. She holds a Bachelor of Design from York University in Toronto, and will be moving to New York this Autumn to complete her MFA in Transdisciplinary Design at Parsons. ayajaffar.com

Chosen Adventure • *The Imagination of new transport, Part I*

Lama Khayyat

About • Lama is a graphic designer-cum-university instructor-cum-founder of Fann Fun. Her illustrations have been featured in a variety of Yislamoo's greeting cards. lamakhayyat.com

Chosen Adventure • *The Real Headlines*

ADVENTURE SHEET



Programming

Political graphics of the Arab streets: Posters of Resistance/Graffiti as Resistance

Presentation by: Zeina Maasri

Sunday 8 June • 15.45–16.45 • Location: Sandon Room, The Bluecoat

The presentation discusses forms of political resistance through visual culture in the Arab world. It draws comparisons between political posters of the late 1960s–70s Beirut and contemporary graffiti in the Arab streets of cities that have lived massive popular uprisings in the past few years.

Zeina Maasri is an Associate Professor of Graphic Design at the American University of Beirut. She is the author of the book *Off the Wall: Political Posters of the Lebanese Civil War* (2009), curator of a related travelling exhibition, and editor of the online counterpart of the project www.signsofconflict.com, which comprises an open digital archive of political posters. Her more recent research is concerned with the history of graphic design in a broader Arab context (Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, and Egypt) between the 1940s–70s, concurrent with these countries' discourses of modernisation, rise of postcolonial national imaginaries, as well as thrust of artistic and cultural activities.

Partners & Curator

Kalimat Magazine is a non-profit, independent, media production organisation that features bold, engaging political, design, film, fashion, literature, musical and new media content. Launched in 2010, Kalimat is a platform committed to providing an outlet for open expression within the Arab region and its diaspora. At the same time, it is a visual communication tool that serves to educate both those who read it and work to create it. kalimatmagazine.com

design_atelier is Kalimat's design studio and their new vehicle for putting their ideas in practice. The atelier is a small, collaborative studio based in London that undertakes design and cultural projects with various organisations and individuals, specialising in non-profit and independent initiatives. kalimatmagazine.com/atelier

Liverpool Arab Arts Festival was founded in 1998 by Liverpool Arabic Centre and the Bluecoat to provide Arab arts and culture in Liverpool. Over the years this partnership has grown to include most of the major arts institutions in the city including Unity Theatre, Picturehouse at FACT, National Museums Liverpool, St Georges Hall and the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall as well as artists and community organisations. The first festival took place in 2002 and it has run annually since that date as a celebratory event raising awareness and promoting an understanding and appreciation of Arabic culture for both Arab and non-Arab audiences in Liverpool and beyond. The festival has grown rapidly over the years in size, confidence, expectation and ambition and remains the only annual festival of its kind in the UK. Having been shortlisted in 2009, in 2010 LAAF was awarded the Arab British Centre's Culture & Society Award 2010 for an outstanding contribution to the British public's knowledge and understanding of the life, society and culture of the Arab people. arabartsfestival.com

The Bluecoat is Liverpool's creative hub. As the most historic building in Liverpool's city centre, the Bluecoat has four galleries where it showcases talent across visual art, music, dance, live art and literature. It houses a creative community of artists and businesses and runs a participation programme with local communities. thebluecoat.org.uk

Exhibition Information

Exhibition Dates 7–29 June 2014

Opening Times 8.00–18.00 (Monday–Saturday) • 10.00–18.00 (Sunday)

Location The Bluecoat, School Lane, Liverpool L1 3BX

Location contact 0151 702 5324 • info@thebluecoat.org.uk

For press information and artwork on this exhibition: danah@kalimatmagazine.com • kalimatmagazine.com/choose

For information on the Liverpool Arab Arts Festival: bill@billelms.com • arabartsfestival.com