

Mark Hachem gallery Beirut and Contemporary Art Platform Kuwait, presents “The Other Resurrection” A collective photography Exhibition by Rawiya collective .

Exhibition Date: July 6 – July 21 2012

Opening Reception: Friday July 6 // 6-10 pm (with presence of the Artist’s Dalia Khamissy and Tamara Abdul Hadi, Fatima Mortada)

Participating Photographers:

Myriam Abdelaziz, Tamara Abdul Hadi, Laura Boushnak, Tanya Habouqa, Dalia Khamissy and Newsha Tavakolian and filmmaker Fatima Mortada representing a stop motion video.

Location: Capital gardens, Salloum Street, Mina el Hosn, Beirut, Lebanon (next to Starco Building)

“The Other Resurrection”:

At this exhibit, seven different stories will be told through the works of a photography collective called Rawiya. Meaning “she who tells a story,” this group was founded by female photographers from across the Middle East.

The first story is about photographer **Newsha Tavakolian’s** subject, Maria, a former truck driver and married man who underwent a sex operation. Previously called “Asgar,” Maria had been suffering due to her belief that she was born into the wrong body. After the successful operation, Asgar was falsely pronounced dead and Maria was introduced to the family as an old aunt. Things had been going well as she continued to live with her family until newspapers started spreading the truth about her former identity. As a result, she now lives alone in a small apartment with no job, no family or friends.

As for the second member of Rawiya, **Laura Boushnak** decided to make her subjects into storytellers as well. Throughout her series of portraits, she has photographed illiterate Arab woman and asked them to participate by writing their own stories on prints of her work. This series focuses on the class of literacy in Egypt where nearly half of the women there can’t read or write.

Taniya Habjouqa, Rawiya’s third member invites us into the daily lives of women living in the Gaza strip. A series of photographs proving to us that even in a place filled with ruin and destruction, one can always find joy, love and laughter. No matter how hard their situations in life are and how difficult living in similar conditions can be, they make the most of it. Women are strongly motivated to pursue their education, to continue caring for their families as well as having fun and enjoying the simple beauty of life. During the Lebanese civil war in 1975 -1990, it was estimated that nearly 17,000 people were kidnapped from both sides of the conflict. These people were men and children that were brutally taken away from their families and never seen again. Since 2009, **Dalia Khamissy** has been focusing on documenting their stories. She has been reaching out to all the families that are mourning the loss of their children, and photographing what remains from their traces, memories and possessions.

As for the fifth story in the exhibit, photographer **Myriam Abdelaziz** will introduce the viewers to an exceptional dialogue between the Egyptian people and

the walls surrounding them. As a result from the harsh dictatorship that has been ruling the country and the violation of human rights, the Egyptian citizens have gathered the courage to protest and fight for freedom. Particularly in the streets of downtown Cairo, members of the revolution have been strongly expressing themselves by covering the walls with their opinions and beliefs. Myriam's series of photographs capture the cycles of graffiti that have come to characterize the changes that Cairo is undergoing.

Tamara Abdul Hadi's portrait series has been ongoing since 2009. As a result of the 9/11 events, Arab and Muslim men have been negatively represented around the world. In order to break down these stereotypes, the photographer has produced a series of work highlighting the beauty and softness of Arab men with different origins.

Fatima Mortada the 7th member of Rawiya. Presents "Hymnomania" a stop motion experimental video. The filmmaker addresses the physiological phenomenon of the 'hymen' and its indication of honor, chastity and purity of a girl throughout the Arab world. The video tells a story of a girl struggling to cope with the repercussions of hymoplasty and the secret and guilt that only she knows and faces in a society dominated by traditional views.

About Rawiya:

Rawiya presents an insider's view of a region in flux balancing its contradictions while reflecting on social and political issues and stereotypes. As a collective, Rawiya's photographers respect the human dignity of the stories they tell, pooling resources and vision to produce in-depth photo-essays and long-term projects.

About Contemporary Art Platform (CAP Kuwait)

CAP is a non-profit organization and cultural center focused on contemporary and new media art.

CAP aims to increase the regional and National Visual influence by providing visual art exhibitions and supports the continued professional growth of artists.

Besides the exhibitions, CAP offers an educational program, which includes lectures, panel discussions and workshops, conducted mostly by visiting artists and curators. Program also consists of art documentaries and film screenings to be held on a regular basis.

As an art center, CAP provides the public with a growing art library of nearly 1000 books. The library includes art history books, world art, artist biographies, contemporary and modern art, architecture and Design.

Supporting the art community in Kuwait is one of our main goals, therefore a permanent studio space was created at CAP for Kuwait's Based artists use, Specially for those who can not afford to rent or buy a studio space, where they could produce work during a specific period of time, and having the exhibition space for a one night to showcase and selling their artworks without charging them any commission.

CAP is launched in September 2011 and funded by Amer Huneidi, a private art collector from Kuwait.