



Danica Dakić / LA GRANDE GALERIE, C-Print, Aludibond, 100 x 129 cm, 2004 / © VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn

THE SILENT ECHO ARCHAEOLOGY, OBSOLETE PAST ICONOCLASM

- > Monday 19 September 2016,
11am to 6.00 pm
Auditorium, Level- 2
- > **Free Admission**
- > In **English** (Arabic translation provided)
- > Organized by **STUDIOCUR/ART**
- > In partnership with **SURSOCK MUSUEM**
and **UNESCO**
- > Lunch break at **1pm**

In light of the contemporary art exhibition The Silent Echo opening at the Archaeological Museum of Baalbek on the 17th of September, STUDIOCUR/ART is pleased to organize a conference under the patronage of UNESCO.

The conference will explore notions of iconoclasm through the present destruction of artifacts and monuments happening in the Middle East and the role of archaeology in contemporary art.

What inspires contemporary artists and archaeologists to 'dig' into the past, to study archaeological methods, to rewrite and reinterpret history. Where does this urge to unveil the mystery of silent objects through layers of narratives and sometimes fiction originate? Apart from tourism, there is a need to integrate this obsolete past in our daily lives and to justify their existence in our Museums. In the post-colonial studies, archaeology could be interpreted differently through the role that Museums can play in re-defining the past and the future.

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LIST OF SPEAKERS

PART I / CONTEMPORARY ART PRACTICE AND ARCHAEOLOGY (11AM-1PM)

> 11.00am: Karina El Helou: Curator of The Silent Echo

Karina El Helou established the non-profit curatorial platform STUDIOCUR/ART in 2014. She previously worked at the Cartier Foundation for Contemporary Art in Paris and at the Sotheby's Institute of Art in London. She holds a Masters degree in Art History from Sorbonne University and École du Louvre and studied at l'École d'Art de Rueil-Malmaison.

> 11.20am: Luc Bachelot: Contemporary artists and archaeological methods

Archaeologist specialised in the Middle East, Luc Bachelot is the director of the archaeological mission of Tell Shioukh Faouqâni (Syria). He is a professor at Paris X-Université de Nanterre and a researcher at the CNRS. He has been lecturing on notions of iconography and the significance of images in archaeology and contemporary art.

> 11.50pm: Marc-Olivier Wahler: Iconoclasm in contemporary art

International Curator, Contemporary Art Critic, and Art Historian, Marc-Olivier Wahler worked as the Director of Palais de Tokyo (Paris) and as the Director of the Swiss Institute (New-York). He is the Founding Editor of PALAIS magazine and the co-founding Director of the CAN Centre d'Art Neuchâtel (Switzerland) and is currently the Director of Chalet Society (Paris). Since 2015, Marc-Olivier Wahler is also the Artistic Advisor for Contemporary Istanbul, de Appel arts center in Amsterdam and the Broad Art Museum in Michigan.

> 12.20 pm: Q&A

> 12.40 pm: Lunch break

PART II / THE ROLE OF FICTION IN THE PAST AND FUTURE (2PM-3.30PM)

> 2.00pm: Philippe Charlier: Real and fake relics of Joan of Arc

Philippe Charlier is the head of the Section of Forensic and Medical Anthropology (UVSQ), and specialised in the study of ancient remains using both archaeological and biomedical methods. His recent patients are the "relics" of Joan of Arc, the mummified heart of Richard the Lionheart, the visceral remains of St Louis, the embalmed head of Henri IV.

> **2.30pm: Elena Sorokina: Contemporary Museum as Science Fiction in 1920s Russia**

Curator and Art Historian with a special interest in performance. She was invited to organise exhibitions and projects such as "Museum (science)fictions" at Centre Pompidou, "Forms of Togetherness (and Separation)" at WIELS, Brussels, "Spaces of Exception" a special project for the Moscow Biennale, symposium "What is a postcolonial exhibition?", at SMBA/Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, "Temps Trituré. Agnes Varda" at LVMH in Brussels and other projects.

> **3.00pm : Q&A**

> **3.20pm : Coffee break**

PART III/ ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE FUTURE

(3.50PM- 6PM)

> **3.50pm: Nigel Tallis: Art, Image and Power: deliberate destruction of art in the Ancient Near East**

A specialist in the Assyrian period with research interests in Assyrian art and palace decoration, the study of land and sea transport - particularly the development of wheeled vehicles and the use of the horse, alongside the history and archaeology of warfare in the Middle East in the ancient and early medieval periods. Curator at the British Museum (London) in charge of the museum's later Mesopotamian collections (from 1500 to 539 BC).

> **4.20pm: Margarete van Ess: Baalbek Archaeological Museum Future**

Scientific Director of the Orient Department of the German Archaeological Institute and Head of the German Archaeological Projekt in Baalbek. She holds a PhD in Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology by the Freie Universität Berlin and is responsible for several archaeological projects in Middle Eastern Countries and particularly in Iraq and Lebanon.

> **4.50pm: Assaad Seif | Protecting BAALBEK's Integrity: Risk Preparedness and the Threat of Iconoclasm**

Associate Professor at the Lebanese University, he holds a Ph.D. in Archaeology, Ethnology and Prehistory from Paris 1 University Pantheon-Sorbonne. ICOMOS / ICAHM expert member, Dr. Seif is the advisor of the Minister of Culture. He holds a position of Associate Researcher at the Lebanese National Council of Scientific research and Honorary Senior Research Assistant at the University College London (UCL). He is member of the Scientific Board of CMAS, a British Journal specialized in the Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites.

> **5.20pm : Q&A**