

2. Culture

Film Program 2010 (29 June – 1 July 2010)



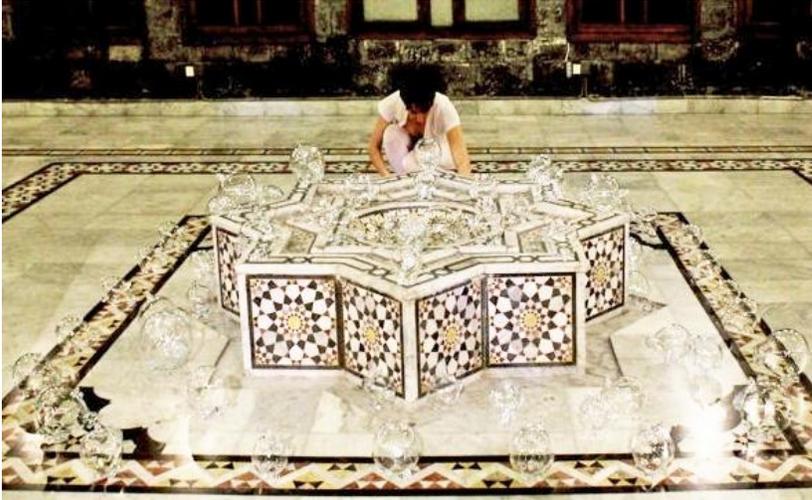
At the end of June and the beginning of July, the second block of its 2010 Film Program took place at the institute. All the films were screened with Arabic subtitles made by the institute. The second block featured: *Impasse* (Bram Schouw, 2008), *Bloody Mondays and Strawberry Pies* (Coco Schrijber, 2008), *About Fish and Revolution* (Margriet Rogaar, 2008), *Carmen meets Borat* (Mercedes Stalenhoef, 2008) and *Bridging the Gap* (Corinne van Egeraat, 2008). The Film Program 2010, which will bring Dutch films, documentaries and short films in October and December 2010 as well, is sponsored by the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Damascus and by Holland Film in Amsterdam.

2nd AllArtNOW festival - Living Spaces (25-30 May)

With a small financial contribution from the institute, Maria Lalou participated in the “2nd AllArtNow festival – Living spaces” and exhibited the works: *Drop`s* and *Economic Express or Mobility Express – Piggtherapy*. Her works were shown at *Maktab Anbar* and at the *Alkishla Gallery* in Damascus.

Maria Lalou is a new media/conceptual artist. She was born in Athens, Greece, and has studied Fine Art in Amsterdam. At the moment she is working and living in Amsterdam. Below you will find a small description of the *Economic Express or Mobility Express – Piggtherapy*.





Economic Express or Mobility Express – Piggtherapy is a travel with 100 glass pigs to 5 different locations chosen for their historic and economic virtues. ‘Pigs’ are representing the consumerism of the 21th century, as well as the humanistic behavior towards animal breeding. The expedition took its

name from the ‘Economic Mobility’ plan, questioning the phenomenon of testing on animals. The carriage of the glass pigs is a metaphor for Economy Values, Animal Threat and Consumption. For more information about Maria Lalou and her works, please see www.piggtherapy.com.

Activities in the context of the EU funded project "Cultural Participation for Heritage Regeneration" (13 June 2010, and 1-2 July 2010)

Under the Local and Regional Cultural Activities scheme of the Delegation of the European Union to Syria, the project "Cultural Participation for Heritage Regeneration" is jointly funded by the Delegation and by the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Syria. The project is implemented and coordinated by the Institut Français du Proche-Orient (IFPO), in partnership with the Syrian NGO Art Renaissance Association, Netherlands Institute of Academic Studies in Damascus (NIASD) and Danish Institute in Damascus (DID). In the context of this project several activities are scheduled to take place in the course of 2010.

On the 13th of June 2010, the award ceremony for the two competitions “Art in the city: competition for the design of art works in open public spaces” and “Bridging the gap: Cultural Heritage and Educational Resources: competition for the design of educational activities” took place in the Damascus Historical Museum. In addition to this award ceremony, the exhibition “Uqayba: Colours of a forgotten neighbourhood” was opened; this exhibition will run until 27 June 2010. Also in the framework of this project, an open traditional house day was organized on the 1st of July 2010 in Al-Narinj alley in Uqayba, a city quarter outside the walls of the Old City of Damascus. On the 2nd of July 2010, a guided tour took place in that same Uqayba quarter.

3. Institutional

Netherlands Institute in Damascus: Salima Bouchtaoui

As of 19 May 2010, Ruben Elsinga is no longer working at the institute. The appointment of a new deputy director is expected to take place in the fall of this year. In the mean time Salima Bouchtaoui (23) has been working with us.