

For Immediate Release



Upcoming events at AUB through December 10

Beirut, Lebanon- 06/12/2013 - The American University of Beirut will be holding the following events over the coming days:

- **Exhibition: "Art / World / Disaster" continues**

AUB Art Galleries are organizing "Art / World / Disaster," a project by Pedro Lasch with the participation of artists, students, and activists in Beirut.

The exhibition is held at the AUB Byblos Bank Art Gallery from November 28, 2013 to January 19, 2014.

The project Art / World / Disaster takes its point of departure the personal experience of artist Pedro Lasch, when he and a small group of artists, curators, scholars, and activists in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti on produced the first edition of the Ghetto Biennale (2009).

Initially ignored by international media, it later attracted their attention as a result of a destructive earthquake that hit Haiti.

Within the framework of this project the artist hopes to initiate a collective reflection upon such questions as: What today constitutes a memorable event that includes but also goes far beyond art? Can sites of disaster or armed conflict also be economic and cultural hubs, or are these two terms mutually exclusive? Would it be absurd to seek connections between the mechanisms through which we respond to global tragedies and those that are central to the creation of international art biennials? ... How, for example, did the war and post-war reconstruction in Lebanon contribute to the rise of contemporary art institutions, of new artistic practices and initiatives?

- **Lecture: 100 Social Innovations from Finland"**

What connects dish-drying cabinets to single-chamber parliament, the children's day-care system to public laundry jetties, pettu bread to coalition governments?

To find out attend the lecture organized by the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at AUB on the social innovations in Finland that laid the foundation to the Nordic welfare state model. The lecture will be held on December 9, 2013 from 12.30pm to 2pm, in College Hall, Auditorium B1

The lecture is based on a book entitled, "100 Social Innovations from Finland," which highlights how social innovations have led to championed societal harmony. Finland has

significant lessons learned to offer for the transitioning Arab States, in terms of gender equality, minority rights, free education, and parliamentary democracy and the consequent social stability they create. Copies of the translated Arabic version of the book will be available during the event.

Speakers: Dr Ilkka Taipale and Dr. Vappu Taipale

- **Lecture on the challenges of representing Arabs and Muslims on the American stage**

A lecture by Silk Road Rising will take place at AUB in Nicely 415 on Monday December 9, 2013 at 5pm.

Jamil Khoury and Malik Gillani, co-founders of Chicago's award winning Silk Road Rising, will discuss the visionary work of their theatre company and the challenges of representing Arabs and Muslims on the American stage. The program will include a screening of their short documentary film "Not Quite White: Arabs, Slavs, and the Contours of Contested Whiteness," which explores the complicated relationship between Arab immigrants and American notions of whiteness. Also to be screened is "Meet Mosque Alert," a compilation video that is part of an online new play development and civic engagement project examining resistance to the building of mosques in communities across the U.S.

- **Lecture on autocracy and the common good**

The Anis Makdisi Program in Literature is organizing a lecture entitled, "Autocracy and the Common Good: Political Concepts of Sultanic Rule," by Stefan Leder, on December 9, 2013 at 6pm in West Hall, Auditorium C.

This lecture explores the conceptualization of local sovereign rule in pre-modern texts as an historical type of political regime, which includes a notion of good governance that transcends a political ethics that is centered on the ruler's person. Although the focus is on the 12th to 16th century, the interest in the legacy of Sultanic rule and its modern repercussions inform this inquiry.

Stefan Leder is the Director of the Orient-Institut Beirut, and is a Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at Martin-Luther-University in Halle/Germany.

- **Lecture on the social and cultural meanings embedded in diaries and scrapbooks of 20th C Egyptians**

The Center for Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies at AUB is organizing a lecture entitled, "Junk as Archive: Vernacular photography, writing practices and middle-class youth culture in

mid-20th Century Egypt,” by Lucie Ryzova from the Faculty of History, Oxford University. The lecture will be held on December 10, 2013 at 6pm, in West Hall, Auditorium B.

The talk will look at diaries and photographic albums and scrapbooks from 20th century Egypt. What do they tell us about the transformation in reading and writing practices that took place in Egypt between the late 19th and through the early 20th centuries and changed ideas about what "texts" and "writing" are for? What do they tell us about the changes in social authority that such texts carried, enabled, and embodied? Ryzova will unpack some of this material paying particular attention to issues of class, gender, love, patriarchy, and individuality.

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,500 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full service 420-bed hospital.

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