

## EXHIBITION TALK PROGRAM

STUDY FOR A SOAP BY EMMANUEL TUSSORE

**Benhadj&Djilali Gallery**

Torstrasse 170, 10115 Berlin

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### **Daily Life in the Midst of Conflict**

**Saturday, October 21, 2017 | 7–9 pm**

**Location: Benhadj&Djilali Galerie | Torstrasse 170 | 10115 Berlin**

Discussion (in English) with Hosam Katan, a photographer from Aleppo, on attempts to lead normal lives in times of violent conflict—and to convey them in images.

*Moderation: Olaf Winkler, architect and arts journalist*

### **Rebuilding a City after Conflict**

**Sunday, October 22, 2017 | 11:30 am–2 pm**

**Location: Benhadj&Djilali Galerie | Torstrasse 170 | 10115 Berlin**

Discussion (in German) with Niloufar Tajeri (architect) and Yasser Almaamoun (architect) from Damascus about plans for rebuilding the city and civil societies immediately after violent conflicts (Berlin, Aleppo, Beirut, Kabul, etc.). Thoughts and discussion on initial reconstruction plans for Damascus.

Discussion (in English) with Hamid Sulaiman, architect, painter, illustrator, and author of the graphic novel *Freedom Hospital*, about his view of the war in Syria. Born in 1986 in Damascus, Sulaiman lives and works in Berlin and Paris.

*Moderator: Olaf Winkler, architect and arts journalist*

### **Despite the Ruins**

**Sunday, October 22, 2017 | 4:30–5:30 pm**

**Location: Galerie Katharina Maria Raab | Keithstraße 5 | 10787 Berlin**

Guided tour and discussion with artist Sonja Schömberger in her current exhibition. There are fourteen mountains of rubble in Berlin. These artificial mounds consisting of debris from World War II were covered with plantings in the 1950s. City planners and landscape architects chose fast growing trees and plants, whose roots could adapt to their artificial foundation. In the sense of a German saying, “grass was allowed to grow” over these sites, i.e. the past was forgotten. Born in 1975, the artist engages in a search for fragments that have been brought to light over time through erosion and uprooted trees, in order to collect them and also photograph the treetops. With these photographs she combines shards found on extended walks across these hills of debris.

## **Aleppo: Culture and Heritage. Past, Present, Future**

**Thursday, November 9, 2017 | 7–9 pm**

**Location: Benhadj&Djilali Galerie | Torstrasse 170 | 10115 Berlin**

Talk (in German) by Mamoun Fansa on the history of Aleppo and its cultural heritage.

Followed by a discussion (in German and French with German translation) with Lena Wimmer, who is developing strategies and plans with the GTZ and the BTU Cottbus for the reconstruction of the Old City of Aleppo; and with Thaddée de Slizewicz, founder of Tade Pays du Levant (1994), a major importer of soaps from Aleppo in France and a supporter of the local soap industry in Aleppo.

### **PARTICIPANTS**

Born in 1994 in Aleppo, the Syrian photographer **Hosam Katan** photographed the war in his hometown after western journalists had left the city, he published these images through international agencies. His photographs are important documents of life and death among the ruins of Aleppo. In 2016, he fled to Germany where he has been studying photo journalism at the University of Applied Arts and Sciences in Hanover. In 2016, he received a special award of the Nannen Prize.

**Niloufar Tajeri** lives in Berlin and works as a research assistant at the Institute of History and Theory of Architecture and the City at the Technische Universität in Braunschweig. She has also worked for architecture magazines, such as *Volume* and *ARCH+*. Tajeri has studied rebuilding programs in Kabul, and her particular interest is the reconstruction of Berlin and postwar modernism. With Walter Nägeli, she wrote the book *Kleine Eingriffe. Neues Wohnen im Bestand der Nachkriegsmoderne* (Small Interventions. New Living in the Structures of Postwar Modernism), which was published by Birkhäuser Verlag.

**Yasser Almaamoun** is an organizer of the platform "Nachwuchsarchitekten" for emerging architects, a creative and interdisciplinary forum fostering the initiative and commitment of a young generation of planners. He is also an activist with the Zentrum für Politische Schönheit. He has lived in Berlin since 2013 and works as an architect for a Berlin-based firm. In addition, he explores various reconstruction plans for Syrian cities, in particular for Damascus.

In his graphic novel *Freedom Hospital*, **Hamid Sulaiman** tells the story of the Syrian revolution and vividly describes scenes in the country as well as the flight of his people. His works have been shown in various art galleries in Berlin, Paris, Cairo, London, and Venice.

**Mamoun Fansa**, archaeologist and cofounder of the working group "Rebuilding Aleppo – Strategies for Rebuilding Aleppo". From 1995 to 2011, he was Director of the Landesmuseum Natur und Mensch in Oldenburg. He is the author of numerous publications on the reconstruction of Aleppo and its cultural heritage.

**Lena Wimmer**, architect with her own firm in Berlin and cofounder of the working group "Rebuilding Aleppo – Strategies for Rebuilding Aleppo". She is particularly interested in the reconstruction of Aleppo and the development of rebuilding plans for the future city.

**Thaddée de Slizewicz**, geographer and founder of Tade Pays du Levant (1994), the main French importer of soaps from Aleppo. His company supports the local soap industry and contributes to the valorization and dissemination of traditional know-how.

**Olaf Winkler**, born 1969, studied architecture in Aachen and Vienna. He lives in Schwerte and Brussels, working as a journalist in the fields of architecture, urbanism, and associated cultural disciplines. He is the author of numerous publications.