

ARAB AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM  
Presents  
**DIWAN A FORUM FOR THE ARTS**  
The GRADUATE CENTER, CUNY  
365 Fifth Avenue @34th  
25-26 MARCH 2011

Co-sponsored by  
Alwan for the Arts  
MEMEAC, The Graduate Center, CUNY

*Program Schedule*

**Thursday, March 24, 2011**

**8:00-10:00: Informal gathering (St. Giles Hotel, The Court, 130 East 39th Str./bet. Lexi & Park)**

**Friday, March 25, 2011**

**8:00-9:00: Set up, Registration**

**9:00-9:30: Welcome**

Holly Arida, Event Coordinator, Arab American National Museum  
Anan Ameri, Director, Arab American National Museum  
Ahmed Issawi, Board Chair, ALWAN for the Arts  
Mehdi Bozorgmehr, Co-Director, MEMEAC

**9:30 -11:00: REFLECTIONS ON ELEVEN SEPTEMBER (Recital Hall)**

*As we approach the 10 year anniversary, Arab American visual artists & writers grapple with 9/11 in their work*

**Moderator:** Lama Mansour

**Eleven Reflections on September, Andrea Assaf**

**Explosives Called Words—Arab American Writers Grapple with Terrorism, Andrea Shalal-Esa**

**Quest to Belong Ayad Alkadhi**

**9:30 -11:00: THE STORIES WE TELL (Room C198)**

*Arab Americans convey their truth through emerging mediums of installation art, film and the graphic novel*

**Moderator:** Devon Akmon

**The Hookah Girl and Other True Stories**, Marguerite Debai  
**New York Chronicles**, Maymana Farhat  
**Stories from Studio Haret el Yahoud: An Egyptian-American Artist Meets her Neighbors**,  
Nada Shalaby

**11:00-11:15: Break**

**11:15-1:00: CHANGING THE DIALOGUE (Recital Hall)**  
*Artists use language to redirect discourse on Arab America*

**Moderator:** Mike Mosallem

**Changing the National and Global Dialogue through Theater**, Noor Theater  
**Becoming American, Prose, Poems and Paintings**, Ibtisam Barakat  
**Hip Hop and Identity**, Maytha Al Hassan  
**And It Don't Stop – Hip Hop as a Means of Criticism of Global Marginalization in Suheir Hammad's Breaking Poems**, Katherina Motyl

**11:15-12:45: EDUCATION AS ART (Room C198)**  
*From Public Television to high school and university classrooms, artists shape the next generation's perceptions about Arab Americans.*

**Moderator:** TBA

**Representing Arabs in a Positive Light Through Children's Entertainment**, Shebnam Rezaei  
and Aly Jetha  
**Written on the Body**, Randa Jarrar  
**Arab American High School Juniors Reflect on their Experience of Arab American Art and Literature in their K-11 Education**, Taher Dahleh, Rami Benayad-Cherif, Deema Dahleh

**12:45-2:00: Lunch**

**2:00-3:30: ONE WOMAN SHOW: FEMALE, FREEDOM, AND FADWA (Recital Hall)**  
*Showcasing successful shows that Arab American women have taken to the stage to tell our story across the country*

**Moderator:** Leila Buck

**Everyone Has Tears**, Cynthia Sophia with Zafer Tawil  
**I Heart Hamas and Other Things I'm Afraid to Tell You**, Jennifer Jajeh  
**Lend me an ID**, Nora Armani

**2:00-3:30: UNCONFERENCE SESSION (Room C198)**  
*Our audience chooses topics around Arab American art for an open dialogue*

**Moderator:** Devon Akmon

**3:30-5:00: WE ARE THE EARTH: HOME, HOMELESSNESS AND TERRAIN, A READING (Recital Hall)**

*Some of our finest poets contemplate frequent themes that frame the Arab American experience*

**Moderator:** Khaled Mattawa

Elmaz Abinader, Deema Shehabi, Hayan Charara

**8:00: Khaled Mattawa, A Reading (Alwan, 16 Beaver Street)**

**Saturday, March 26, 2011**

**9:00-9:30 Set up, Registration**

**9:30-10:00 Welcome**

**10:00-11:30 CONVERGING ON ARAB AMERICAN MUSIC (Recital Hall)**

*How music gives voice to modern and classical Middle Eastern culture*

**Moderator:** Taoufiq Ben Amor

**An Arab American Voice in Film Music, Kareem Roustam**

**On the Convergence Liberation of Maqam, Flamenco, and Jazz Systems, Hafez Modrizadeh**

**Maqam in Arab American Music, Amir ElSaffar**

**11:30-1:00 Lunch**

**1:00-2:00 THE PHILADELPHIA ARAB MUSIC ENSEMBLE**

**2:00-3:30: ART AS INTERVENTION (Recital Hall)**

*Artists intervene in the reality of war and conflict through multi-media arts, sculpture and film*

**Moderator:** Holly Arida

**Mapping: Un/Real Cityscapes The Beyrouth: Baghdad Project, Youmna Chlala and Dena Al-Deeb**

**Responding to the War on Gaza: From Emotion to Metaphor, from Sentiment to Symbol, Reem Gibriel**

**Wounds of the Heart: An Artist and her Nation, John Halaka**

**3:30-4:30: Keynote Address on Diwan 2011 (Recital Hall)**

Prof. Joseph Massad

**7:00-11:00: *PUBLIC PERFORMANCE* (DROM, 85 Avenue A/bet 5th & 6th St.)**

Kinan Azmeh & City Band with vocals by Soul Sudani (AlSarah)