biography

Akram Zaatari was born in 1966 in Saida, Lebanon. He earned his Bachelor of Architecture in 1989 from the American University of Beirut and his Master of Arts in Media Studies, from The New School University, New York in 1995. In 1997 he was one of the founding members of the “Arab Image Foundation” and “The Lebanese Association for Contemporary Art” and the organizer of the former AYLOUL festival.

Mr. Zaatari is an acclaimed artist and curator based in Beirut, whose work examines the conflicts, images and documents that have shaped the Lebanese condition. He is a co-founder of the Fondation Arabe pour l’Image, Beirut, through which he developed his recent work on the photographic history of the Middle East. This work resulted in a series of exhibitions, among which are 2001: The Vehicle: picturing moments of transition in a modernizing society; Portraits du Caire: Van Leo, Arman, Alban; and 2002: Mapping Sitting, on portraiture and photography with Walid Raad. He edited or co-edited three publications with the same titles. His writings have been published in critical and scholarly journals such as: Parachute, Framework, Transition, Bomb, Al-Adaab, Al-Nahar, and Zawaya.

Awards received by Mr. Zaatari include:

1998 Best International Short Video at the Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival, for “Crazy of You”
1998 Best Documentary and Best Director at the Beirut Film Festival for “Crazy of You”
2001 Special Jury Award at Videoliesboa for “Red Chewing Gum”
2002 First Prize at the Ismailia Film Festival for “Her + Him Van Leo”
2004 Prix SON. FID Marseille for “This Day”
2005 First Prize at the FAIR PLAY Video Art Festival Berlin for “Red Chewing Gum”

abstract

Starting from my interest in the act of collecting, and the notion of study as an art practice, this presentation looks at how banal objects can communicate the complexity of history, particularly in relation to severe experiences such as war and detention. This is an overview of documents and testimonies I have collected while working on four videos that touched on issues related to the Israeli occupation of Lebanon.

selected solo exhibitions:

2007 Galerie Sfeir-Semler, Hamburg, Germany
2006 Galerie Sfeir-Semler, at ParisPhoto, Hamburg, Germany
2006 La Caixa, Barcelona, Spain
2004 Unfolding, on the landscapes of war and political conflicts. Portikus, Frankfurt, Germany
2002 Desert Panorama, a video installation based on the photographic work of Jibrail Jabbur in the Syrian Desert. De Appel Center, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
1999 Monuments du desir, an exhibition of photographs based on police reports on crimes of passion. Exhibited in the context of the festival photo des 3 continents, DRAC, Nantes, France
1999 Monument # 5: the scandal, a video installation. Produced in the context of an art project curated by Christine Tohme, Ashkal Alwan. Corniche Sea, Beirut, Lebanon
1998 Another Resolution, a video / photo installation. Ayloul Festival, Goethe Institute, Beirut, Lebanon

Other accomplishments of Mr. Zaatari include publications in international and national journals and the production of many short films.