

NOUR

FESTIVAL OF ARTS

**CONTEMPORARY ART, FILM, MUSIC, LITERATURE AND FASHION
FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA**

LEIGHTON HOUSE MUSEUM // OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2011



NOUR FESTIVAL OF ARTS | OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2011



Welcome to the 2011 Nour Festival of Contemporary Middle Eastern and North African Arts at Leighton House Museum. The word Nour, which means 'light' or 'illumination' in various Middle Eastern languages, is an appropriate term for the Royal Borough's showcasing of some of the best art, film, literature, fashion and music originating within these diverse cultures.

The festival finds a natural home at Leighton House Museum, renowned across the UK and internationally as a site of major significance in terms of the meeting of East and West.

This year's festival is again international in scope, attracting leading names in contemporary Middle Eastern and North African art. Yet, it is also local. Arabic is the second most common language in the Royal Borough after English. The Nour Festival is particularly proud to be engaging so fully with our local communities and schools.

The 2011 Nour Festival promises to offer two months of scintillating arts and culture from across the Middle East and North Africa, and as Cabinet Member for Transport, Environment and Leisure services I'm delighted to introduce and recommend this unique and exciting showcase within the Royal Borough.

CLLR NICHOLAS PAGET-BROWN

Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member of Transport, Environment and Leisure Services

SUAD AL-ATTAR

TREE OF LIFE: VISIONS FROM GARDENS OF EDEN

October 1 – 28

Free exhibition

Museum admission applies

Trees and their associated symbolism have been an important theme in Suad Al-Attar's work for over three decades. In many ways, her relationship with this topic can be seen to be an evolving connection to her own feelings towards her country of birth, Iraq, and its struggles in recent times. Her first exploration of the subject matter was in Baghdad in the 1970s in which her dream landscapes drew heavily on Iraq's Mesopotamian heritage of bountiful gardens and the ever-present motif of the palm tree. Such peaceful imagery was to be shattered by a succession of horrific wars: the Iran-Iraq War of 1980-88; the Gulf War in 1990; and the recent 2003 war in Iraq. Al-Attar's response to the 2003 war was a scathing comment on the effects of conflict on the Iraqi people, with an exhibition entitled "Tears of the Ancient City" (2006), held at Leighton House Museum.

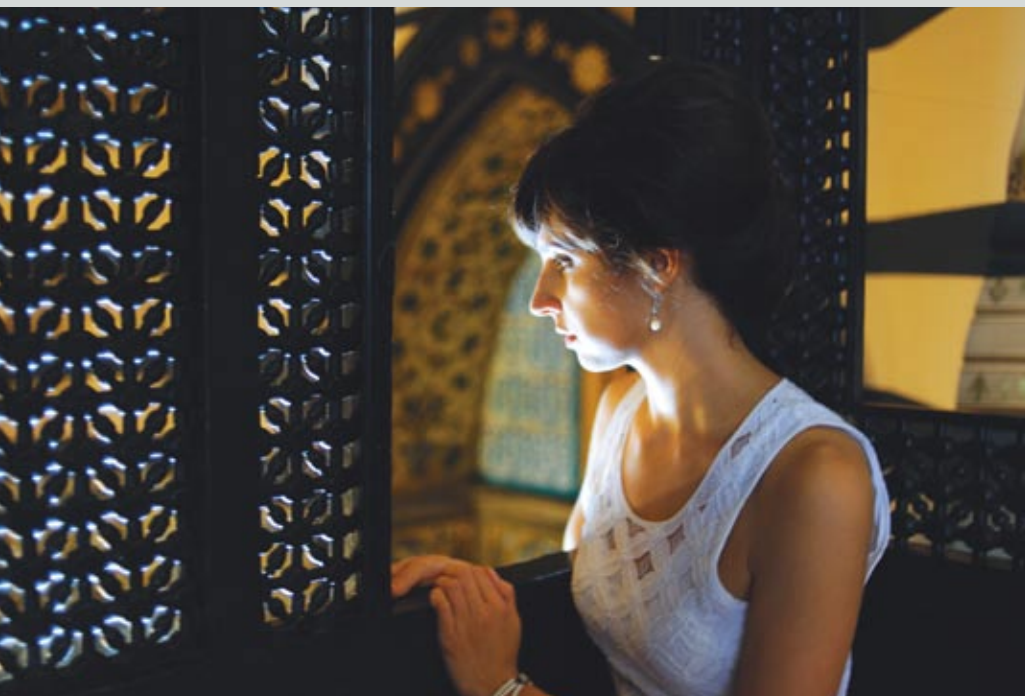
Throughout 2007/08 Al-Attar returned to the theme of the Tree of Life and paintings began to emerge in which tree branches strain toward the sky and roots dig into the ground, looking for a secure foothold. Throughout the body of work there is a sense of confronting the harsh reality of the outside world. The parallels of the human body seeking strength, power and solace re-appear in golden palm trees, rejuvenated forests with birds of paradise and jewelled butterflies – a return to the lost gardens of Eden. The work assembled for this exhibition looks towards a brighter future for Iraq and its people.



Visions from Gardens of Eden 1, oil on canvas, 150 x 120 cm, 2011

SUAD AL-ATTAR was the first Iraqi female artist to have a solo exhibition in Baghdad, the city of her birth. She studied art in Iraq and America and continued with printmaking when she moved to London, where she still lives and works. Poetry, Sumerian legends and Middle Eastern landscapes have long permeated al-Attar's work, often adding historical depth to the sense of loss and alienation felt by her fellow countrymen.

SHORT FILMS



SHORT FILMS

November 10 – 30

Free exhibition

Museum admission applies

Parallax Media in association with Leighton House Museum presents two short films as part of the Nour Festival of Arts

Parallax Media



THE PARK

Directed by James Neil & Sahide Sanin | 2011 | 35mm | 15 minutes | UK

"The Park" follows a woman's search for her lover who has mysteriously disappeared. She visits different parts of London and the city's streets and inhabitants appear in a new light with heightened dimensions. Her path takes her to museums, galleries and the Arab quarter of Edgware Road, provoking memories and questions which reveal truths about men, women, love and modern life.



THE VISIT

Directed by Sahide Sanin & James Neil | 2011 | HD | 15 minutes | UK

A young English-Turkish couple live in a small house with their five-year-old daughter. News bulletins promise better economic times, yet this is not reflected in the family's situation. One day unwanted visitors to the flat jeopardise the family's fragile sense of being as the mother is placed in an impossible situation.

JAMES NEIL is a filmmaker, producer, and film curator. He co-curated the "Women's Cinema from Tangiers to Tehran" film festival and is the founding director of Parallax Media, which is dedicated to film and the visual arts.

SAHIDE SANIN worked as a fringe theatre director in Istanbul and then moved to London to study film-making. She directed the short film "Salma's Day" and is completing an MA Photojournalism at the University of the Arts: London College of Communication. She is currently developing her next film "The Return".

CHEF-IN-RESIDENCE | ANISSA HELOU



ANISSA HELOU
AT LEIGHTON HOUSE MUSEUM
CHEF-IN-RESIDENCE FOR
THE NOUR FESTIVAL OF ARTS 2011
Throughout November

CHEF-IN-RESIDENCE THURSDAYS

Thursdays November 3, 10, 17

2.00 – 4.00pm

Free events. Museum admission applies.

An opportunity for members of the public to meet with Anissa Helou in the main studio space at Leighton House. Over three Thursdays, Anissa will discuss various topics relevant to Middle Eastern cuisine and hold some basic cookery demonstrations.

NOVEMBER 3

Anissa will have a selection of essential Middle Eastern ingredients on show and will explain to visitors how they are used in classic dishes. She will also give advice on where to find them in London and how to buy and store them.

NOVEMBER 10

This afternoon is all about spices, especially the different mixtures, including Moroccan *ras el-hanout*, Lebanese seven-spice mixture and Persian *advieh*. Anissa will have some of the spice mixtures with her and will demonstrate how to prepare some of them. She will give out the recipe for one of the spice mixtures.

NOVEMBER 17

Anissa will demonstrate how to preserve seasonal produce through pickling. She will show how to make the brine and will explain about ratios to create the perfect brining solution, both for taste and for preservation.

SATURDAY MASTERCLASS

Saturday November 12

2.00 – 4.00pm

£15.00/£10 concessions

Strictly limited to 20 places.

Booking essential on 020 7471 9153 or visit www.wegottickets.com/LeightonHouseMuseum

In this special masterclass at Leighton House with Anissa Helou, participants will learn about Middle Eastern recipes and how to prepare distinctive types of dips.

MASTERCLASS DESCRIPTION

Dips are an essential part of the Arab *mezze* and for this special Saturday masterclass, Anissa will demonstrate how to make three beautiful dips: a beautiful ivory smoky grilled aubergine with tahini and lemon juice; a striking purple beetroot with tahini and lemon juice; and a brilliant orange butternut squash with tahini and lemon juice.



THE CHEF'S KITCHEN

Saturday November 26

2.00 – 4.00pm

£20.00/£15 concessions

Strictly limited to 20 places.

Booking essential on 020 7471 9153 or visit www.wegottickets.com/LeightonHouseMuseum

Leighton House Museum is delighted to offer a special visit to Anissa Helou's kitchen in Shoreditch to see how she works and what a chef/food writer needs in their kitchen-studio. For this special afternoon, Anissa will explain how she writes and tests her recipes, what is involved in her research and what are the essential tools of her trade.

Visitors will be offered a tasting of mini *za'tar* bites. *Za'tar* is a mixture of dried thyme, sumac and sesame seeds. It is mixed with olive oil and used as a topping for flat breads that are the quintessential Lebanese breakfast. Anissa has tweaked the traditional recipe and she uses the *za'tar*/olive oil mixture on tiny disks of puff pastry to produce elegant bites that have the same flavour as the Lebanese *manaqish* (the name of the *za'tar* flat bread) but a lighter, crisp texture. This is a rare opportunity not to be missed.

SOUND ART INSTALLATION



THE BIRD GHOST AT THE ZAOUIA – AN 8-CHANNEL SOUND ART INSTALLATION BY SETH AYYAZ

PRESENTED BY ZENITH FOUNDATION IN
ASSOCIATION WITH LEIGHTON HOUSE MUSEUM

October 31 – November 5

Free exhibition

Museum admission applies


A description of the installation by the sound artist Seth Ayyaz:

“The Bird Ghost at the Zaouia” is a composed machine for listening, a shifting sonic body that references, comments upon and reconfigures a notional Islamic sonic-social world through the politicised materiality of sound.

Between 2002 and 2010 I made many hours of recordings at various *zaouia* (Sufi shrines), mosques and religious spaces in Morocco, Egypt and Lebanon while attending various prayers and ceremonies (*adhan*, *salat*, *tilawa*, *dhikr*, *zar* and *lilat*). At the request of the respective religious leaders, no “musical” material has been used. I found birds, resonant tails, breathes, winds, noise, overheard conversations, *adhan* and extraneous sounds floating in, sounds that where left behind.

Orientalisation of sound is a kind of sonic tourism that captures the ‘ethnic’ and colonises the ear. The history of Leighton House and its association with the Imperial period offers a special context in which to immerse your ears.

SETH AYYAZ lives in London and is composer-performer spanning live electronics, free improvisation, noise, electroacoustics and Arabic music – principally *nay* (end-blown flute) *ghaita* (reed pipe) and *darbuka* and *daf* (hand percussion). Drawing on his background in neurosciences, his work is concerned with embodied perception and how this resonates across psychological and social spaces. www.sethayyaz.com

In partnership with  ZENITH
www.zenithfoundation.com

OCTOBER EVENTS



NOUR SOUK

Saturday 8 October

12.00 – 4.00pm

Free admission

To celebrate its annual Nour Festival of Arts, Leighton House is hosting the Nour Souk: a display and sale of contemporary design, fashion, foods and artisanal wares from the Middle East and North Africa. Set within the beautiful Oriental interior of Leighton House, this special afternoon takes its inspiration from an eastern souk (or market), where jewellery, clothing, fragrance, unique art objects, and deli products will feature in a family-friendly open day. Selected designers and makers include Hassan Hajjaj (Larache), Dia Batal, Mehran Gharleghi, Zaytoun, Fez, and many more.

Music, children's activities and snacks will all be available on the day.



EXPLORING ARABIC HIP-HOP

Friday 14 October


7.00 – 8.00pm (Doors open 6.30pm)

Free event. Booking essential on 020 7471 9153

As a musical genre, hip-hop is renowned for its political agenda and hard-hitting lyrics. More familiar through its association with the struggle for African-American rights, it now plays an important role in contemporary developments across the Middle East. This special event sees music theorist Randa Safieh consider the place of Arab inspired hip-hop today and accompanying performances by the rapper Master Mimz (Myriam Bouchentouf).

RANDA SAFIEH is a full-time secondary-school music teacher and academic specialising in hip-hop from the Arab world (specifically Palestinian hip-hop).

MASTER MIMZ is a London based Moroccan rapper who has built up a wide following through her performance of hip-hop tracks at London clubs. In February 2011, she released the Egyptian revolution anthem ‘Back Down Mubarak’ which brought her worldwide attention.

In partnership with  The Arab British Centre
المركز العربي البريطاني

OCTOBER EVENTS

NEW FILM FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Ziad Khatlan curates screenings of new films that document contemporary Middle Eastern life, including recent momentous events throughout the region.

ZIAD KHATLAN is a film critic, author and film festival jurist. He was a jury member for the Gulf Film Festival (2009); Chief Programmer for the Dubai International Film Festival (2005); and a Senior Editor of *Al-Quds Online* (2008–2010).



18 DAYS

Monday October 17

7.00pm (Doors open 6.30pm)

£8.00/£6.00 concessions

Booking essential on 020 7471 9153 or visit www.wegotickets.com/LeightonHouseMuseum

DIRECTORS: Mariam Abou Ouf, Kamla Abu Zikri, Ahmed Alaa, Mohamed Ali, Ahmad Abdulla, Sherif El Bandary, Marwan Hamed, Khaled Marei, Yousry Nassrallah, Sherif Arafa Egypt, 2011, 120 mins

"18 Days" is a series of ten short films that tell the varied stories of the recent Egyptian uprising that led to the overthrow of President Hosni Mubarak. The narratives cover different perspectives and are contained within an original presentation that combines real-life footage, digital camera work and scripted sequences. A notable success of the project is the manner in which the directors have captured a sense of the what such events meant to the Egyptian people on the ground.

OCTOBER EVENTS



HERE COMES THE RAIN

Tuesday October 18

7.00pm (Doors open 6.30pm)

£8.00/£6.00 concessions

Booking essential on 020 7471 9153 or visit
www.wegottickets.com/LeightonHouseMuseum

Lebanon, 2010, 100 mins

Director: Bahij Hojeij

Hojeij's second feature centres on a sensitive political issue; the story of Lebanon's missing ten thousand people almost two decades after the ending of the civil war in 1991. The film tells the story of three women: a mother whose child 'disappeared' without a trace, a wife whose life is thrown into turmoil when her abducted husband suddenly re-appears, and a woman who lives with the ghost of her husband.



DAMASCUS WITH LOVE

Wednesday October 19

7.00pm (Doors open 6.30pm)

£8.00/£6.00 concessions

Booking essential on 020 7471 9153 or visit
www.wegottickets.com/LeightonHouseMuseum

Syria, 2010, 95 mins

Director: Muhammed Abdulaziz

When her father reveals a hidden secret, a Syrian-Jewish woman called Rima decides not to follow through on her plans to emigrate but opts to stay and explore her family's past. Her journey of discovery reveals that Damascus has many memories, human stories, histories and cultures, and above all, that it has a diversity of communities who live together in firm and rare harmony.



QARANTINA

Friday October 21

7.00pm (Doors open 6.30pm)

£8.00/£6.00 concessions

Booking essential on 020 7471 9153 or visit
www.wegottickets.com/LeightonHouseMuseum

Iraq, 2010, 88 mins

Director, Screenwriter: Oday Rasheed

Rasheed ("Underexposure") continues his exploration of daily life in post-Saddam Iraq. The film is set in contemporary Baghdad and "describes life in the depressing, angst-ridden city where tanks, bombs and gunfire have become part of the urban landscape. Set with claustrophobic intent inside a large house, the story of a disintegrating family forced to co-habit with a dangerous lodger often feels more like a stage play than a film" (*Hollywood Reporter*, 11/8/2010).

OCTOBER EVENTS



IZNIK PLATE DECORATION COURSE

Saturdays, 8, 15, 22, 29 October

10.30 – 3.30pm

£165.00/£155.00 concessions

Booking essential on 020 7471 9153 or visit

www.wegotickets.com/LeightonHouseMuseum

Using the Leighton House collection for inspiration, this practical course explores Iznik plate decoration from the Golden Age of Ottoman art. Participants will be guided through geometry and composition using traditional tools and techniques. Our colour palette will echo the dark blue cobalt, bright turquoise and red found on classic Iznik ware. Students will paint a design using under glaze on a bisqueware plate which will be kiln fired. All abilities are welcome.

AMBER KHOKAR teaches at The Prince's School of Traditional Arts and is a Sessional Lecturer at Birkbeck University. Inspired by traditional floral motifs, Amber's clients include HRH The Prince of Wales who commissioned Amber to design a carpet for the Picture Gallery at Buckingham Palace.



In partnership with

THE PRINCE'S SCHOOL
OF TRADITIONAL ARTS



UNSPEAKABLE LOVE: GAY AND LESBIAN LIFE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

BRIAN WHITAKER IN CONVERSATION
WITH SAEED KAMALI DEGHAN

Wednesday, October 26

7.00 – 8.00pm (doors open 6.30pm)

Free event. Booking essential on 020 7471 9153

BRIAN WHITAKER was Middle East editor at the *Guardian* for seven years and is currently an editor for the newspaper's Comment is Free website. He is the author of "Unspeakable Love: Gay and Lesbian Life in the Middle East" (Saqi Books, 2006) and "What's Really Wrong With The Middle East" (Saqi Books, 2009). His website www.al-bab.com is devoted to Arab culture and politics.

SAEED KAMALI DEGHAN is an Iranian journalist. He has written for the *Guardian* from the Iranian capital, Tehran, and was there during the crisis following the disputed presidential election in 2009. He is now based in London and was named 2010 Journalist of the Year at the Foreign Press Association Awards.

In partnership with **SAQI**



HASSAN HAJJAJ AND LEIGHTON HOUSE PRESENT...

SONA JOBARTEH

Thursday 27 October

7.00 – 10.00pm (doors open 6.30pm,
main act from 8.00pm)

Free admission. Early arrival recommended,
limited capacity.

SONA JOBARTEH is the only female virtuoso *Kora* player. She comes from a prestigious West African *Griot* (storyteller) family that has a long line of hereditary musicians going back hundreds of years, and breaks with the father to son tradition.

She is the granddaughter of the master *Griot*, Amadu Bansang Jobarteh, and cousin of the celebrated *Kora* maestro Toumani Diabate. As a multi-instrumentalist, singer, composer and producer, Sona works with musicians from around the world.



HASSAN HAJJAJ AND LEIGHTON HOUSE PRESENT...

CLARA SANABRAS: "PERILOUS DIVIDE"

Thursday 24 November

7.00 – 10.00pm (doors open 6.30pm,
main act from 8.00pm)

Free admission. Early arrival recommended,
limited capacity.

Sioux and Gypsy blood runs through Clara's veins; born in France, Barcelona-raised, now a Londoner, her music is as varied as her background. Since she burst into the global music scene in 2006, with the highly acclaimed album "Clara & The Real Lowdown", she has continued to capture audiences with her virtuosic voice, powerful songwriting and striking stage presence.

"Perilous Divide" is a new project that combines traditional Spanish, Ladino and Arabic music from the Al-Andalus period as well as new compositions that illustrate the east-west divide through the centuries to the modern day. Clara has performed at international festivals including Glastonbury 2011, The London Jazz Festival and Womad.

NOVEMBER EVENTS



SAUDI ARABIA AT THE VENICE BIENNALE

**SPEAKERS: ROBIN START,
SHADIA ALEM AND RAJA ALEM**

Saturday 29 October

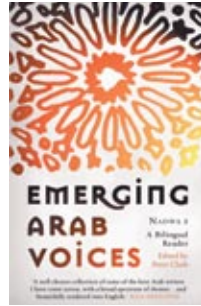
7.00 – 8.00pm (doors open from 6.30pm)

Tickets £8.00/£6.00 concessions

Booking essential on 020 7471 9153 or visit
www.wegottickets.com/LeightonHouseMuseum

In 2011 Saudi Arabia took part for the very first time in the world's most prestigious contemporary art exhibition: the Venice Biennale. The country was represented by two female artists, who also happen to be sisters, Shadia and Raja Alem. This special evening event brings the two artists to Leighton House along with one of the co-curators of their exhibition, Robin Start.

SHADIA ALEM is a renowned Saudi visual artist who has held numerous solo and group exhibitions. RAJA ALEM is a writer and a recipient of the 2011 International Prize for Arabic Fiction for her book, "The Doves' Necklace". ROBIN START is founder and Director of The Park Gallery, London.



EMERGING ARAB VOICES

PETER CLARK IN CONVERSATION

Wednesday 2 November

7.00 – 8.00pm (doors open 6.30pm)

Free event. Booking essential on 020 7471 9153

In November 2009, the International Prize for Arabic Fiction organised a workshop for eight critically acclaimed writers from Egypt, Sudan, Tunisia, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The result was eight new pieces of writing, which have been brought together in "Emerging Arab Voices".

PETER CLARK is a Middle East specialist and former Cultural Attaché at the British Council. He has translated fiction, history, drama and poetry from Arabic into English since 1980. Peter has lived and worked in seven Arab countries, is a Trustee of the International Prize for Arabic Fiction and a contributing editor of *Banipal magazine*.



**PRIVATE EXHIBITION TOUR: “SUBTITLED:
WITH NARRATIVES FROM LEBANON”**

GUIDED TOUR WITH CURATOR JULIANA KHALAF

Saturday 5 November

3.00 – 4.00pm

Free event. Booking essential on 020 7471 9153

MEETING POINT: Royal College of Art (entrance hall)
As part of the Nour Festival, Leighton House Museum is delighted to partner with The Association for the Promotion and Exhibition of the Arts in Lebanon (APEAL) and the Royal College of Art to offer a special private tour of this exhibition – the first comprehensive show in London of contemporary Lebanese Art. Exhibition runs Thursday 3 November until Sunday 6 November, 2011.

JULIANA KHALAF studied Middle Eastern History at the American University of Beirut (AUB) and has an MA in Islamic Art and Architecture from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London. She is Assistant Curator at the Sursock Museum of Modern & Contemporary Lebanese Art, Lebanon.



RIYAD NICOLAS

Saturday 12 November

7.30 – 9.30pm (doors open 7.00pm)

£10.00/£8.00 concessions

Booking essential on 020 7471 9153 or visit
www.wegottickets.com/LeightonHouseMuseum

Syrian pianist and composer Riyad Nicolas performs a repertoire by contemporary Arab composers such as Jabri, Al Succari, Wadi and Al Hajjar.

RIYAD NICOLAS is a former student of Joumana Ilias. He joined the Arab Institute of Music in Aleppo in 1997 where, under the supervision of Michael Kotcharov, he won the Best Piano Student Prize of the Syrian Arab Republic for two consecutive years (1998-1999). From 1999, Riyad continued his studies with Vladimir Kasatkin and gave several concerto performances with chamber orchestras in Aleppo and Damascus as well as solo recitals. Since 2007 Riyad has been at the Royal Academy of Music working with Sulamita Aronovsky.

NOVEMBER EVENTS



TALKING WITH GAZA

Wednesday 16 November

11.30 – 1.00pm

Free event. Museum admission applies

Chelsea Community Hospital School in partnership with Leighton House Museum.

Since receiving the International School Award from the British Council in 2010, Chelsea Community Hospital School has continued its educational links with a number of schools in different countries. Focusing on their partnership with the Jabalia Prep "A" School in Gaza, the Nour Festival highlights aspects of a continuing project between the two schools in which the students explore and share lifestyles, cultural differences and comparisons of their environments. Throughout the Nour Festival a short film that outlines the project is being screened, which emphasises communication by means of video conferencing. During the exhibition there is an opportunity to be involved in a live link-up with the school in Gaza, when members of the public can ask their own questions to children and teachers from the school.



SONGS FROM TWO CONTINENTS

MORIS FARHI IN CONVERSATION WITH MITCHELL ALBERT

Wednesday 16 November

7.00 – 8.00pm (doors open 6.30pm)

Free event. Booking essential on 020 7471 9153

Prize-winning poet Moris Farhi reads poems from his new collection, "Songs from Two Continents". Born in Turkey in 1935, Moris Farhi is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and a Vice-President of International Pen. He was appointed an MBE in 2001 for services to literature. His novels include "Children of the Rainbow", "Journey through the Wilderness", "Young Turk" and "A Designated Man". "Songs From Two Continents" (Saqi Books, 2011) is Farhi's first published collection of poetry.

MITCHELL ALBERT is a freelance book and magazine editor based in London. He edits the literary review of PEN International – the worldwide writers' association and human-rights NGO, and is also Associate Editor of the magazine *Steppe: A Central Asian Panorama*.

In partnership with **SAQI**



MESSAGES FROM TAHRIR

KARIMA KHALIL IN CONVERSATION WITH ANTHONY SATTIN

Tuesday 22 November

7.00 – 8.30pm (doors open from 6.30pm)

Tickets £8.00/£6.00 concessions

Booking essential on 020 7471 9153 or visit www.wegotickets.com/LeightonHouseMuseum

Writer and broadcaster Anthony Sattin leads a conversation with photographer Karima Khalil who presents some of the evocative images from her book, "Messages from Tahrir".

Khalil has managed to capture a sense of the protests that brought down the Mubarak regime and for this special evening she gives her personal account of these history-making photographs.

"Astonishing and often deeply moving images from the frontline of one of the most hopeful moments in modern history." William Dalrymple, author, "Nine Lives"

"Photographs capture fleeting moments and live on, preserving truth and human emotion. This book chronicles the January 25 Revolution without text or



theorizing; it presents the reality of what happened, changing Egypt and the whole Arab world." Alaa al Aswany, author, "The Yacoubian Building"

KARIMA KHALIL is a doctor and photographer. She was overwhelmed by the power and eloquence of the signs many protesters were carrying so determinedly in Tahrir Square, and collected and captured these images and those of thirty-five other photographers in "Messages from Tahrir", published by the American University in Cairo Press. She lives in Cairo with her husband, Max Rodenbeck, Middle East correspondent for the *Economist*, and their daughter Laila.

ANTHONY SATTIN is a writer and broadcaster, a specialist on the Middle East and North Africa and one of the key influences in modern travel writing. He is the author of several highly-acclaimed books, most recently "A Winter on the Nile" and "Lifting the Veil". Sattin is also a regular contributor to the *Sunday Times* and *Condé Nast Traveller* and has been widely published in the UK and internationally.

In partnership with



NOVEMBER EVENTS

ZIAD GHANEM

'FIRST TIME I CRIED IN A TURKISH BATH'

Saturday 26 November

7.00 – 8.00pm (doors open 6.30pm)

Free event, places strictly limited

Booking essential on 020 7471 9153

International fashion designer ZIAD GHANEM (awarded Best in Show at London Fashion Week 2010) unveils a new selection of work created specifically for this special evening event as part of the Nour Festival. Dubbed the "Cult Couturier", Ziad Ghanem combines his cutting-edge couture skills with London underground style to create exquisite pieces of bespoke clothing. Internationally admired with a loyal following, the London-based designer has presented catwalks all over the world. Crammed full of sensual drama and flamboyant silhouettes, his shows are more of a performance than a display of fashion. Using artists and club kids rather than models, Ziad incorporates the spirit of the individual into his designs by creating every piece onto the body and the personality of each wearer.

www.ziadghanem.co.uk



NOVEMBER EVENTS



IRAN'S ENDANGERED HERITAGE

SPEAKER: ROYA ARAB

Saturday 26 November

3.00 – 4.00pm

Free event. Booking essential on 020 7471 9153

This talk is based on an open letter sent to *Public Archaeology magazine* (Arab, 2010, Vol 9, No2: 108-120), which dealt with the dangers posed to the ownership, interpretation, preservation and dissemination of Iranian/Persian heritage by the socio-political and economic realities of the day. It has become increasingly difficult to comprehend the level of influence that modern political ideals and inclinations are having on Iranian heritage. In this talk, archaeologist Roya Arab considers the misinterpretation, misuse and threats to Iranian heritage outside Iran.

ROYA ARAB is a UK-based Iranian musician and archaeologist. Roya is currently an Honorary Research Assistant at the Institute of Archaeology (UCL), where she received a Master's degree in Public Archaeology and a BA in Archaeology.

Her interests are in the socio-political and economic contexts of an artefact, once it has been removed from or highlighted in the landscape, for study and/or display. She has visited various sites around Iran and collaborated with scholars on excavations and public outreach studies, including workshops at the National Museum in Tehran. She is especially intrigued by how Iranian/Persian history is viewed and taught outside Iran and is presently working, with the support of Iran Heritage Foundation, to create an accessible academic on-line resource, on Iranian history, for young students and amateur historians.



ROADS OF ARABIA – ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

SPEAKER: DR GEOFFREY KING

Saturday 19 November

3.00 – 4.00pm

Free event. Booking essential on 020 7471 9153

In 2010 the Louvre held a ground-breaking exhibition titled 'Roads of Arabia' on recent archaeological discoveries from pre-Islamic and Islamic period Saudi Arabia. In this talk Dr Geoffrey King discusses the stunning implications that these new finds pose to cultural studies in the Kingdom and across the Middle East.

DR GEOFFREY KING is currently Reader in Islamic Art and Archaeology at SOAS, University of London and was Associate Professor in Islamic Archaeology at King Saud University from 1979-1987. He has carried out excavations and surveys in Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Yemen, Oman, Libya and Iran. He has published extensively on Islamic art, architecture and archaeology.



YALDA – AN IRANIAN CELEBRATION OF THE WINTER SOLSTICE

Wednesday 30 November

7.00 – 10.00pm (doors open 6.30pm)

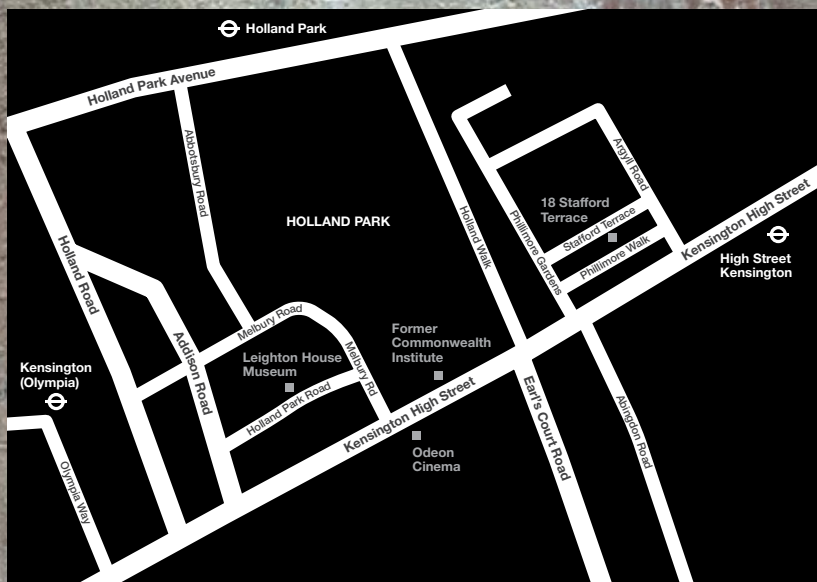
Free event. Early arrival recommended, limited capacity.

Leighton house will be sharing the rituals of *Shab-e Yalda*, an ancient Iranian celebration of the winter solstice. A festival of ancient origin, *Yalda* has woven around it a night that embodies the highly textured heritage of this historic land and is still enjoyed in Iranian homes worldwide. Visitors will delight in fine delicacies complimented by music and the prophetic poetry of Hafez as we journey through *Yalda*.

In partnership with



Soudavar
Foundation



Leighton House Museum
 12 Holland Park Road, London W14 8LZ
 Tel: 020 7602 3316
 Email: museums@rbkc.gov.uk
www.nourfestival.co.uk

Open 10am to 5.30pm daily, closed Tuesdays

Underground: High Street Kensington, Olympia or Holland Park

Buses: 9, 10, 27, 28, 49, 328

Coach/Car: Coaches may drop visitors off outside the Museum but cannot park. Metered car parking is limited in Holland Park Road and surrounding streets. The Holland Park car park on Abchurch Lane is approximately ten minutes' walk away.



@NourFestival



Leighton House Museum



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
**KENSINGTON
 AND CHELSEA**

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