

Maskan apartment Project

Program: Beirut Edition (pilot)

13/1-31/3 2015

About Maskan:

Maskan Apartment Project is a curatorial project initiated and organized by Mirna Bamieh. The project purpose to turn the domestic spaces of "an apartment" into laboratories for artistic production and research.

Maskan takes the flat's various rooms – Kitchen, Salon and Library, Balcony and Toilet – and turns them over to artists who are invited by the project to create and reproduce previous site-specific interventions, complemented by curated film and video screenings, performances, talks and discussions.

The goal of Maskan Apartment Project is to mobilize the art scene in the Middle East and North Africa, using an artist-run model that exchanges individual and collaborative work for the institutional models of museums and art centers.

It aims as well, to establish collaborations with other spaces in the region, the programming of the events tries to create connections and mobilization of artist and programs between the cities the project will visit, in addition to, inviting artists with art practices that are relatively new to the region.

Maskan Apartment intends to be staged in five flats around the region: Beirut, Amman, Tunis, Cairo and Ramallah. A publication will emerge when the entire project is complete in its five locations.

The pilot edition of Maskan (13/1-30/3/2015) was supported by Marratein residency, which hosted the project in its venue in Beirut. http://www.marratein.com.

After the Pilot edition, intensive research will be conducted with artists and cultural practioners in Beirut, Ramallah, Amman, Tunis and Cairo over the period of June 2015- February 2016, in which an in-depth research will be carried out by Maskan's curator Mirna Bamieh on art and institutional practices in those cities, how and what can a temporary platform like Maskan can offer to create new energies and interactions during its implementations and beyond. The research that will be conducted in that period will be made available online through Maskan Blog, where the material and reflections of the research process will be shared in all its phase.

After the research phase, a more elaborate identity and vision for the project will be created, and a program that will connect all those cities will be created, and implemented in 2016- 2017.

Maskan Apartment Project's program in Beirut
13/1-31/3/ 2015

The Kitchen

Maskan's Lauch and Cocktails, 24 January 2015

Maskan was launched in a delightful evening of food, drinks and music.
Maskan's curator Mirna Bamieh and the project's residents for "The Kitchen" section Franziska Pierwoss and Sandra Teitge from "Politique Culinaire" introduced Maskan and the events of January- February.







Maskan Talks #1: A conversation about culinary politics led by “Politique Culinaire” Collective, 28 January 2015

Maskan’s “The Kitchen” resident artists Franziska Pierwoss & Sandra Teitge gave an introduction to their practice in the framework of the collective 'Politique Culinaire.'
Politique Culinaire is an open collective of artists, amateur chefs, writers, and researchers that investigates historical menus and their setting, affirming the political dimension of the culinary. Its members are Franziska Pierwoss, Sandra Teitge, Max Benkendorff, and Albrecht Pischel.
Franziska Pierwoss, currently she lives in Berlin, is a performance and installation artist, her work focuses on durational performance and collaborative practices, she develops site-specific installations. Her works create situations of engagement in which personal and political boundaries are called into question.
Sandra Teitge, is an independent curator, writer, and researcher and artistic director of the residency program FD13 in Saint Paul, MN, and co-founder of the food organization Dinner Exchange Berlin Americana.





Performance by Franziska Pierwoss: How to Talk Politics Over Dinner, 5 February 2015

Inspired by the visual record of a dinner held on 25 February 2010 in Damascus the evening gathered five selected guests to explore grounds for potential talks on politics around a table filled with mezze at Maskan project.

The five guests were chosen based on their profession, their interest or social engagement in the realm of politics.

This dinner was part of the research and exercises Franziska Pierwoss and Sandra Teitge conducted as members of the collective Politique Culinaire during their residency with Maskan Apartment Project.





The Salon

Film Screening: “Infiltrators”, directed by Khaled Jarrar, documentary, Palestine, 11 February

As part of the film program, Maskan showed Palestine based artist Khaled Jarrar’s award winning documentary “Infiltrators”, a visceral “road movie” that chronicles the daily travails of Palestinians of all backgrounds as they seek routes through, under, round, and over a bewildering matrix of barriers. Following this high stakes “game” of cat and mouse with a handheld video camera. A discussion followed the screening about the making of the film, the mobility situation in Palestine, and value of such artist made films.



Maskan Talks #2 Consuming Bodies: How sex and food bring humans and their environment together, 16 February + 3 March 2015

Maskan project collaborated with Alison Damick (PhD Candidate in Archeology) and Eliza Deutsch (PhD Candidate in Environmental Engineering), to organize and conduct a talk and discussion in two parts on Humans in the Environment.

Part One, Mon.16 February:
Slow Cooking in the Kitchen of Evolution
The talk presented thoughts on how humans destabilize nature, the rise and fall of civilizations, and why we need to challenge the paradigm of science, all in the context of understanding what we eat and why.

Part Two, Tues. 10 March:
It All Starts in The Bedroom, Sex and Evolution.
The second talk presented things we do in human and natural world to attract and keep our sex partners, and how they are based on adjustments we've made over millions of years of those bodies changing. How have sexual practices changed, and how have they changed us.



Maskan's Home edition of a Festival, 26 March 2015

Maskan Apartment Project welcomed guest festival for "The Salon" section: Digital Marrakech with a "Best of" compilation of Digital Marrakech selected by directors of the festival.
In addition to the screening, a presentation about the festival was made by Maskan's curator Mirna Bamieh.

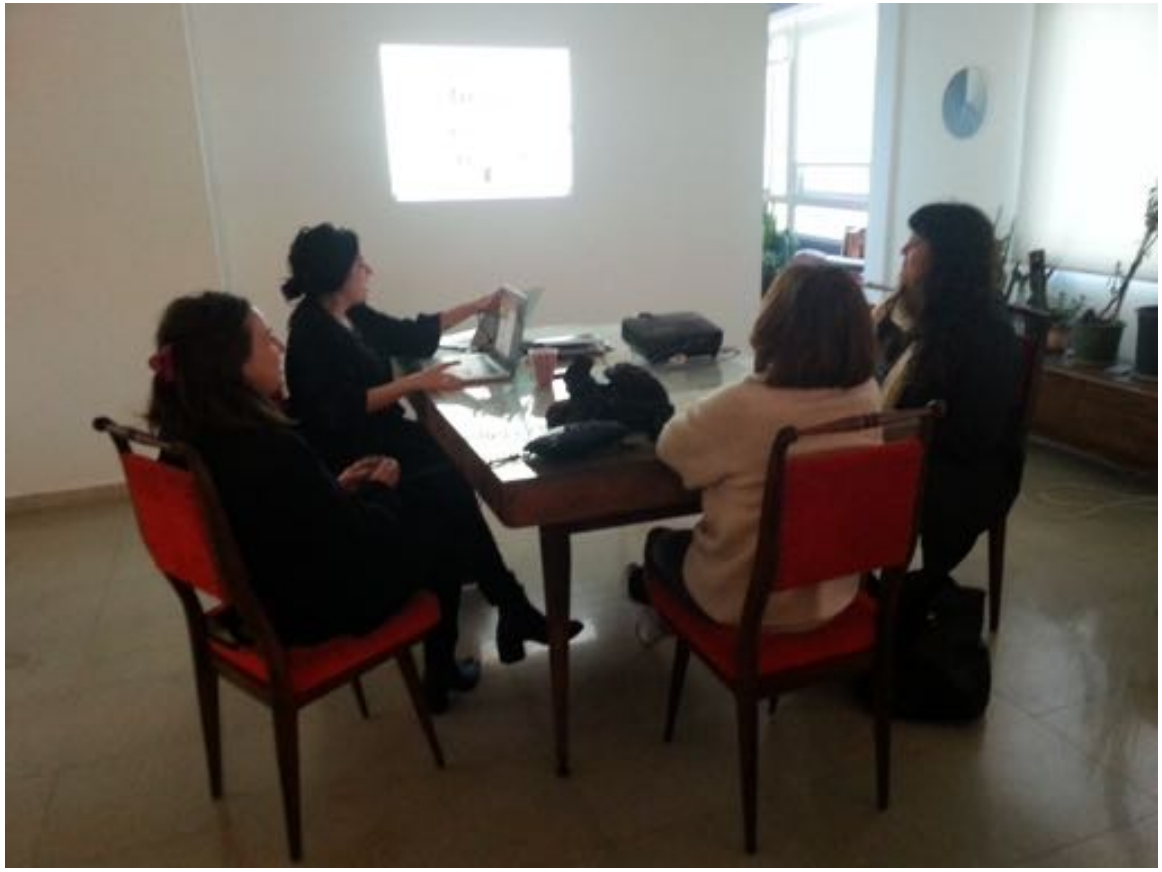
Digital Marrakech is an international digital arts festival that aims to present diverse trends and practices in the following fields; film and video; multimedia performance; video installation; digital mapping; net art and interdisciplinary practice. The Festival program includes; workshops; performances; film screenings; lectures and an exhibition. Participating artists (local and international) present latest practices and technologies, as well as showcase important achievements in the development of digital arts practices



Maskan Talk #3: How do we work? A past project, and some notes for a conversation led by **Suzy Halajian, 4 March 2015**

For the third cycle of Maskan Talks, Maskan hosted Suzy Halajian's talk in which Los Angeles offered a site to reflect on various collaborative models/ spaces, the exhibition an entry point, and Maskan Apartment Project as a place for conversation. She used one of her past curated exhibitions "Drowning and swallowing this text," as a departure point for a talk and discussion in which several questioned were addressed, such as: why do we want to collaborate? And why do we choose to work the way that we do? Were discussed with a small focus group of artists and cultural practioners.

Suzy M. Halajian is a Los Angeles-based independent curator. She lived and worked in Beirut in 2013. She holds an MA from the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College and is a 2014 recipient of the Andy Warhol Foundation Curatorial Travel/Research Fellowship.




Drowning
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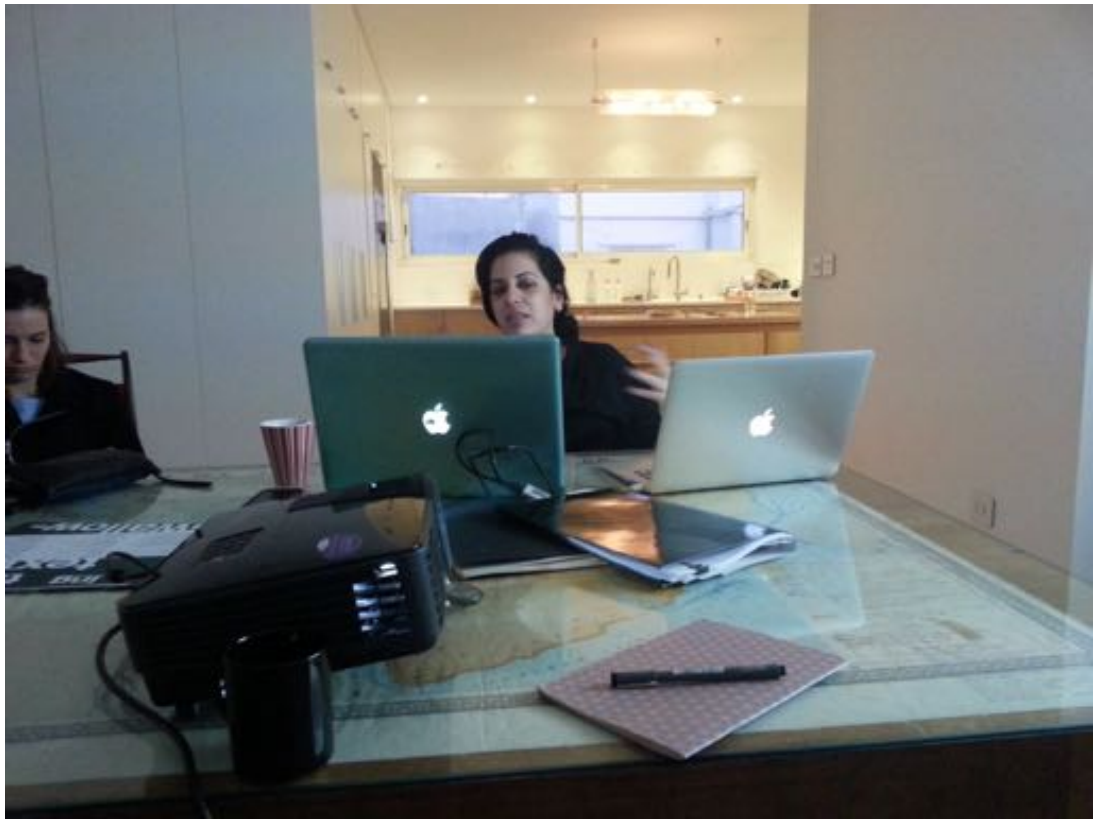
this text



The Balcony

Maskan Talks #4: A talk will be led by artist Tania el Khoury about Dictaphone Group, 12 March 2015

Nothing to Declare is Maskan's traveling installation, in which an accumulation of stories on passages, traveling and boarders, will be collected from the audience through out all Maskan's future editions, starting Beirut.

Nothing to Declare is a research-based project that explores borders within Lebanon, those between Lebanon and its neighbors, and across the Arab world. An old map of the Arab world shows border-crossing train tracks spanning the region. Today, the non-operational Lebanese Railway appears as a rupture.
https://vimeo.com/64225987

Dictaphone Group creates live art events based on multidisciplinary study of space. It is a collaborative project initiated by live artist Tania El Khoury and researcher and architect Abir Saksouk. Together, along with various collaborators such as performer and producer Petra Serhal, they have been making site-specific shows informed by research in places such as a cable car, a fisherman's boat and a disused bus. The aim of these projects is to re-question, as citizens, our relationship to the space of the city, with a focus on public space and its redefinition.





The Toilet

Lecture Performance and installation in the toilet by Merve Unsal, 17 March 2015
Maskan Apartment Project welcomed its guests to the toilet for an intervention and later an artist talk led by Merve Unsal.

Merve installed a short video in marra.tein's toilet, aiming to further this space as one of contemplation. She will also deliver a talk whose ideas revolved around disruption of funtionality and how It is only when a toilet ceases to function that we become aware of the space that it is included in. When function is disrupted, the walls feel like they are closing in, the decorative objects no longer evoke pleasure, and the tiles become menacing, slippery facades. Is it possible to disrupt this space through an image? Could this space of private corporeality become a space of private viewing and of "public" poetics?







Sharna Pax at Maskan 24 March 2015

As part of its curated video screeening program Maskan hosted DEC·A·LAGE - A continuous screening series curated by SHARNA PAX, an artists collective based in London, Bruxelles and Copenhagen working between the fields of visual arts, anthropology and documentary.

Maeve Brennan // Therese L. Henningsen // Tinne Zenner // Juliette Joffe
http://sharnapax.org/

“He sees faster than any other living human. He sees so fast that when the ball comes over the plate - 90 miles an hour - he can see the stitches. So he hits the ball right out of the park.” - Michael Fried in Rosalind Krauss







Maskan at Mansion, 9 April 2015

Mansion welcomed Maskan Apartment project for a talk led by Mirna Bamieh about the project where she presented an over all review about the project and its future plans. The talk was followed by " Noting to Declare" Masakn's traveling installation by Dictaphone group.



Maskan on the Daily Star:

A thorough coverage of Maskan Apartment project and Politique Culinare, written by Jim Quilty appeared on the The Daily Star, following the project's launch, on 28 January 2015

(Article Below)

THE DAILY STAR

ARTS & CULTURE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2015

A Beirut confection of food, politics and history

y Jim Quilty
ıe Daily Star

BEIRUT: History books are littered with accounts of powerful men sitting around tables. Statesmen and their ıilitary commanders have assemled to forge alliances, to hammer ut the details of peace settlements nd, on one noteworthy occasion, to ormalize the vivisection of Africa mong a handful of European states.

Conventional history records hat was said at these sessions. ometimes their diktats, negotiaons and conversations are placed in ıe context of what transpired on the round beforehand and afterward.

It's less common to read about hat these guys ate while going bout this business.

Politique Culinaire is a four-perın collective of artists, amateur hefs, writers and researchers interısted in investigating the political imension of things culinary. In ractice this means researching the ıenus of historical meals – repasts :aged at significant historic gatherıgs – and restaging them.

German artists Franziska Pierwoss and Sandra Teitge, two memers of Politique Culinaire, will lead n open conversation about culiary politics this evening (Wednesay, Jan. 28). The event is hosted by Mar Mikhael's Maskan Apartment roject, where the artists are monthong residents.

Pierwoss is a performance and ıstallation artist interested in sitepecific installations which "create tuations of engagement in which ersonal and political boundaries are alled into question."

An independent curator, writer nd researcher, Teitge has organized ontemporary art events and exhience (1884-85), which marked Germany's official entry into the scramble for overseas possessions. Last November the collective staged a performative conference in Berlin's Ethnological Museum.

Chatting with The Daily Star at a gathering to launch Maskan Apartment, Teitge said the group restages these historic meals as authentically as possible, while hoping that the conversation the food provokes among diners has moved beyond that of the original.

Politique Culinaire's interest in the 19th century stems, in part, from an effort to broaden artistic discussion to matters antedating the Nazi period – which, Teitge notes, has tended to dominate German discourse since the end of World War II.

Other states' national histories are not read with nearly the same calm consensus as Germany's. The artist-curator team is not innocent of Lebanon's still-contentious history – Pierwoss' artwork is well-known in Lebanon, not least for the faux Mercedes she contributed to the 2011 edition of Exposure, the Beirut Art Center's emerging artists show.

Teitge and Pierwoss remarked that their contrubution to Maskan would likely hinge less on formal historical accounts than something closer oral history.

The Maskan Apartment Project is the brainchild of Palestinian curator and artist Mirna Bamieh – whose latest art work is now on show at the BAC's current Exposure exhibition.

Maskan Apartment's first edition is based in the Mar Mikhael-area flat that hosts marra.tein – an incubator for cultural production initiated by artist George Awde and social anthropologist Jared McCormick – where Bamieh has a three-month-long residency.

As a curator, Bamieh's purpose is to open the domestic spaces of the marra.tein flat to artists, for use as laboratories for artistic production and research.

For the next three months the flat's various rooms – Kitchen (where Pierwoss and Teitge are resident), Salon and Library, Balcony and Toilet – will be turned over to artists who have been invited to develop site-inspire work there.

As Bamieh depicts it in her proje profile, the goal of Maskan Apar ment is to mobilize the art scene i the Middle East and South Afric using an artist-run model tha exchanges individual and collabora tive work for the institutional moc els of museums and art centers.

She intends to stage Maska Apartment in four flats around th region, for three months each, i Tunis, Cairo and Ramallah as we as Beirut.

The residency will invite artists t create and restage previous site-spe cific interventions, complemente by curated film and video screer ings, intimate performances an discussions. A publication wi emerge when the entire Maska Apartment Project is complete in i four locations.



The ingestion of food is more appreciated than the consumption of art

"The project takes part of its sig nificance from ... its location in th Middle East," Bamieh write "specifically Ramallah and Beiru where I am mostly located. Wher the privatization of all sectors is tan gible and strong, the margin of "pul lic space" becomes problematic an in need of [constant redefinition]."

Insofar as the ingestion of food more universally appreciated tha the consumption of art, Politiqu Culinaire can be read as a populari ing gesture. To use food, historical significant food, as an artistic med um is to invite cultural consumers t reassess a whole range of preconcep tions about the "art" we eat.