

For Immediate Release



AUB to hold exhibition celebrating 1990s Lebanese contemporary art

Beirut, Lebanon- 09/09/2015 - The American University of Beirut Art Galleries announces its new exhibition: **The 1990s—Jayce Salloum: كان يا ما كان (Kan Ya Ma Kan) There Was and There Was Not (redux/fragments)**. This exhibition - followed by an artist talk at AUB and a discussion that will take place in the context of *Home Works 7, a Forum on Cultural Practices* organized by Ashkal Alwan - offers to the Lebanese public an example of artistic work made in the last decade of the last century. The 1990s is not only regarded today as the decade of postwar reconstruction and transition to a new economic and political order but also of the beginning of a new art historical period known as “Lebanese contemporary art.” We put on display Salloum’s installation - which we selected from this artist’s extensive body of work - as an invitation to begin a process of historicization of Lebanese “contemporary art.”

Exhibition: The 1990s—Jayce Salloum: كان يا ما كان (Kan Ya Ma Kan) There Was and There Was Not (redux/fragments).

Location: AUB Byblos Bank Art Gallery, Hamra, Beirut

Opening: September 18, 2015

Duration: September 17, 2015 - December 30, 2015

Jayce Salloum’s كان يا ما كان (Kan Ya Ma Kan) There Was and There Was Not is an early instance of new artistic techniques and modes of representation practiced by a younger generation of Lebanese artists. The photographs, newspaper clips, scholarly and other texts, books, postcards, Polaroid shots, and videos - which Salloum, a Canadian-born artist of Lebanese parentage, collected, made, or recorded during his time in the Middle East in the late 1980s and early 1990s - compose one large document of that decade. The installation will be on display at AUB Byblos Bank Art Gallery in Hamra, Beirut from September 17 until December 30, 2015.

Octavian Esanu
Curator AUB Art Galleries

Artist Biography:

Jayce Salloum’s work exists within and between the very personal, local, quotidian, and the trans-national. After 22 years living and working in San Francisco, Banff, Toronto, San Diego,

Beirut, and New York, he moved to Vancouver and has been based there since 1997. His work engages in an intimate subjectivity and dialectical/discursive challenge while critically asserting itself in the perception of social manifestations and political realities. He has worked in installation, photography, drawing, performance, text and video since 1978, as well as curating exhibitions, conducting workshops, and coordinating a vast array of cultural projects. Salloum has exhibited at a wide range of venues, from the smallest unnamed storefronts & community centres in his downtown eastside Vancouver neighbourhood to institutions such as: the Musée du Louvre, Paris; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; the National Gallery of Canada; Kunstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin; the Centre Pompidou, Paris; CaixaForum, Barcelona; the 8th Havana Biennial; the 7th Sharjah Biennial; the 15th Biennale of Sydney; Museum Villa Stuck, Munich; the Royal Ontario Museum; the Robert Flaherty Film Seminars; the Biennial of Moving Images, Geneva; and the Rotterdam International Film Festival. His texts/works have been featured in many publications such as: *The Archive* (Whitechapel, London/The MIT Press, 2006); *Projecting Migration: Transcultural Documentary Practice* (Wallflower Press, London, 2007); *Practical Dreamers: Conversations with Movie Artists*, (Coach House Press, Toronto, 2008); *Third Text, Semiotext(e), Framework, Felix, Fuse, Public, Prefix Photo*, and *Pubic Culture*. A monograph on his work, *Jayce Salloum: History of the Present*, was published in 2009. Salloum is a recipient of the 2014 Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts. He is represented by MKG127, Toronto.

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,000 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full service 420-bed hospital.

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