



مفردات  
Mophradat

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For Immediate Release

## Mophradat announces artists selected for the inaugural Consortium Commissions

The non-profit contemporary arts organization spearheads a pioneering, collaborative model of art production, which will jointly produce ambitious new artworks by six emerging artists from the Arab world.

Exhibitions and performances will take place across a network of international organizations from 2018 to 2020.



Clockwise: Yazan Khalili (© Victoria Ushkanova), Basma Alsharif, Shadi Habib Allah, nasa4nasa, Maurice Louca (© Louis Lacroix), Jasmina Metwaly (© Christina Rizk).

**Brussels / April 18, 2018 – Mophradat**, an international nonprofit contemporary arts association that creates opportunities for contemporary artists from the Arab world, today announces the artists selected for the inaugural **Consortium Commissions**. A new model for co-commissioning art projects, the initiative creates an avenue for production

outside of commercial interests and state patronage, while strengthening collaboration between existing non-profit arts organizations. Mophradat has created a network of collaborating partner museums, art centers, theaters, and festivals around the world, in order to collectively select, produce, and exhibit ambitious new artworks by emerging contemporary Arab artists. Mophradat is providing each invited artist with a grant of up to US\$22,000, to cover the production of their new project, which will be presented at two of the prestigious partners' venues. The individual exhibitions or performances are fully curated and financed by the partners, thus amplifying resources and dialogue across the network.

The 2018 selected artists are: **Basma Alsharif**, a Palestinian/American visual artist; **Shadi Habib Allah**, a Palestinian visual artist; **Yazan Khalili**, a Palestinian architect and visual artist; **Maurice Louca**, an Egyptian musician; **Jasmina Metwaly**, an Egyptian/Polish filmmaker and visual artist; and **nasa4nasa**, a duo of Egyptian choreographers and dancers (Salma Abdel Salam and Noura Seif Hassanein). The artists were selected on the basis of the artistic merit of their solicited project proposals after a rigorous nomination process from within the project's international partner network. Mophradat would also like to recognize the shortlisted artists: Noor Abuarafteh, Doa Aly, Fayçal Baghriche, Shuruq Harb, Mahmoud Khaled, Lynn Kodeih, and Joe Namy.

The inaugural Consortium Commissions is developed in partnership with [CCA: Centre for Contemporary Arts](#) in Glasgow (with curator Ainslie Roddick), the [Hammer Museum](#) in Los Angeles (with curator Aram Moshayedi), [Kunstencentrum BUDA](#) in collaboration with the [Next Festival](#) in Kortrijk (with curator Agnes Quackels), [KW Institute for Contemporary Art](#) in Berlin (with curator Tirdad Zolghadr), [MDT](#) in Stockholm (with curator Danjel Andersson), and [Museum of Contemporary Art](#) in Toronto (with curator November Paynter). Two additional partners with specializations in music will be announced shortly.

"We are thrilled to launch the Consortium Commissions with such a strong selection of artists and exciting partnerships," said Mophradat Director, **Mai Abu EIDahab**. "Over the next two years these new works by these emerging artists from the Arab world will unfold in a series of exhibitions and performances internationally. The voices of the artists find their way into the international art discourses through their reciprocal engagement with leading arts institutions beyond the dated models of national representation or award shows. Commissioning significant works in close collaboration with committed curators who have a global outlook on art at a key moment in these artists' careers represents a profound opportunity for their practice. The network also has the effect of expanding the artists' exposure, and ensuring that their work reaches diverse audiences."

The project dovetails with Mophradat's ongoing work of providing support through Grants for Artists and Participation Grants programs; an Art Fellows program for young curators recently re-located; Accomplices, an annual convening of emerging artists, writers, and curators from across the Arab world; Orbitals, an annual program for four curators to travel together to an international location for research and exchange; and ongoing publishing projects. Mophradat's Art Time Residencies take place in partnership with several international organizations – currently CCA in Glasgow, Confort Moderne in Poitiers, and Wiels in Brussels – as well as bespoke residencies in Belgium for writers from the Arab world in 2018 and 2019. Artists who benefited from Mophradat's grants include Lebanese choreographer Omar Rajeh, Egyptian artist and musician Hassan Khan, Egyptian choreographer Adham Hafez, Lebanese artist and musician Raed Yassin, Jordanian artist Oraib Toukan, Egyptian artist Maha Maamoun, Iraqi-British artist Jananne Al-Ani, Egyptian artist Iman Issa, Egyptian theatre-maker Laila Soliman, Libyan-Italian

artist Adelita Husni-Bey, Palestinian filmmaker Kamal Aljafari, Lebanese artist Mounira Al Solh, Palestinian research group Decolonizing Architecture, and Syrian choreographer and dancer Mithkal Alzghair, amongst many others. In its earlier incarnation as the Young Arab Theatre Fund/YATF, Mophradat commissioned and produced Meeting Points – a pioneering travelling arts festival curated by Frie Leysen (2007), Okwi Enwezor (2011), and the curators' collective What, How & for Whom/WHW (2013), amongst others.

## **2018 to 2020 Consortium Commissions exhibition and performance schedule \***

### **Basma Alsharif**

**February 2019: Museum of Contemporary Art, Toronto**

**February 2020: CCA: Centre for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow**

The Philistine, 2018, a room-sized installation centered on a handmade book, invites the viewer to become a part of the work by sitting down to read. A sixty-page novella in English, Arabic, and French, the narrative incorporates history, science-fiction, and eroticism, spanning the arc of time from the present to 30 BC.

### **Shadi Habib Allah**

**September 2018: Hammer Museum, Los Angeles**

**February 2019: CCA: Centre for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow**

Shadi Habib Allah's new work began with an immersive engagement with corner stores in Liberty City, Miami, in order to examine government welfare policies and their impact on a largely disenfranchised and marginalized population. Prompted by personal relationships between storeowners and customers, the project consists of a series of images and sculptures that approximate the quotidian nature and social reality of neighborhoods marked by racial and economic disparity.

### **Maurice Louca**

**May 2019:(Venues to be confirmed)**

This multi-tiered project realizes Maurice Louca's ambition to customize and amend instruments, mainly percussive melodic instruments, with an interest in micro tonality —and in particular the Maqam. The piece will take form of live performances improvised by guest composers and musicians.

### **Yazan Khalili**

**November 2019: Museum of Contemporary Art, Toronto**

**February 2020: KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin**

Yazan Khalili's new project examines developments in algorithm-based technologies. Asking not how to disappear in front of the technological gaze, but instead how to appear in front of it, this multi-media piece explores facial recognition technologies and bio-politics, working with both facial recognition programmers and visually impaired people.

### **Jasmina Metwaly**

**May 2019: Hammer Museum, Los Angeles**

**February 2020: KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin**

Jasmina Metwaly's new film will feature tailors from Iraq, Syria, Egypt, and refugee shelters in Berlin metaphorically taking apart and reassembling uniforms as an echo of social construction.

### **nasa4nasa**

**November 2018: Next Festival, Kortrijk**

**January 2019: MDT, Stockholm**

The Egyptian dance collective nasa4nasa is drawn to venues of extreme functionality, re-appropriating spaces of regimented movement and highlighting dancers as trained bodies. Created in collaboration with musician Asem Tag, their works consider choreography as a way to organize time and space in order to develop an exhausted and unstructured dance. (nasa4nasa will also benefit from a production residency at Kunstencentrum BUDA to develop the performance that will be presented at Next Festival and MDT.)

\* Dates may be subject to change

Note for future editions: The Consortium Commissions is not based on an open call. Artists are nominated from within the program and unsolicited applications are not considered.

Mophradat is exclusively funded through grants and other forms of public and institutional philanthropy, including the generous support of the Ford Foundation and the Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts.

**To join the conversation, follow Mophradat on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) with the #ConsortiumCommissions or visit: [www.mophradat.org](http://www.mophradat.org)**

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### **About Mophradat**

Mophradat is an international nonprofit contemporary arts association that creates opportunities for thinking, producing, and sharing among contemporary artists from the Arab world and their peers everywhere. Mophradat sees its activities as tools—artistic, discursive, logistical, and financial—for artists and cultural thinkers to use toward inventing new arts practices, arts organizations, and art publics. Mophradat believes the content—ideas, artworks, and relationships—generated through its activities contributes to diversifying the artistic and intellectual ecology; making it more vital and compelling, and able to play an emancipatory role in the Arab world and elsewhere.

Mophradat is led by Director Mai Abu ElDahab, a contemporary art curator from Cairo who has been living in Brussels since 2007.

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### **About the Selected Artists**

**Basma Alsharif**

Basma Alsharif is an artist and filmmaker, born in 1983 in Kuwait of Palestinian origins, raised between France, the United States and the Gaza Strip. She has a BFA and an MFA from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Basma developed her practice nomadically, living and working in Chicago, Cairo, Beirut, Sharjah, Amman, the Gaza Strip, and Paris. Major exhibitions include: the 2017 Whitney Biennial, les Rencontres d'Arles, les Modules at the Palais de Tokyo, Here and Elsewhere at the New Museum, 5th Al Riwaq Biennial Palestine, the Berlin Documentary Forum, the Sharjah Biennial 9, and Manifesta 8. She was a shortlisted artist of the Abraaj Group Art Prize 2018, received a jury prize at the Sharjah Biennial 9 in 2009, and was awarded the Fondati3n Bot3n Visual Arts Grant 2009-2010.

### **Shadi Habib Allah**

Born in Jerusalem, Palestine in 1977, Shadi Habib Allah received a BFA from Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design and an MFA from Columbia University. He was twice awarded second prize at the A.M. Qattan Foundation Young Artist Award, was the 2012 recipient of the Louis Comfort Tiffany Award, and has attended residencies at Cittadelarte, at Fondazione Pistoletto in Biella, and at Gasworks and the Delfina Foundation in London. He has exhibited at Palestine c/o Venice at the Venice Biennale, Art Statements Art Basel, the Sharjah Biennial, and the New Museum Triennial. Exhibitions include Biscuits and Green Sox Maaike at Reena Spaulings, New York, Empire State at the Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome, and Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Paris, Frozen Lakes at Artists Space, New York; and Nouvelles Vagues at the Palais de Tokyo, Paris. His films have screened at the International Film Festival Rotterdam, Hamburg Film Festival, Courtisane Festival Belgium, and the Norwegian Film Festival. He lives and works in New York.

### **Yazan Khalili**

Yazan Khalili, born in 1981, lives and works in and out of Palestine. He received a BA from Birzeit University, an MA from the Centre for Research Architecture at Goldsmiths, and an MFA from the Sandberg Institute. He was co-founder of Zan Design Studio and the winner of Extract V Young Art Prize 2015. Solo shows include On the Other Side of the Law at Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai, On Love and Other Landscapes at Mumbai Art Room, Mumbai, and Imane Fares Gallery, Paris, The Aliens at Transit Gallery, Mechelen, and Regarding Distance at E.O.A.Projects, London. Group shows include Post-Peace, W3rutt. Kunstverein Stuttgart, Al Riwaq Biennial Palestine, the Jerusalem Show, Searching for a Present at Espoo Museum of Modern Art, the Shanghai Biennale, The Plough and Other Stars at the Irish Museum of Modern Art, A Million Lines: XII Baltic Triennial, La Mer au Milieu des Terres//Mare Medi Terraneum at Es Baluard, the Berlinale, and Sharjah Biennial. He teaches at Al-Quds Bard University, and is chairman and acting director of the Khalil Sakakini Cultural Centre.

### **Maurice Louca**

Maurice Louca is an Egyptian musician and composer born in 1982 in Cairo, where he lives and works. His debut solo album Garraya was released in 2011 on the 100COPIES label, and his 2014 release Benhayyi Al-Baghabghan (Salute the Parrot) on Nawa Recordings. Maurice is a co-founder of the bands Bikya, Alif, The Dwarfs of East Agouza, and Lekhfa. He was guest curator of Beirut & Beyond 2017, and has composed for numerous projects of theater, film, and contemporary visual art. He frequently tours Europe and the Arab world – recent gigs include Cairo Jazz Club, Shubbak Festival in London, Dancity Festival in Foligno, Ecole Normale Sup3rieure in Paris, Sweden Inkonst, CTM Festival in Berlin, WORM Rotterdam, OCCII in Amsterdam, Recyclart in Brussels, Karlstorbahnhof in Heidelberg, S3dpol in Lucerne, Bee Flat in Bern, Cave 12 in Geneva, Instants Chavires in Paris, Le Lieu Unique in Nantes, Kunstencentrum BELGIE in Hasselt, Vera in Groningen, and Baustelle in Leipzig.

### **Jasmina Metwaly**

Born in 1982 to an Egyptian father and a Polish mother, Jasmina Metwaly is a Cairo-based artist and filmmaker, and a member of the Mosireen collective. She received an MA from the Academy of Fine Arts in Poznan and a Postgraduate Diploma at the Byam Shaw School of Art at Central Saint Martins, London. Metwaly's work has been exhibited at international art venues and festivals including S A V V Y Contemporary in Berlin, Sfeir-Semmler Gallery in Beirut, Townhouse gallery in Cairo, Cairo Documenta, IFFR, and Berlinale Forum Expanded. Since 2010 she has also collaborated on projects with filmmaker Philip Rizk. In 2015 their feature-length film *Out on the Street* was presented in the German Pavilion at the 56th Venice Biennale and at MoMA during the exhibition: *Films from Here: Recent Views from the Arab world*. In 2017 she was an artist-in-residency at DAAD in Berlin.

### **nasa4nasa**

nasa4nasa is a dance collective based in Cairo, co-founded by dancers Noura Seif Hassanein and Salma Abdel Salam in 2016. Salam, born in 1989, holds a BA from the American University in Cairo, completed the three-year professional program at the Cairo Contemporary Dance Center (CCDC), and earned her MA from NYU Tisch. In 2016 Salma received the DanceWeb scholarship. Salma teaches performance and dance theory at CCDC as well as various movement and dance courses across Cairo. She is a certified IBBFA barre instructor and is studying to become a Feldenkrais practitioner. Salam has performed with choreographers such as Benoit LaChambre, Tino Sehgal, Yoshiko Chuma, Karima Mansour, Mirette Michail, Mohamed Shafik, Adham Hafez and ExNihilo, and has been published by Ibraaz and ICI Paris. Noura, born in 1985, is a dancer and visual artist. She received a BA from the Faculty of Fine Arts at Helwan University and completed the three-year program at CCDC. She has exhibited at the Cairo Youth Salon, Grand Palais Paris, Carrousel du Louvre in Paris, Tache in Cairo, Photocairo 5, and Gypsum Gallery in Cairo. She has received scholarships from the Henri Jurriens Foundation and DANCEWEB. Hassanein has performed with choreographers and artists such as Mohamed Shafik, Ex Nihilo, Karima Mansour, Mirette Mechail, Marten Spanberg, Hend el Balouty, Shaymaa Shoukry and recently, with Doa Aly at Art Dubai and the Sharjah Biennale.