

# apexart

## **Open Sesame**

Organized by Ola El-Khalidi  
January 17 – March 2, 2013

### **Ganzeer**

*Tabaat we Nabaat (Happily Ever After)*, 2013  
Wall posters, 20 x 10 feet

**Ganzeer** is an Egyptian-born artist and designer, as well as being a social reform advocate. Using visual arts as a means for expression and communication, Ganzeer's interests include commentary on the human condition and what's to come. His work has been exhibited in Germany, Poland, Jordan, Brazil, and the UAE.

### **Jeanno Gaussi**

*Waiting for Someone*, 2013  
Doll, plaster, gloss paint, 2.5 x 9.75 inches

*Fictional Memoirs*, 2013  
Book, 22.75 x 32 inches, 64 pages

Born in Kabul, **Jeanno Gaussi** is a Berlin-based mixed media artist. Gaussi often develops projects in close relation to their locale, examining the characteristics of the surroundings. Many of her installations were created during residencies in Pakistan, Jordan, Turkey, and Palestine. Although her work is influenced by her multi-cultural background (Kabul, Delhi, and Berlin), her interest goes beyond national borders and categorizations. Presently a member of the Afghan Contemporary Art Research team initiated by the Van Abbe Museum in Eindhoven, Gaussi has shown at venues around the world, including dOCUMENTA (13), and spoke at TEDx Marrakesh.

### *Table Box*

Objects from Kuwait. Personal mementos collected during research interviews by Ola El-Khalidi.

### **Makan Collective (Diala Khasawnih and Samah Hijawi)**

*Twenty Two Years Today*, 2013  
Installation, regional map 78 x 98 inches, illustrations (various sizes and materials), music (6 tapes and a tape player), album of family pictures from the late 1980s, and whiskey.

**Samah Hijawi** (Jordan) finds herself reluctantly presenting the political in her work; a subject she is simultaneously drawn to and frustrated by, because it's both a cliché and a unavoidable daily reality for artists (and anybody actually) living in the region. In response, she frequently uses humor as a strategy in navigating this heavy topic. Presently living in San Francisco, **Diala Khasawnih** is an artist and a translator. She likes to bring people around a table to eat and talk and if that could be art, she is happy. **The Makan Collective** runs Makan, an independent contemporary art space founded in 2003 in Amman, Jordan.

### **Rheim Alkadhi**

*Approximations from the archive of Amal K, who Left Kuwait at that time*, 2013  
Latched pasteboard boxes, mounted prints on archival "rag," pencil inscriptions, dimensions variable.

**Rheim Alkadhi**, American citizen by birth with a secondary Iraqi citizenship, is currently living in the Middle East. She is an artist involved in expanding visual practices and ephemeral social interactions. Sights are set along infinitely fluctuating velocities of time. 'Plans' as well as realized works exist under the reality of non-static visual conditions; gendered visibility (across multiple landscapes) draws on traditions of performative intervention. Intimate knowledge is collected as fieldwork pursued against stratifications of class, authoritarian fictions, beleaguered Arab identities, and evolving psycho-sexual constructions. Civilian migration patterns and the use of language have become integral in this regard. Her installations, pictures, and interventionist situations have been included in museum platforms as well as in organically structured presentations.