

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE RECENT FILMS FROM TUNISIA AND EGYPT FEATURED IN 'UPHEAVAL: VIEWS FROM THE ARAB WORLD' SERIES

December 4–5, 2015

Astoria, New York, December 1, 2015—Museum of the Moving Image will present three recent features from Egypt and Tunisia as part of the series *Upheaval: Views from the Arab World* on December 4 and 5, 2015. These dramatic and documentary features highlight the intense and profound cultural reality and visceral artistic representations of a people defined by geography, language, and culture. The films include *Bastardo* (2013, Dir. Nejjib Belkadi), a noir-meets-magical-realism story set in contemporary Tunisia; *El Gort* (2013, Dir. Hamza el Ouni), a documentary portrait of young Tunisian hay workers before and after the revolution (with documentary subject Khairredine Hajri in person); and *The Trace of the Butterfly* (2014, Dir. Amal Ramsis), an intimate look at the Egyptian revolution from the point of view of a Coptic woman whose brother died in protests. See below for full descriptions and schedule.

The series is organized by guest curator Mais Darwazah, Alwan for the Arts. Major support for this series is provided by the Ford Foundation, with additional support from Con Edison.

Tickets for each film are \$12 (\$9 seniors and students / free for Museum members at the Film Lover level and above). Advance tickets are available online.

SCHEDULE FOR 'UPHEAVAL: VIEWS FROM THE ARAB WORLD,' DEC. 4–5, 2015

All screenings take place at Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Avenue in Astoria, New York. Tickets are \$12 adults (\$9 seniors and students / \$6 children 3–12) and free for Museum members at the Film Lover level and above. Advance tickets are available online at <http://movingimage.us>. Ticket purchase includes same-day admission to the Museum's galleries.

Bastardo

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 7:30 P.M.

Dir. Nejjib Belkadi. 2013, 106 mins. Digital Projection. In Arabic with English subtitles. With Abdel Moneem Chouayat. *Bastardo* is the story of Mohsen 'the bastard' whose origins and history are unknown. He was found in a dustbin 30 years ago by Am Salah,

his adoptive father, and has always been excluded and rejected by the residents of the rundown district where he lives. After being fired from his job, Mohsen, in cahoots with his friend Khelifa, places a mobile phone relay tower on the roof of his house for a substantial monthly payment. The tower allows the locals to have access to mobile phones for the first time. This Tunisian drama film was screened in the Contemporary World Cinema section at the 2013 Toronto International Film Festival.

El Gort

With documentary subject Khaireddine Hajri in person

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2:00 P.M.

Dir. Hamza el Ouni. 2013, 86 mins. Digital Projection. In Arabic with English subtitles. This documentary follows the evolution of a group of young Tunisians working in the hay trade, tracking their movements and transformations between fragility and toughness, before and after the Tunisian revolution.

The Trace of the Butterfly (Athar Al Farasha)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 5:00 P.M.

Dir. Amal Ramsis. 2014, 68 mins. Digital Projection. In Arabic with English subtitles. What does a butterfly leave behind when it flutters in the air around us? How do we feel its trace? The documentary begins with the Maspero massacre in Egypt in October 2011, which left 27 Coptic Christian demonstrators dead. Among those killed was the “Guevara of the Egyptian Revolution,” Mina Daniel. His sister Mary takes us on a two-year journey of the Egyptian Revolution—two years of frustration and triumph, of deaths, and the feeling of the perpetual absence and presence of the departed.

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Press contact: Tomoko Kawamoto, tkawamoto@movingimage.us / 718 777 6830
Screeners and images available.

MUSEUM INFORMATION

Museum of the Moving Image (movingimage.us) advances the understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of the art, history, technique, and technology of film, television, and digital media. In its stunning facilities—acclaimed for both its accessibility and bold design—the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings of significant works; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, craftspeople, and business leaders; and education programs which serve more than 50,000 students each year. The Museum also houses a significant collection of moving-image artifacts.

Hours: Wednesday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, 10:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday–Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. **Holiday hours:** The Museum will be open on Monday and Tuesday, December 28 and 29, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday, January 1, from 10:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (and closed on November 26 and December 25).

Museum Admission: \$12.00 for adults; \$9.00 for persons over 65 and for students with ID;

\$6.00 for children ages 3–12. Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are \$12 adults / \$9 students and seniors / \$6 children 3–12 / free for Museum members at the Film Lover level and above. Advance purchase is available online. Film tickets include same-day admission to the Museum's galleries.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M (weekdays only) or R to Steinway Street. Q (weekdays only) or N to 36 Avenue.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: movingimage.us

Membership: <http://movingimage.us/support/membership> or 718 777 6877

The Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and located on the campus of Kaufman Astoria Studios. Its operations are made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation). The Museum also receives generous support from numerous corporations, foundations, and individuals. For more information, please visit movingimage.us.