

Details for Public Panel Discussion

“Dialogue Through Culture? Art, Politics and Crisis”

22 November, 7:30 pm

Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture & Heritage, Room 4 Ibn Rushd, Abu Dhabi

Panel Participants:

- **Julia Gerlach (German journalist)** and **Bärbel Möllmann (German photographer)**, both put together the video installation „What Do You Think About the West?“ shown by the GI Office and Abu Dhabi Authority for Heritage and Culture in Marina Mall, 20-26 November
- **Ahmed Amin** (Iraqi Graphic Designer, was interviewed for the project “What do you think of the West?” by Möllmann and Gerlach)
- **Alyazya Al Suweidi** (Emirati photographer, graduate of Zayed University)
- **Khalil Abdulwahid** (Emirati videoinstallation artist, Coordinator of Fine Arts, Dubai Cultural Council)

Moderation: Dr. Sonja Hegazy, Outreach Coordinator, Center for Modern Oriental Studies, Berlin

Each panel participant will give a short introductory statement (ca. 5 minutes) about their own work and experience as an artist, how it relates to the issue of culture and art as a means of intercultural dialogue, respectively if art can function as a means of intercultural dialogue. If so, in which ways, and if not, why not. Ahmed Amin will refer to his experience of participating in the project by Möllmann and Gerlach and comment on the result. The floor will then be open to discussion and questions from the audience. The discussion will be in English and Arabic with simultaneous translation.

Biographies:

Julia Gerlach, born in 1969, studied Political and Islamic Science in Aix-en-Provence, Berlin and Alexandria. Today she is a journalist for the *heute-Journal* of the ZDF, *Die Zeit* and others. She lived for several years in Cairo working for ZDF TV channel. 2002-03 she worked at the satellite station Al Dschasira in Qatar. In September 2006 her book “Zwischen Pop und Dschihad – Muslimische Jugendliche in Germany” was published by CH Links Publisher, Berlin. She lives and works in Frankfurt a. M., Germany.

Bärbel Möllmann, born in 1970, studied photography at the University of Applied Science in Bielefeld/Germany and at the Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia/USA. In 2001 she created her graduation work VISIONS NYC and in 2003 the continuation VISIONS NYC – Afterthoughts. In 1999 she received the 4th Aenne-Biermann-Preis for German Contemporary Photography. She has held numerous exhibitions in Germany and abroad. She lives and works in Berlin, Germany.

Ahmed Amin, an Iraqi graphic designer who was interviewed for the project “What do you think about the West?” by Bärbel Möllmann and Julia Gerlach.

Alyazya Al Suweidi, an Emirati national, is a graduate of Zayed University and a price-winning photographer living in Abu Dhabi.

Khalil Abdulwahid, an Emirati national, is a videoinstallation artist and holds the position of Coordinator of Fine Arts in the Dubai Cultural Council.

Dr Sonja Hegasy studied Middle East Languages and Cultures in Cairo, Witten-Herdecke, Bochum and New York. She obtained her PhD in Political Science at the Free University of Berlin in 1996 with a thesis on civil society in Morocco. She worked for the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation in Cairo and is regularly teaching at the Otto-Suhr-Institute for Political Science at the FU Berlin. Since 1998, Dr Hegasy has been working at the Centre for Modern Oriental Studies, an interdisciplinary research centre on the Muslim world. Since the beginning of 2004 she has been holding the post of outreach coordinator of the centre.