



WITH PERMISSION OF DR. MANAR HUSSEIN

A POETICS OF PRESENCE:
Photography, Documentation, and History

**A Day-Long Hybrid Colloquium
Inspired by Yasser Alwan**

**Friday, November 4, 2022
Barbara Walters Campus Center
Room B**

A POETICS OF PRESENCE: Photography, Documentation, and History

9–9:30 a.m. **Breakfast and On-Site Registration: BWCC, Room C**

9:30–10 a.m. **Opening Remarks**

10–11:20 a.m. **Panel 1: Yasser Alwan, Portraiture and Space**

Moderator and Chair: Robin Starbuck, *Professor of Experimental Film and Animation, Sarah Lawrence College*

Shamoon Zamir, *Egypt Everyday: Yasser Alwan's Photographs*, Professor of Literature and Art History; Director, Akkasah: Photography Archive at New York University Abu Dhabi

Fred Ritchin, *Yasser Alwan and Naguib Mahfouz: The Spirit of the Neighborhood*, Dean Emeritus, International Center of Photography, NYC

Discussant: John Pilson, Senior Critic, Yale School of Art

11:20–11:40 a.m. **Break**

11:40 a.m.–1 p.m. **Panel 2: Producing the Vernacular Archive:
History, Memory, Practice**

Moderator and Chair: Manan Ahmad, Associate Professor, South and West Asian History, Columbia University

Lucie Ryzova, *The Vernacular Archive, the Collector, and the Magic of Modernity*, Senior Lecturer in Modern Middle Eastern History, History Department, University of Birmingham, UK

Matthew Ellis, *The Sha'b and the Nation: A Genealogy of the Popular in Modern Egyptian History*, Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Chair in Middle Eastern Studies and International Affairs, Sarah Lawrence College

Robert Desjarlais, *Photos of the Inconnu: Photography, Forensic Documentation, and Traces of the Unidentified Dead in the Archives of the Paris Police*, Anthropology Faculty, Sarah Lawrence College

Discussant: Gemma Sharpe, Assistant Professor in Art History, Cleveland Institute of Art

1–2:30 p.m.

Lunch

2:30–4 p.m.

Panel 3: Social Movements and Their Documentation

Moderator and Chair: Nadjé Sadiq al Ali, Professor of International Studies, Anthropology, and Middle East Studies, Brown University

John Molyneux, *The Liberty of Appearing: Yasser Alwan, the People, and Revolution*, independent scholar, art historian and activist

Una Chung, *Capturing the Invisible Labor of Uprising: Yasser Alwan at Tahrir Square*, Professor of Media and Global Studies, Asian-American Literature, Sarah Lawrence College

Georges Khalil, Rand Mahmood, *The Urgency of Being: On the Significance of Listening and Sharing*. Georges Khalil, Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin; Rand Mahmood, Manager, Fusion Support

Discussant: Asef Bayat, Professor of Sociology and Global Studies, University of Illinois, Champagne-Urbana

4–4:15 p.m.

Break

4:15–4:45 p.m.

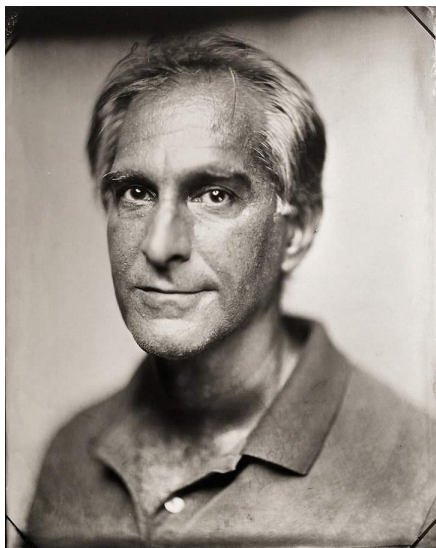
Iraqi Maqam Musical Performance

Introduction: Parthiban Muniandy, Sociology Faculty, Sarah Lawrence College

Performance by: Hamid al-Saadi, Scholar in Residence, Sarah Lawrence College, and **Amir el-Saffar**, composer and jazz musician

4:45–5 p.m.

Closing Remarks



YASSER ALWAN
yasser.alwan.net

Select Group Shows:

The Decisive Moment, Manarat Al Saadiyat Gallery, Abu Dhabi, May–August 2014; *Covering One's Back*, Gezira Arts Center, Cairo, Egypt, May 7–23, 2013; *Alternative Histories*, *Chasing Mirrors*, National Portrait Gallery, London: Presentation of short film, Sura; *In the Middle of the Middle*, group exhibition curated by Catherine David, Galerie Sfeir-Semier, Beirut, November 2008–March 2009

Select Individual Shows:

The Undispossessed: Photographs by Yasser Alwan, New York City, 2012, and NYU-Abu Dhabi, 2011; *Visual Arts Center*, Culture Village, Doha, October 2010; *Chats Palace Arts Center*, London, October–November 2008; *Foyles Gallery*, London, November 2008; *Eldon Gallery*, School of Art, Design, and Media, University of Portsmouth, November–December 2008

Select Publications and Catalogues:

Yasser Alwan: Egypt Everyday, Hatje Cantz, forthcoming; *The Liberty of Appearing*, London: Peacock Imprint, 2008; *Imagining Egypt: The Photographs of Lehnert & Landrock*, Cairo: Lehnert & Landrock Publishers, 2007; *Scream*, Cairo, 2000

This colloquium is made possible by the generous support of the Donald C. Samuel Fund for Politics and Economics, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Consortium on Forced Migration, Displacement, and Education (CFMDE), and various disciplines in the humanities and social sciences at Sarah Lawrence College. It has been co-organized by Sarah Lawrence College and al-Mawrid, the Arab Center for Art at New York University Abu Dhabi. No less important has been the ongoing support and encouragement of Yasser Alwan's family and friends. We also owe a debt of gratitude to all the staff in various departments at the College who have contributed in various ways to this effort.

Registration required.

Masks highly recommended.