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
2:30–4 p.m. Panel 3: Social Movements and Their Documentation

Moderator and Chair: Nadje 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


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

4:45–5 p.m. Closing Remarks
Select Group Shows:


Select Individual Shows:


Select Publications and Catalogues:


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.*