

SURSOCK MUSEUM PROGRAM

JUNE – AUGUST 2017

The Nicolas Ibrahim Sursock Museum is a modern and contemporary art museum in the center of Beirut first opened in 1961, with a mission to collect, preserve, and exhibit local and international art.

Through our collection, archives, exhibitions, and public programs, we aim to produce knowledge on art practices in the region and explore work that reflects on our contemporary moment. Our goal is to support local art production, to provide a platform for encounter and experimentation with art and ideas, and to inform and challenge different audiences in new and unexpected ways.



EXHIBITIONS AND DISPLAYS	2
PUBLIC PROGRAM	
TOURS	6
TALKS	8
FILM PROGRAM	11
FAMILY PROGRAM	12
UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS	14
CALENDAR	15

Willy Aractingi
Le coq et la perle
[The Cock and the Pearl], 1989
Oil on canvas, 81 × 100 cm
Sursock Museum collection



EXHIBITIONS AND DISPLAYS

Les Mondes de Willy Aractingi

9 June – 18 September 2017

Special Exhibitions Hall, Level -2

Les Mondes de Willy Aractingi is an exhibition devoted to the work of painter Willy Aractingi (1930-2003).

Self-taught, Aractingi has often been labeled as a naive or primitive artist; this exhibition looks to take a more nuanced approach, and features more than 120 works created between 1973 and 2003.

Best known for his gradations of color, Aractingi was also fascinated by tales, fables, and other stories told to children such as Geha, Tarzan, Abla and Antar, Adam and Eve, and by La Fontaine's animals and characters. He depicts a world inhabited by creatures and animals including lions, foxes, crows, monkeys, and brings them to life with as many vivid colors as his palette permits.

Aractingi is in pursuit of his own aesthetic and humor, and plays with variations to obtain several versions of his propositions. Abla's alternately purple, yellow, and green face, framed by a *tarbouche* or high bun, is transformed with each of these variations.

This exhibition follows a generous donation of 224 oil paintings to the Sursock Museum by the Aractingi family. Each painting illustrates one of de la Fontaine's fables. A major achievement in Aractingi's artistic life, he began the series in 1989 and completed it on the 300th anniversary of the writer's death in 1995.

#willyaractingi #sursockmuseum



Willy Aractingi
**Les deux taureaux et
une grenouille**
[The Two Bulls and the
Frog], 1994
Oil on canvas, 100 × 100 cm
Sursock Museum collection

Hrair Sarkissian Homesick

7 July – 2 October 2017

Twin Galleries, GF

Hrair Sarkissian's work is often based on his personal relationships to geographies and people. Frequently produced with a large format camera, his carefully crafted photographs enable a deeper engagement with a scene, allowing a slow unfolding of revelatory details, conjuring up elided histories and forgotten places.

This exhibition marks his engagement with the moving image, created with the same studied craft as his large-scale photographs. The two related video installations, *Homesick* and *Horizon*, both speak of journeys taken in response to the war in Syria.

In *Homesick*, once again turning the lens on himself, the artist is shown destroying his childhood home in Damascus, where his parents continue to reside. A carefully crafted detailed replica of the building, made of concrete and metal, slowly crumbles as we see the artist repeatedly strike an off-screen object, only pausing when out of breath or to move aside some rubble.

Horizon is a visual meditation on the perilous journey at sea those fleeing conflict are often forced to take. The video traces the journey of

one of the shortest most popular routes from Kaş on the southwestern Turkish shore, across the Mycale Strait, to the island of Megisti on the edge of southeastern Greece.

Hrair Sarkissian earned his foundational training at his father's photographic studio in Damascus. He attended the École Nationale Supérieure de la Photographie in Arles, France, and in 2010 completed a BFA in Photography at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

His work has recently been exhibited at BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art (Newcastle, UK); Kulturcentrum Ronneby (Sweden); 10th Bamako Encounters (Mali); KW Institute for Contemporary Art (Berlin, Germany); the Golden Lion-winning Armenian pavilion at the Venice Biennale; Museum Folkwang (Essen, Germany); Mosaic Rooms (London, UK); Tate Modern (London, UK); The New Museum (New York, USA); and Darat al Funun (Amman Jordan).

#hairsarkissian #homesick #sursockmuseum



Hrair Sarkissian
Homesick (film still), 2014
Two-channel video, 11', 7"
Courtesy of the artist and Kalfayan Galleries, Athens – Thessaloniki

Maha Maamoun The Law of Existence

24 February – 12 June 2017

Twin Galleries, GF

Working primarily with video and photography, Maha Maamoun's work deals with the circulation and function of images in vernacular culture, reframing these as tools for critical insights and analysis.

The Law of Existence brings together works that deal with the many faces and forms of state power in contemporary Egypt, from its

manifestation in the intimate lives of citizens to power solidified in the edifices of government headquarters.

The works exhibited here were produced within the last six years, during a time of great change and upheaval in Egypt. At the heart of these works is the reflection on human nature, both dark and bright, in times of uncertainty.

*#mahamaamoun #lawofexistence
#sursockmuseum*

Visit Beirut! Postcards and Travel Guides from The Fouad Debbas Collection

24 February – 12 June 2017

The Fouad Debbas Collection Gallery, Level 1

As early as 1865, seven passenger lines began to regularly service Beirut. The modest lodgings hitherto available to travelers, the *locandas*, were to evolve.

In just a few years, hotels proliferated, along with travel agencies set up on the quays.

Through postcards, guides, and other publications from The Fouad Debbas Collection (available for consultation at the Sursock Museum library), picture yourself as a tourist in early 20th century Beirut, and begin by choosing your hotel!

#hotels #tfdc #sursockmuseum

Collection Display

A Selection of Works from the Sursock Museum Collection

Collection Galleries, Levels 1 and 2

Distributed along the Museum's upper two floors, the collection display traces a history of Lebanese modern art from the late 1800s to the early 2000s.

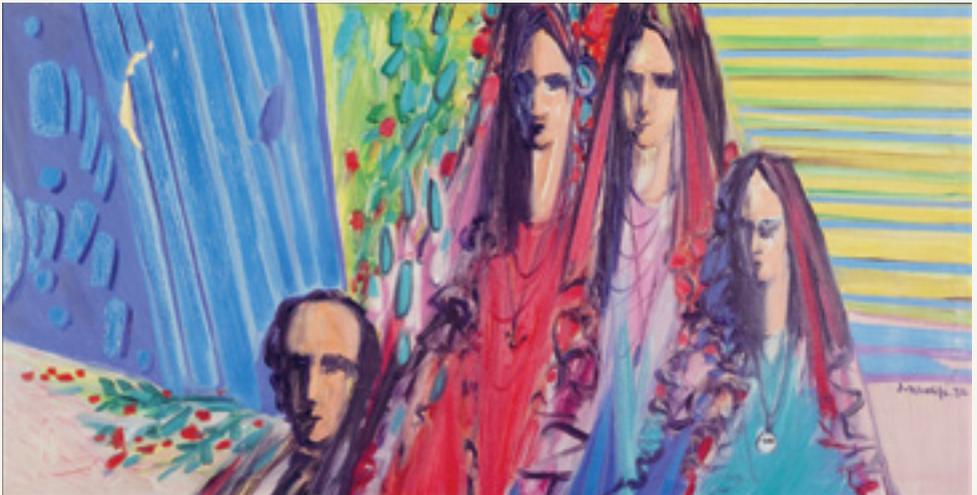
Acquired by or gifted to the Sursock Museum following exhibitions, the works in the collection also chronicle the history of the Museum's exhibition program since its opening in 1961 – including the Salon d'Automne – as well as the evolution of artistic practices in Lebanon.

From Khalil Zgaib's naïve paintings to Paul Guiragossian's stylized human figures, the display's scope and breadth offer significant insights into Lebanese modern art.

Works on display include Farid Aouad's *Three Men of Note* (circa 1980), Yvette Achkar's *Composition in black and pink* (1987), Jean Khalife's *Phoenician Women* (1972), and Rima Amyuni's *Mimosas* (1994).

Kindly note that the current collection display closes in August 2017. A new display will be on view as of September 2017. For more information, please check our website.

#sursockmuseumcollection #sursockmuseum



Jean Khalifé
Les Phéniciennes [Phoenician Women], 1972
Oil on canvas, 99 × 199 cm
Sursock Museum collection

TOURS

Collection Tour

Saturday 3 June, 16:00 to 17:00 in Arabic

Thursday 13 July, 19:00 to 20:00 in French

Thursday 3 August, 19:00 to 20:00 in English

Meeting point: Information Desk, GF

Free admission

Spaces limited. First-come, first-served.

Led by the Sursock Museum's docents, these tours guide you through the Museum's permanent collection, giving insights into its history and highlighting key works on display.



© Sursock Museum

Les Mondes de Willy Aractingi: Curator's Tour With Yasmine Chemali

Saturday 10 June, 16:00 to 17:00 in French
17:00 to 18:00 in English

Thursday 15 June, 18:00 to 19:00 in French

Meeting point: Special Exhibitions Hall,
Level -2

Free admission

Spaces limited. First-come, first-served.

Join curator Yasmine Chemali for a tour of *Les Mondes de Willy Aractingi*, exploring the main themes and ideas behind the exhibition.

Yasmine Chemali is the Head of the Collections at the Surssock Museum.



Willy Aractingi
Tarzan emmène une
Sheetah récalcitrante
dans le sous-bois magique
[Tarzan brings a rebellious
cheetah to the enchanted
woods], 1987
Oil on canvas, 100 × 100 cm
Aractingi collection

TALKS

Artist Talk: Ahmad Ghossein *There Is No Right or Wrong Here*

Thursday 1 June, 18:00 to 19:30

Auditorium, Level -2

In Arabic

Free admission

Artist and filmmaker Ahmad Ghossein will discuss the research and ideas behind his latest exhibition, *There Is No Right or Wrong Here*, currently on view at Marfa' Gallery.

Starting from a fleeting land of which no trace can be found, Ghossein's project aims to question the conceptions of space, land, and its thickness – or the limits of its depths before it can be considered “underground” in South Lebanon.

Following the talk, Ghossein will be in conversation.

Ahmad Ghossein holds an MFA from the Oslo National Academy of the Arts and a BFA in Theater from the Lebanese University. His practice spans a range of media, including video art, installation, sculpture, and film. His work has been exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art (New York, US), the New Museum (New York, US), Kunsthall Oslo (Oslo, Norway), Home Works 7 (Beirut, Lebanon), the SeMA Biennale (Seoul, South Korea), Bétonsalon (Paris, France), Mucem (Marseille, France), and the Sharjah Biennial (Sharjah, UAE).

Ahmad Ghossein

The Last Cartographer in the Republic, 2017

Video, 16'

Courtesy of the artist



Swiss Art Talks: Giovanni Carmine FOR REAL

In partnership with the Embassy of Switzerland in Lebanon

With the support of Association Philippe Jabre

Thursday 22 June, 18:00 to 19:30

Auditorium, Level -2

In English

Free admission

Using art and curating as instruments to approach and understand reality is the core of the work at the Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen (St. Gallen, Switzerland). But what kind of impact does a contemporary art institution have in a rather small town, situated outside the “grand tour” circuit of today’s contemporary art circus? Which context should it respond to?

Through a selection of projects, Giovanni Carmine will discuss his strategies for dealing with these questions, giving an overview of his curatorial approach.

Giovanni Carmine has been the director of the Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen (www.k9000.ch) since 2007. He has curated shows by David Lamelas, Ryan Gander, Mariana Castillo Deball, Petrit Halilaj, Sylvia Sleigh, Dani Gal, Lawrence Abu Hamdan, and Jill Magid. In 2011, he was the artistic coordinator of the 54th the Venice Biennale, and in 2013, he curated the Swiss Pavilion of the 55th edition of the biennial. His writings have been featured in *Kunst-Bulletin*, *Frieze*, *Art-Review*, and *Parkett*, and he has edited several publications, including *PSYOP: Post 9/11 Leaflets* and *CEAU* (both with Christoph Büchel). He is the president of the Swiss Federal Art Commission and a board member of the Istituto Svizzera (Rome, Italy). He lives and works between Zurich and St. Gallen.

Jill Magid

The Proposal, 2016

Courtesy of the artist, LABOR, Mexico City, and Untilthen, Paris
Photo: Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen, Stefan Jaeggi



Arab Design Pioneers and the Propagation of a Modern Visual Culture

Book Launch and Panel Discussion

In collaboration with Khatt Books

Thursday 10 August, 19:00 to 21:00

Auditorium, Level -2 | Sursock Museum Store and Resto

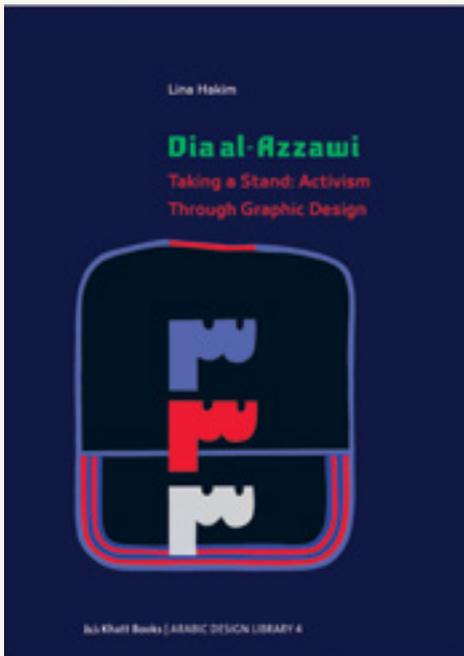
In English and Arabic

Free Admission

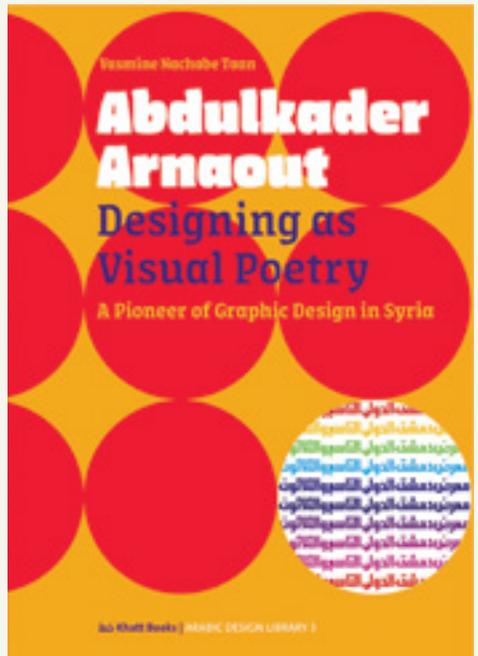
Join us for a presentation and panel discussion, followed by the launch of two books: Yasmine Nachabe Taan's *Abdulkader Arnaout: Designing as Visual Poetry* and Lina Hakim's *Dia al-Azzawi. Taking a Stand: Activism Through Graphic Design*.

Moderated by publisher and editor Huda Smitshuijzen AbiFarès, the panel will feature presentations by authors Yasmine Nachabe Taan and Lina Hakim, artist Dia al-Azzawi, and art critic and designer Waddah Faris.

The panel discussion will be followed by a book signing and a reception at the Sursock Museum Store and Resto.



Book cover of Lina Hakim's *Dia al-Azzawi. Taking a Stand: Activism Through Graphic Design*



Book cover of Yasmine Nachabe Taan's *Abdulkader Arnaout: Designing as Visual Poetry*

FILM PROGRAM

I can call this progress to halt Film Program Curated by Suzy Halajian

Thursday 29 and Friday 30 June,
19:00 to 20:30

Auditorium, Level -2
Free admission

As part of the ongoing project *I can call this progress to halt* curated by Suzy Halajian, a two-day screening program will take place at the Surssock Museum.

I can call this progress to halt is a project that considers gestures of protest, unrest, and incendiary exchange as the starting point to a conversation. Multimedia works and formats on view represent images of conflict and strife that are oftentimes stripped of their original or intended context. Considered together, they function more as dispersed, floating representations of contested moments in time that refuse to stand fixed, and instead vehemently call for another engagement with the world, an imagined world.

Raqs Media Collective

Installation view of *The Capital of Accumulation*, 2010

Video diptych, color, sound, 50'

Courtesy of the collective

Screened as part of *I can call this progress to halt*, LACE (Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions), 2017

Photograph by Christopher Wormald

The first chapter of *I can call this progress to halt* opened with an exhibition and a series of screenings, presentations, and performances, which ran from March 8 until April 23, 2017 at Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE).

Please check our website for the full program schedule.

Suzy Halajian is a Los Angeles-based independent curator and writer. Her work begins at the intersection of art and politics, treating image making as steeped in colonial pasts and modern surveillance states. She recently curated *I can call this progress to halt*, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, Los Angeles (2017); *At night the states*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2017); *Harry Dodge: The Inner Reality of Ultra-Intelligent Life*, Armory Center for the Arts, Pasadena (2016); *The Closer I Get To The End The More I Rewrite The Beginning*, Human Resources, Los Angeles (2015); *Nothing is forgotten, some things considered*, UKS, Oslo (2012); and *Lawrence Weiner: Impeded Time*, Galerie Hubert Winter, Vienna (2012).



FAMILY PROGRAM

Origins of a Tale With Collectif Kahraba

Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 June,
20:00 to 21:00

Museum esplanade

Free admission

A performance for all ages.

The first fable may have even been modelled from clay. The central element will be clay in layered sheets, in piles, in blocks, in bas-relief, modelled live, and so on, giving life to figures and spaces. It is from and through this raw material that the two interpreters (Eric Deniaud and Aurelien Zouki) will build the genealogy of fables and their origins. Drawing inspiration from the exhibition *Les Mondes de Willy Aractingi*, the piece combines live sculpture and drawing, movement, object manipulation, and sound creation.

This performance is programmed in conjunction with *Les Mondes de Willy Aractingi*.

The development of *Origins of a Tale* was supported by the Swiss Embassy in Lebanon and the French Institute in Lebanon, and has received grants from Focus Liban (French Institute–Zoukak Company) and from Masrah al Madina – 20th anniversary grant.

Collectif Kahraba is a performing arts company comprised of artists and technicians from different backgrounds, who believe that art is a trajectory towards openness and dialogue. Since 2007, Collectif Kahraba has presented ten different performances that brought together various disciplines, including, theatre, puppetry, shadow theatre, and contemporary dance. The collective has also initiated a multidisciplinary, free festival, “Nehna wel Amar wel Jiran,” which held its fourth edition in 2015, bringing together more than 40 artists and over 5000 spectators. Collectif Kahraba are also at the helm of the Hammana Artist House, a new art residency space located in the village of Hammana.



Courtesy of Collectif Kahraba

Wild Things: A Mask-Making Workshop With Junk Munkez

Saturday 17 June, 11:00 to 13:00

Saturday 8 July, 11:00 to 13:00

Meeting point: Information Desk, GF

In French and Arabic

Ages 6-12. Children must be accompanied.

LBP 10,000 per child. LBP 5,000 per additional child.

Spaces limited, booking required.

Tickets can be booked through our website.

Create a mask using colorful and patterned textiles, cardboard, and origami techniques. In this participatory workshop, children will enter a fantasy world with an oral storytelling session of the *Fables de la Fontaine*. After choosing their favorite fables and characters, kids will draw an initial sketch of their mask and fabricate it. They will also be able to take their custom mask home.

This workshop is programmed in conjunction with the exhibition *Les Mondes de Willy Aractingi*.

Lea Kirdikian is a product designer with an avid interest in recycled materials. **Xavier Baghdadi** is an imaginative animator/illustrator. They teamed up to collaborate on an upcycling initiative called **Junk Munkez**, joining forces to conquer the local trash heaps through colourful eco-friendly products with eco-conscious ethics.



Courtesy of Junk Munkez

Collection Tour for Families

Sunday 2 July, 11:00 to 12:00

Meeting point: Information Desk, GF

In English

Ages 4-11 with adult supervision

Free admission. Spaces limited.

First-come, first-served.

Led by one of the Sursock Museum's docents, this fun and interactive family tour explores the collection through stories, shapes, and colors, with fun and educational activities for children and parents.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Tamawuj: Sharjah Biennial 13 – Act II

Curated by Reem Fadda

In collaboration with the Sharjah Art Foundation and Ashkal Alwan – The Lebanese Association for Plastic Arts

20 October 2017 – 1 January 2018

Special Exhibitions Hall, Level -2

Curated by Reem Fadda, this exhibition is part of SB13 – Act II, the culminating chapter of the 13th edition of the Sharjah Biennial, curated by Christine Tohme.

The list of participating artists and parallel public program – including talks, tours, and performances – will be announced in summer 2017.

Please check our website for the latest updates.



CALENDAR

THURSDAY 1 JUNE

18:00 – 19:30 **TALK**
Artist Talk: Ahmad Ghossein
There Is No Right or Wrong Here

SATURDAY 3 JUNE

16:00 – 17:00 **TOUR**
Collection Tour

SATURDAY 10 JUNE

16:00 – 17:00 **TOUR**
17:00 – 18:00

Willy Aractingi: Curator's Tour
With Yasmine Chemali
20:00 – 21:00 FAMILY PROGRAM
Origins of a Tale
With Collectif Kahraba

SUNDAY 11 JUNE

20:00 – 21:00 FAMILY PROGRAM
Origins of a Tale
With Collectif Kahraba

THURSDAY 15 JUNE

18:00 – 19:00 **TOUR**
Willy Aractingi: Curator's Tour
With Yasmine Chemali

SATURDAY 17 JUNE

11:00 – 13:00 **FAMILY PROGRAM**
Wild Things: A Mask-Making
Workshop
With Junk Munkez

THURSDAY 22 JUNE

18:00 – 19:30 **TALK**
Swiss Art Talks: Giovanni
Carmine
FOR REAL

THURSDAY 29 JUNE

19:00 – 20:30 **FILM PROGRAM**
I can call this progress to halt
Film Program Curated by Suzy
Halajian

FRIDAY 30 JUNE

19:00 – 20:30 **FILM PROGRAM**
I can call this progress to halt
Film Program Curated by Suzy
Halajian

SUNDAY 2 JULY

11:00 – 12:00 **FAMILY PROGRAM**
Collection Tour for Families

SATURDAY 8 JULY

11:00 – 13:00 **FAMILY PROGRAM**
Wild Things: A Mask-Making
Workshop
With Junk Munkez

THURSDAY 13 JULY

19:00 – 20:00 **TOUR**
Collection Tour

THURSDAY 3 AUGUST

19:00 – 20:00 **TOUR**
Collection Tour

THURSDAY 10 AUGUST

19:00 – 21:00 **TALK**
Arab Design Pioneers and the
Propagation of a Modern Visual
Culture
Book Launch and Panel Discussion

EXHIBITIONS

Les Mondes de Willy Aractingi

9 June – 18 September 2017
Special Exhibitions Hall, Level -2

Hrair Sarkissian

Homesick
7 July – 2 October 2017
Twin Galleries, GF

Maha Maamoun

The Law of Existence
24 February – 12 June 2017
Twin Galleries, GF

Visit Beirut!

Postcards and Travel Guides from The Fouad Debbas Collection
24 February – 12 June 2017
The Fouad Debbas Collection Gallery, Level 1

Collection Display

A Selection of Works from the Surssock Museum Collection
Collection Galleries, Levels 1 and 2



Library

The Sursock Museum library is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and studying local and regional art historical resources. The library holds numerous publications, periodicals, and original archives documenting modern and contemporary art practices in the region and beyond, making it a valuable reference for students, scholars, artists, and curators.

In addition, the library hosts temporary displays and public programs, and runs an outreach program.

The library also aims at preserving the original archives of galleries, cultural institutions, and artists in Lebanon. These archives will be publicly accessible for consultation and research, and looked after by a team of committed professionals.

Open daily from 13:00 to 18:00

Late opening on Thursdays from 13:00 to 21:00

Closed on Tuesdays and Sundays

+961 (0)1 202 001 ext. 224

Resto

Headed by Joanna Debbas, the Resto offers an eclectic range of Mediterranean dishes made with the freshest seasonal ingredients. Its diverse menu draws on culinary influences from Lebanon, Italy, and Iran, and features traditional mezze with a twist, cherry tomato tart, grilled falafel, and beef fillet with pomegranate sauce.

The Resto is committed to supporting local farmers and markets. All dishes are prepared using local produce sourced directly from the growers.

Open daily from 10:00 to 01:00

Closed on Tuesdays

+961 (0)1 200 512

Store

The Sursock Museum Store is the perfect destination for those seeking a distinctive and comprehensive selection of contemporary art books and gifts. From critical texts to custom-made designer items, the store stocks stimulating volumes about art and artistic practices, in addition to a wide range of souvenirs relating to the Museum's collection and exhibitions.

True to the Museum's mission, the store also produces fun and engaging books, games, and educational tools for all ages.

Open daily from 10:30 to 18:30

Late opening on Thursdays from 12:00 to 21:00

Closed on Tuesdays

+961 (0)1 202 001 ext. 219

Directions

Greek Orthodox Archbishopric Street, Ashrafieh
Beirut, Lebanon

We are located forty meters to the left of the top of the Saint Nicolas stairs, just a few steps away from Gemmayzeh Street (Rue Gouraud).

Admission and opening times

Open daily from 10:00 to 18:00

Late opening on Thursdays from 12:00 to 21:00

Closed on Tuesdays

Admission to the Sursock Museum is free of charge.

Museum guidelines

All galleries and facilities are wheelchair accessible.

Please do not run, talk loudly, or otherwise disturb others in the galleries.

Please do not touch the works of art on display.

Bags and backpacks larger than 45×36×20 cm should be checked in at the coat-check facilities.

You may take non-flash, still photographs in the galleries for personal use only.

Food and beverages are permitted in the Museum's esplanade and restaurant, but they may not be carried into the Museum.

Animals are not permitted within the Museum grounds.

Please do not smoke in the building.

Wheeled devices, including rollerblades, skateboards, bikes and scooters are not allowed within the Museum grounds.

Please do not throw or toss a ball or any other object on the Museum esplanade.

Contact us

+ 961 (0)1 202 001 – info@sursock.museum

*To stay informed of our upcoming exhibitions and public programs, **sign up to our newsletter** on www.sursock.museum.*

*Want to learn more about contemporary art and engage with the visitors and activities of the Sursock Museum? **You can join the Sursock Museum team of docents** by sending an email to info@sursock.museum*



@sursockmuseum – #sursockmuseum

