

How to make a durational conversation

SETAREH SHAHBAZI: "DON'T MAKE EXCUSES MAKE GOOD"

JANINE RUBEIZ: "Years go by and the destruction goes on. Nothing remains of this country besides our determination and our hope. We wanted to be an embryonic ministry of culture. We still believe that someone will take up the challenge; this is why we have refused to scuttle. Dar el Fan still exists, and will exist until someone from a new generation takes over."

CHRISTINE TOHME: "But my main motivation was doing something that could respond to the lack of art in our everyday life in Lebanon; art is not in the public space, it is not in the street, it is absent from many spaces we could use, but that we are not using."

JANINE: "We were all too aware of the difficulties of creating dialogue in our society, that is another reason we were keen on gathering people with different opinions. We know our society well; we do not listen to one another and we want to be right, stubbornly, always. One of my own biggest difficulties was to make sure the other's voice was heard, the other opinion."

WADIH SAFIEDDINE: "Our intention was to gather a lot of people and use the space in this way. The problem is that when I say "everybody", I am only referring to everybody we knew; there were a lot of artists we were not even addressing."

JANINE: "It is a huge task. If we could aspire participating in such task with a gain of sand, we should be proud."

WADIH: "Yes, and today I am trying to question my experience and my past to understand where the problem was..."

JAN, ASHKAN, MARWA, MIRENE, HATEM, OMAR, MANSOUR: "(Laughs)"

ASHKAN SEPAHVAND: "I think it takes a long time for you to realize what you individually do. I am interested in doing the things that Reloading Images does, but I would never begin to think about them alone. I need other people. It might be related to insecurity, anxiety, and instead of responding with fear, I respond with this openness to others."

FARES CHALABI: "To have two heads is first to stop talking for one self. The organization will be a device to suspend the entanglement between the thought and the self. By speaking in the name of the organization, the movement of thought is freed from its ego center: it can become a collective thought, a thought that goes beyond space, time and self."

HATEM IMAM: "Ya, but if there is a lot of people who are interested in this. We can rent a space together and get equipment over time. We can also do some commercial projects here and there (t-shirts, etc.) to get some money into it. Something like your project itself. You said that you were interested in doing a hand made magazine. People are interested in this, but there is no space for the moment to accommodate these ideas."

JANINE: "From memory, I recall Kateb Yassine, Rachid Bou Jidra, Michel Tournier, Marguerite Duras, Pier Paolo Pasolini and the third world most prominent architect, Hassan Fathi. I am surely forgetting some and I apologize for this."

KARINE WEHBÉ: "Our situation was ambiguous; people thought we were rich kids and that the space belonged to us. People actually thought that Wadih was the owner of the space, but we were completely broke!"

MIRENE ARSANIOS: "35 min. 44 Sec (inaudible)"

KARINE: "We had illusions and we were driven by a naive ambition. Such naivety allowed for the project to exist and experience that particular moment in Beirut."

FARES: "Maybe One needs to be Two to be an idiot."

MARWA: "What is it now?"