

A Guest Without A Host Is A Ghost: Collection in Residence

***A Guest Without A Host Is A Ghost* brings a selection of contemporary artworks from the [Kadist collections](#) in Paris and San Francisco on a nine-month residency to Cairo. From over 500 existing entries in the Kadist collection, Beirut appointed a group of thirty artworks to reside as temporary guests in the city. The project speaks to the absence of collections and museums dedicated to contemporary art in Egypt, and draws on local partners spanning not-for-profit and private art galleries and other cultural spaces, to engage more closely with the hosted works.**

The project evolves in two chapters. The first features an exhibition co-hosted by Beirut, Townhouse and the Contemporary Image Collective to publicly introduce our guests and hosts to each other. The second chapter departs from the exhibition as form, encouraging the artworks to have a life of their own and feel 'at home'. Some artworks will be invited to go on a journey to new homes, offices and spaces in the city. Others will become objects of inquiry in workshops and seminars, to feature as special guests in other projects, and form the base for new artist commissions and responses by local and visiting practitioners.

Would ghosts exist without their hosts? Would they haunt a world without us?

In various ways and forms, the artworks selected for this project elicit notions of an absent presence, both real or imagined, of artworks, collections, memories, discourses, voices, histories and stories that are concealed from entering our world. What is barred has a way of pressing itself against our conscious life and finding a way to be present, through the potency of our imagination, thought, memory, hallucination. The

exhibition is mindful of images particularly their reproducibility, and their role in photography and cinema. Central to the project is also the objecthood of images, and of artworks.

The uncanny disappearances of shapes, lines and forms escaping the trauma of war, and inhabiting the spaces around works of art (Walid Raad) tell us that works are also sites around which histories accumulate. The historical facts and fictions, and stories that are told, transform the essence of photographs, as records and as images. The ghostly presence of an army of boots marching through the US mail system (Eleanor Antin), the fatherly figures of former shop owners overlooking their legacy (Taysir Batniji), the institutional palimpsests in the changing face of a city (Nicolas Consuegra), the hallucinatory appearance of visual forms after periods of confined darkness (Melvin Moti), all reflect back to the beginning: What appears in place of an absent presence? Would ghosts exist without their hosts? Would they haunt a world without us?

With works by **Francis Alÿs, Eleanor Antin, Eric Baudelaire, Taysir Bhatniji, Zarina Bhimji, Jennifer Bornstein, Patty Chang, Nicolas Consuegra, Julien Crepieux, Hans-Peter Feldman, Aurélien Froment, Ryan Gander, Jiří Kovanda, John Menick, Frédéric Moser & Philippe Schwinger, Laurent Montaron, Charlotte Moth, Melvin Moti, Ciprian Muresan, Walid Raad, Anri Sala, The Propeller Group & Superflex, Mungo Thomson, Danh Vo, Ulla von Brandenburg, Carey Young and Akram Zaatari**

The exhibition will be accompanied by a public program, conceived in close collaboration and throughout the venues of all our partners including [Contemporary Image Collective](#), [Townhouse](#), [Cimatheque](#) and the Institut [Français d'Égypte](#). Check our website and [Facebook page](#) for forthcoming events and screenings.

A Guest Without A Host Is A Ghost is made possible with the generous support of the [Kadist Art Foundation](#) and the [Embassy of France in Cairo](#).

Special thanks to Tycho, [Nile Sunset Annex](#) and [Medrar](#) for making the exhibition possible.

This project is realized in partnership with Contemporary Image Collective, Townhouse, Institut Francais d'Égypte, [Gypsum Gallery](#), [ArtTalks](#), and Cimatheque.

Exhibition openings:

May 6

7:00 pm Exhibition opening at Beirut

7:30 pm Sandra Terdjman and Léna Monnier from the Kadist Foundation in conversation with Beirut. The event is organized in collaboration with Gypsum Gallery and ArtTalks

May 7

7:00 pm Exhibition opening at Contemporary Image Collective & Townhouse Gallery