

# Walid Raad

How does war affect bodies, minds, and cultures?  
This is the main theme of Lebanese artist major solo show at the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston.



**Top: Walid Raad, *Let's be honest, the weather helped\_Saudi Arabia*, 1998/2006, pigmented inkjet print, 18 7/16 x 28 1/2 inches (46.8 x 72.4 cm). Collection Walker Art Center, Minneapolis. T.B. Walker Acquisition Fund. © 2015 Walid Raad. Left: Walid Raad, *Civilizationally, we do not dig holes to bury ourselves\_Plate 922*, 1958-59/2003, pigmented inkjet print, 10 x 8 inches (25.4 x 20.3 cm). Courtesy the artist and Paula Cooper Gallery, New York. © 2015 Walid Raad**

“Walid Raad” brings together over 200 works across various mediums—including photography, video, sculpture, and performance. Informed by his upbringing in Lebanon during the civil war (1975–90) and by the socioeconomic and military policies that have shaped the Middle East in the past few decades, Raad’s work is dedicated to exploring archives and photographic documents in the public realm, the role of memory and narrative within discourses of conflict, and the construction of histories of art in the Arab world.

The exhibition focuses on two of the artist’s long-term projects: *The Atlas Group* (1989–2004) and *Scratching on things I could disavow* (2007–ongoing). These two distinct projects are united by the question: How does war affect bodies, minds, and cultures? Under the rubric of *The Atlas Group*, a 15-year project exploring the contemporary history of Lebanon, Raad produced photographs, videotapes, notebooks, and lectures that related imaginary stories. The stories were inspired in part by real events and extensive research in Lebanon’s various archives and elsewhere.

Raad’s recent work has expanded to address the Middle East region at large. His ongoing project *Scratching on things I could disavow* examines the recent emergence in the Arab world of new infrastructures for the visual arts—art fairs, biennials, museums, and galleries—alongside the geopolitical, economic, and military conflicts that have consumed the region in the past few decades.

The exhibition also features a series of live, in-gallery performances by Raad.