



Hella Mewis
Curator, Art Manager,
Trainer, Researcher

Hella Mewis has a degree in business administration and is a freelance curator and art manager living and working in Baghdad, Iraq since 2012.

In 2015, she founded together with young Iraqi artists the collective TARKIB, which is organising since then the annual TARKIB Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival. Since 2017, the collective is running the group's art center BAIT TARKIB and since 2018, they are organising BAGHDAD WALK, a group exhibition in public space. She is Tarkib's art director, content editor and administrator.

In 2014, she started her photo series „City Cartography“. She is documenting the architectural environment of the activities she either is organising or attending. Her series are in black and white to underline the eternalness of the moment.

Since the very beginning of her living in Baghdad, she is investigating Iraqi art. Her current research project is art in public space in Baghdad from 1921 until to the present which will culminate into an open source map-based online archive.

From 2013 to 2021, she worked as a freelance collaborator and German language teacher for the Goethe-Institut Irak. She is the chairman of the German-based NGO EMCUE e.V. (Europe MENA Cultural Exchange).

Contact

hellamewis@gmail.com

+49 176 2815 4453

+ 964 774 178 5271

www.tarkib.net

www.baghdad-walk.net

www.ar-open.com

ART DIRECTOR

TARKIB **Organisation for Arts and Culture**

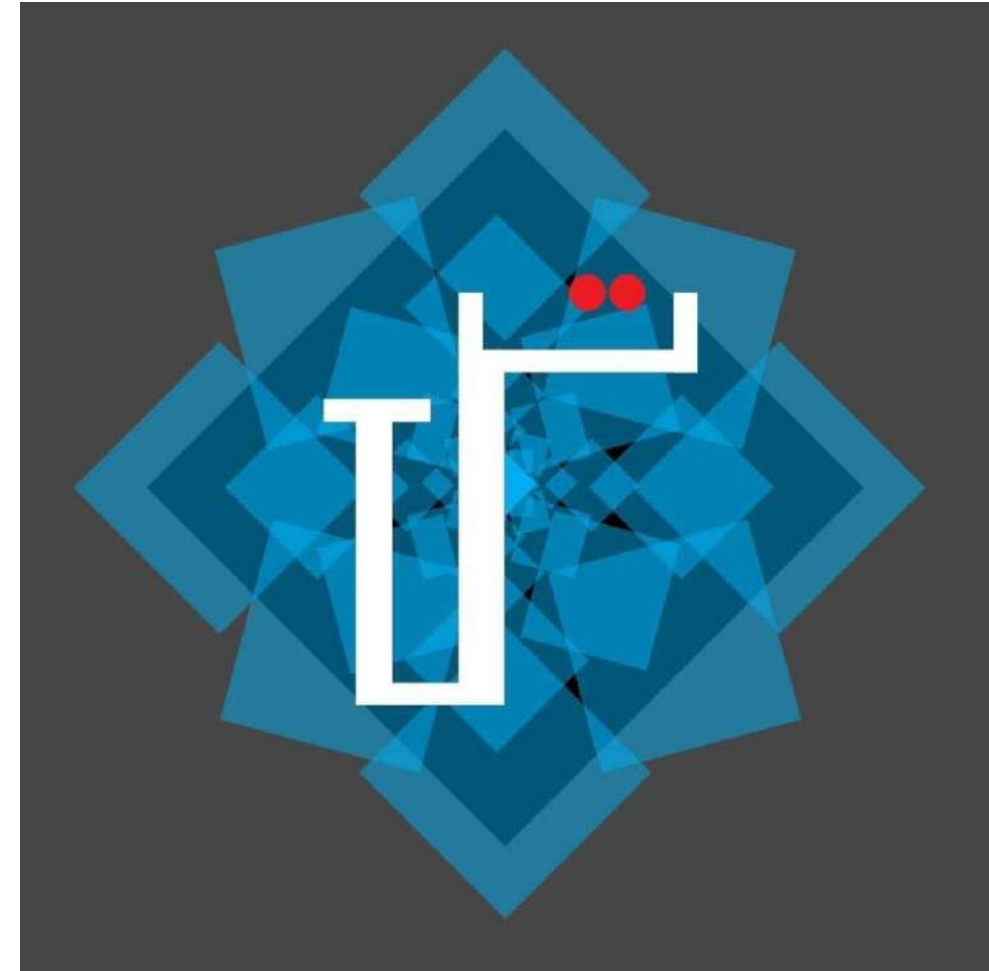
Since 2015, Art Director

TARKIB Organisation for Arts and Culture is an Iraqi NGO that assembles an artist collective that is committed to promote the young generation. Tarkib is a platform for the education, production and presentation of contemporary arts in Iraq.

Tarkib has been working since 2015 and over the years, set a mark in the Iraqi art and creative scene. Tarkib is organising the annual Tarkib Baghdad Contemporary Art Festival and Baghdad Walk, a group exhibition in public space.

Since 2017 the collective runs the creative art centre BAIT TARKIB, which is Iraq's first creative arts centre dedicated to contemporary arts. BAIT TARKIB provides Baghdadi youth with a safe haven to express their ideas through exhibitions, public performances, trainings and workshops.

tarkib.net



**RESEARCHER
PHOTOGRAPHER**

BAGHDAD ART IN PUBLIC SPACE from 1921 to present

Research project and online archive

Baghdad Art In Public Space is a research project by Hella Mewis, which will result in a bilingual map-based website that archives art in public space in Baghdad from 1921 to 2022 with a focus on buildings as well as artworks in public space, which will include sculptures, monuments, murals and newly presented interventions. The website is both, a documentation of architectural and visual art achievements in Baghdad during the last 100 years and it will show, how the architectural urban design of Baghdad and the art in public space is connected to and shaped by Iraqi visual art, in the past and present.

baghdad-aips.net



**BAGHDAD ART
IN PUBLIC SPACE**

**1921
2021**

**فنون بغداد
في الاماكن العامة**

CITY CARTOGRAPHY

Photo Series

Since 2014

CITY CARTOGRAPHY is a photo series documenting the architectural environment of activities, Hella Mewis is either organising or attending. The photos of her series are in black and white to underline the eternalness of the moment.

The photo shows Al Rasheed Street in 2017 and is a snap-shot, a specific moment she liked, when she attended one of the bicycle tours Dhikra Sarsam from Burjbabl and friends were organising. Al Rasheed Street is one of her most favored areas in Baghdad. She likes to quote Najem Wali: „You have not visit Baghdad, if you have not visit Al Rasheed Street.



CURATOR

TARKIB Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival

Since 2015

The festival is Iraq's only multi-disciplinary arts festival, which takes place on four days, each year in different places, in order to connect the audience to the city's contemporary art. Its focus is directed to artworks that form a boundary between arts and everyday life, explore new socio-cultural spaces, work interdisciplinary and interactive.

Curated by Hella Mewis.







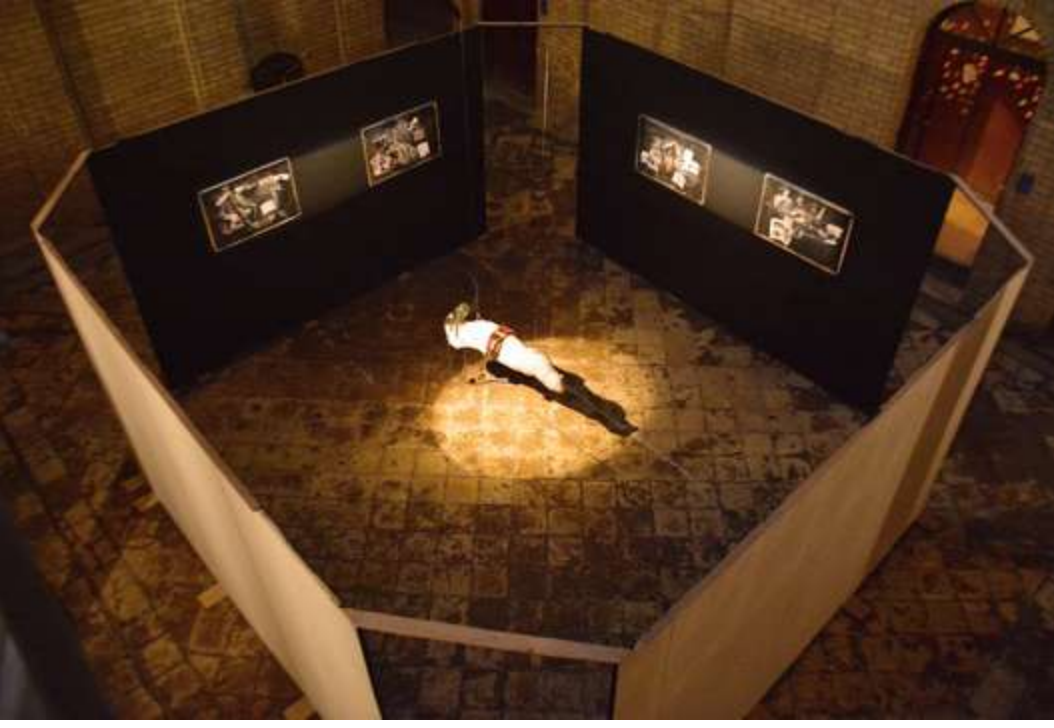


6. TARKIB FESTIVAL 2020 - ONLINE











BAGHDAD WALK

Since 2018

BAGHDAD WALK is an annual group exhibition, conceived as an art walk in public space. It is a project of the Goethe-Institut Iraq in cooperation with the Institut für Raumexperimente Berlin and TARKIB Baghdad.

Choreographed by Christina Werner and Hella Mewis

www.baghdad-walk.net



BAGHDAD WALK 2022



BAGHDAD WALK 2021



BAGHDAD WALK 2020



BAGHDAD WALK 2019



BAGHDAD WALK 2018



BAGHDAD WALK IN BERLIN

23.06. – 26.06.2022

BAGHDAD WALK is an annual group exhibition series which takes place in public spaces across the city of Baghdad, Iraq. BAGHDAD WALK IN BERLIN presented selected works by emerging Iraqi artists at the Salon am Moritzplatz from June 23 to 26, 2022. The exhibition revealed how the participating artists developed artistic strategies and narratives in Baghdad's public spaces.

Curated by Hella Mewis

www.baghdad-walk.net



BAGHDAD WALK IN BERLIN



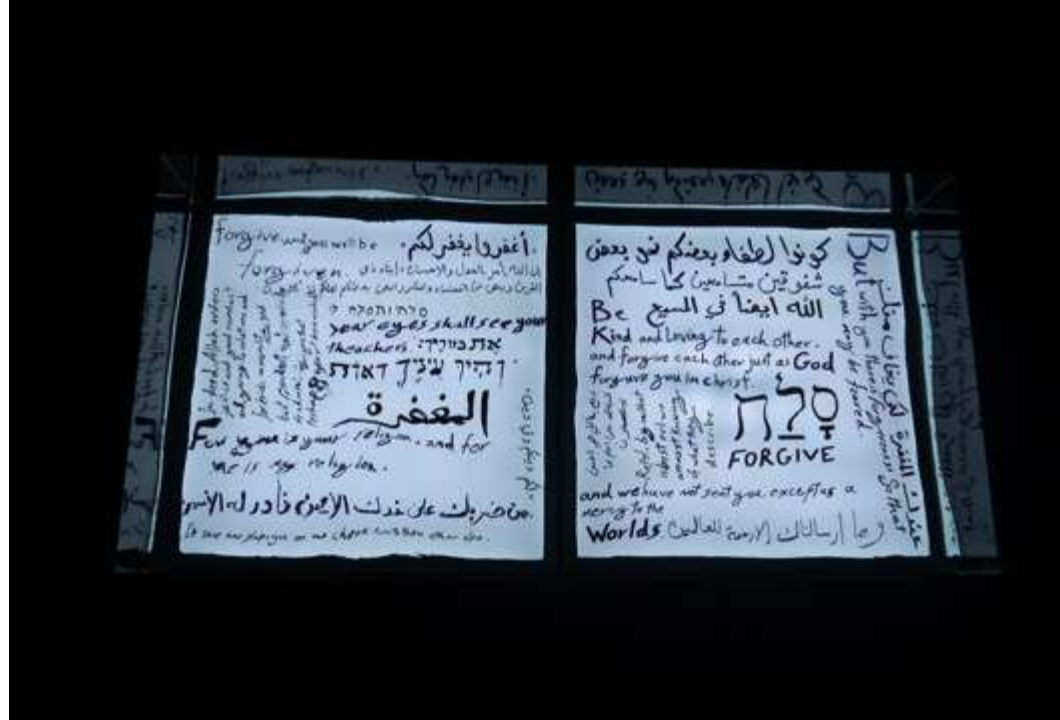
FORB Collective Exhibition in BAIT TARKIB

June 17 + 18, 2019

FORB was a group exhibition showcasing 18 artistic positions from 18 emerging Iraqi artists on the occasion of the Freedom-Of-Religion-And-Belief-Day.

Supported the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Iraq.





ART MANAGER

AR OPEN Berlin
Augmented Reality Exhibition
18.11.2022 – 09.04.2023
project co-ordinator

AR OPEN is an augmented reality exhibition which is currently on display at Berlin Tiergarten. All works can be seen on site via smartphone or tablet by using the website www.ar-open.com. AR OPEN explores the potential of augmented reality for social and cultural interaction. Only new productions can be seen, complemented with works by artists from the Tarkib collective Baghdad and Pixelated Realities Odessa.

Organized by EMCUE e.V. and Arpha as part of the initiative Draussenstadt, funded by Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Europa, Stiftung für kulturelle Weiterbildung und Kulturberatung.

www.ar-open.com



AR OPEN BAGHDAD
Group Exhibition
2021, project co-ordinator

AR OPEN BAGHDAD was an art exhibition in public space that presented via Augmented Reality (AR) new productions by Iraqi artists in Baghdad. Young Iraqi artists, designers and architects worked together on the project and produced 17 artworks for the exhibition in a series of 3D-Workshops. The exhibition was on view via smartphone or tablet on site in Al Zawraa Park.

Conceived by Vlado Velkov (Arpha) and implemented in co-operation with Hella Mewis (EMCUE e.V. and Tarkib Collective). Supported by GIZ.

www.ar-open.com



DESIGNED IN IRAQ

Workshop and Website

2021, supervisor

The two-steps project DESIGNED IN IRAQ is part of the program KHAN AL FAN that promotes the creative industries in the MENA region. The website DESIGNED IN IRAQ, resulting from step 1, is both, an online research platform that archives Iraqi design before and after 1921, and a colour-form-pattern guide for designers and creatives to get inspirations. The design guide developed in step 1 will be the foundation for step 2 in which local designers will create local products with an Iraqi visual touch.

Supervised by Hella Mewis and implemented by the GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) and the Goethe-Institut, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

designediniraq.org



EGMONT IN IRAQ
German-Iraqi Music Theater Performance

2021, project coordinator

EGMONT IN IRAQ is a German-Iraqi music theater performance based on Goethes play „Egmont“ and stage music by Beethoven, to be premiered in June 2021 in the National Theater Baghdad.

A project of the Goethe-Institut Iraq on the occasion of the Beethoven Year 2020/2021.

•
الغزوات
EGMONT.
•

IN_VISIBLE - Lecture Performance

by and with Modjgan Hashemian in cooperation with TARKIB
Baghdad

Akademie der Künste, Berlin, 29.10./30.10.2016, project
coordinator

IN_VISIBLE is a joint lecture performance addressing the
experiences of women in confinement – in a Berlin prison and
in the Iraqi society. Choreographed and performed by the
German Modjgan Hashemian, in cooperation with artists
from TARKIB Baghdad.

*In co-production with the Akademie der Künste, Berlin and
with the kind support of EMCUE e.V. and Aufbruch Kunst
Gefängnis Stadt.*



FESTIVAL OF FUTURE NOWS

ICE performance by Jumana Ridha

Museum Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin, September 14-17, 2017,
advisor

...

The young Iraqi artist Jumana Ridha was invited to present her surreal performance ICE at the *Festival of Future Nows* in 2017. The festival was a cooperation between the Nationalgalerie and Olafur Eliasson and his Institute for Spatial Experiments and brought together different works by over 100 international artists



III. WEISSENSEE TRIENNALE BAGHDAD

Under the direction of the German artist and curator Vladov Velkov

Al Zawraa Park, 2016, project coordinator

The WEISSENSEE TRIENNALE is a project initiated by Vladov Velkov. The third edition with presentation of 10 site-specific works by young Iraqi artists took place in Al Zawraa Park, Baghdad. Works presented were the results of a workshop Vladov Velkov conducted during his visit in Baghdad in order to curate artworks for the exhibition „Day and Night“ in Kunstverein Arnsberg e.V.



DIAPOSITIV: PUBLIC_COLLECTION BAGHDAD

Installation of an Art Collection in Public Space in
the SYNTOPIAN VAGABOND

By Michaela Rotsch

Al Mutasarefiya, 1.1.2016

Museum of Modern Art, 9.-14.1.2016, project
coordinator

The PUBLIC_COLLECTION is based on a collection
of more than 5.000 slides of icons of art history,
installed in the SYNTOPIAN VAGABOND, a
transparent mobile cube. For Baghdad Michaela
Rotsch added ‚icons‘ of Iraqi art with a focus on
photographs reflecting disputed art from Baghdad
from the 20th and 21st centuries.

*Supported by the Goethe-Institut Irak in
cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, Republic
of Iraq.*



VERNEINUNG (NEGATION)

Poster Artwork by Fabian Knecht

Teyeran Square, Baghdad, 2015, project coordinator

Knecht is a performanc artist form Berlin, Germany. The reference of the poster is the artwork "The War is over" from John Lennon and Yoko Ono from 1971. Lennon and Ono were renting a billboard at New Yorks Times Square and published a poster with the slogan "The War is over" as critic against the Vietnam War.

Knecht wants to remember this performance and update this anti-war message in a contemporary way, installed on a billboard at Teyeran Square in Baghdad. The message on the poster seems to be different but the message behind the poster is the same: Stop the war.

Cooperation between Gallery Alexander Levy (Berlin, German) and EMCUE e.V. Funded by Gallery Alexander Levy



MAKAMATI - MY MAKAM

Iraqi Makam performed by Angham Al Rafidain Ensemble

Album, 2015, project coordinator

In Iraq, the word Makam refers to both the mode as well as to a certain type of composition. Makam is the poetic form of music, a 400 years old melody and recorded many events and social aspects.

Angham Al Rafidain Ensemble is specialised in performing Iraqi Makam. The album "Makamati" (which means "My Maqam") includes a variation Iraqi Maqam, Pesteh and Iraqi Folksongs representing different stories, moods and characteristics.

*Cooperation between Al Nour Foundation, Contemporary Visual Arts Society (CVAS) and EMCUE e.V.
Funded by the French Embassy in Baghdad*



11.th WORLD PEACE WALL BAGHDAD 2014

Collaborative Mural Artwork
A project by Julian Vogel

Al Iraqia TV, 2014, project coordinator

In November 2014, the German artist Julian Vogel painted together with artists from Baghdad, Basra, Erbil, Hilla, Kirkuk and Najaf a world peace wall on the sites of Al Iraqia TV Channel in Baghdad.

The wall in Baghdad was the 11.th of a series of peace walls. Each world peace wall includes three main elements: a peace dove, a slogan and typical cultural motives.

The slogan for Baghdad read: "We make peace with our own hands."

Supported by the Goethe-Institut Irak



INTERVIEW - Theater Performance

by Akram Assam

with Alaa Hussain and Saad Mohsen

National Theater Baghdad, 2014

Roshenbary Hall Suleymania, 2014

TAK - Theater im. Aufbauhaus, Berlin,, 2015

Theater an der Ruhr, Mühlheim, 2016

Project coordinator

The German-Iraqi theater performance INTERVIEW combines dance and multimedia-elements to a drama, that questions the everyday status of Iraqi women and the ideology of ISIS. The choreographical elements were developed by the German Modjgan Hashemian.

Supported by the U.S. Embassy Baghdad, the Goethe-Institut Iraq and the Cinema & Theater Department, Ministry of Culture, Republic of Iraq.

INTERVIEW

مختارات من كتاب "عيون إنانا"

20-21/10/2014

في الساعة الخامسة عصرا
على خشبة المسرح الوطني

REC.



إخراج
أكرم عصام

تعميل
الاء حسين
سعد محسن

تصميم الرقصات
موشكان هاشميان

تأليف
الاء حسين

بالتعاون مع دائرة السينما والمسرح



STAMBA – The Eastern Western Syndrome

Collaborative Theater Program between Egypt, France, Germany and Iraq

Muntada Al Masrah, Baghdad, 31.10.-3.11.2013, project coordinator

STAMBA is a four country theater project about clichés and stereotypes in Europe and MENA with performances from Egypt, France, Germany and Iraq, staged on four days end of 2013 in Muntada Al Masrah in Baghdad. The performances were specifically developed for this project. The aim was to bring together Eastern and Western artists to address clichés in one location at a time and to discuss theatrical works on a social and artistic level.

The project was part of „Baghdad Cultural Capital of the Arab World“. Curated by Hella Mewis





STAMBA Germany
THE EXPERIENCE OF
REVOLUTION

by Janet Stornowski

STAMBA Egypt
HAPPINESS OF A LITTLE
FAMILY

by Mohamed Shafik



STAMBA Iraq
DEATH OF A STUBBORN CITIZEN-PHOBIA,
AGAIN
by Yahya Ibrahim



STAMBA France
SPRING'S ADVANTAGE
by Nathalie Garraud

**CHOREOGRAPHER
PLAYWRITER**

THE LITTLE PRINCE

Kids Musical Performance

based on the book by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

2022

THE LITTLE PRINCE is a performance, where up to six children retell the same titled novel by Saint-Exupéry by using body rhythmic movements as well as singing and playing instruments.

Choreographed by Hella Mewis.



ART THERAPY LAB

BAIT TARKIB, 2019

ART THERAPY LAB was a series of four workshop sessions for soft skills development to explore ways of human development using art practices. Each workshop session ended up with a choreographical audience-participating percussion performance in a public space in Baghdad.

Conceived and implemented by Hella Mewis and Ameen Mokdad.

Supported by GIZ.



ART THERAPY LAB 2019



KS SHOW - KIDS SKILLS SHOW

Choreographed by Hella Mewis and Ameen Mokdad

BAIT TARKIB, 21.12.2018

KS SHOW is a choreographic performance, where children perform and present skills they have gained in the KIDS STUDIO LAB in BAIT TARKIB. In the first part, based on the Bauhaus triadic ballet, the kids are dancing in costumes of geometric forms to music by Ameen Mokdad. The sextet, composed of four boys and two girls demonstrate in the second part musical and rhythm skills by doing body or cup percussion and circus designed games.

KS SHOW



21.12.2018 3PM

مع موسيقى من تأليف امين مقداد
الرقصات و التزياء مصممة
من قبل هيللا ميفس و امين مقداد

حركات استعراضية يقوم بها
الاطفال و هم يرتدون ازياء
مستوحاة من الاشكال الهندسية

TRAINER

EXPLORE BAUHAUS

BAIT TARKIB, 2022

EXPLORE BAUHAUS is a series of workshops, based on the Bauhaus preliminary course. During the workshop participants experiment with colour, shape and materials in order to see and discover everything in the world as something new. Participants have to forget everything what they knew before, but will train their perception, to make new experiences with material and production processes and practice their hands and eyes. The teaching concept includes a cooperative way of working: work results will be discussed in groups, not corrected by an authority and presented as an exhibition or performance. The workshop focusses on: paper studies, material studies, kinetic studies, photogram and cyanotype studies as well as open stage (body work, performances).

Conceived and implemented by Hella Mewis.



ART HISTORY LAB

BAIT TARKIB, since 2018

ART HISTORY LAB is a course developed and run by Hella Mewis to engage participants with modern and contemporary art and design. Participants will learn something new with hands-on activities and other opportunities for enrichment. Each session is accompanied by a productive part where participants reflect what they have learned to create a visualisation using their own tools.

Conceived and implemented by Hella Mewis.



ART THERAPY LAB

BAIT TARKIB, since 2022

ART THERAPY LAB is a series of ongoing workshop sessions for soft skills development to explore ways of human development using art practices. The lab does not aim to give a therapy. Therapy means that participants are in an environment and a group, which share similar experiences and show solidarity. They explore themselves and learn how to use art technics to overcome daily life struggles.

Conceived and implemented by Hella Mewis



KIDS STUDIO LAB

BAIT TARKIB, since 2018

The KIDS STUDIO LAB offered open workshop classes tailored to kids ages 6 to 12. Participants connected with artists, experimented with materials and music, learned new techniques and had fun with art making. The lab offered valuable out-of-school learning experiences.

Conceived by Hella Mewis and implemented by TARKIB Baghdad.



ECONOMY LAB

BAIT TARKIB, 2019

ECONOMY LAB was a series of capacity building workshops where participants got trained in project management as well as marketing and communication. The workshop resulted in either a business plan or a project proposal ready to present to sponsors and donors.

*Conceived and conducted by Hella Mewis.
Supported by GIZ.*



PUBLICATIONS

DISCOVER BAGHDAD WITH TARKIB - AL RUSAFI WITH HELLA MEWIS

Blogg in cooperation with Hussain Muttar, 2021

The blogg DISCOVER BAGHDAT WITH TARKIB is introducing art in public space and architectural sites in Baghdad. The blogg is both, a documentation of architectural and visual art achievements in Baghdad during the last 100 years and shows, how the urban design of Baghdad is connected and shaped by modern Iraqi visual art and architecture.

A project by Hussain Muttar and Hella Mewis.

baghdadbuildings.blogspot.com/2021/10/30discover-baghdad-with-tarkib-al.html

15.8.2021 Discover Baghdad with Tarkib

Discover Baghdad with Tarkib

22_Discover Baghdad with Tarkib - Al Rusafa with Hella Mewis

August 04, 2021



اكتشف بغداد مع تركيب، الرصافة مع هيللا ميفيس . هل زرت هذا المكان من قبل؟ ما الذي فضلت فيه؟ اذا لم تزر هذا المكان حتى الآن، متى ستذهب لزيارته؟ ساحة الفريديس في الكرادة كانت سابقا احد اهم الساحات في بغداد، اذ احتضنت العديد من الاعمال الفنية والانتصاب . بعد ثورة 14 تموز 1958. الحاكم الجديد الجنرال عبدالكريم قاسم قرر ان يبني ثلاثة انتصاب في بغداد لتخليد ذكرى ثورة 14 تموز . احد هذه الانتصاب هو نصب الجندي المجهول، الذي صنعته رجي . وتم افتتاحه بشكل رسمي في الذكرى الاولى للثورة في 1959. بني النصب من الطابوق الذي تم

Post a Comment READ MORE

<https://baghdadbuildings.blogspot.com> 1/2

BAGHDAD - NARRATIVE TRAVEL BOOK

Short stories by Najem Wali

Translated by Christine Battermann

Photos by Hella Mewis, Hussain Muttar, Atef Al Jaffal

Edited by Hella Mewis and Najem Wali, 2021

There is the history of a city, there are stories of the city and there are city guides. BAGHDAD – A NARRATIVE TRAVEL BOOK combines these three forms. 12 essays narrates the special sides of the Iraqi capital and this in an impressive way, in the impressive language of Najem Wali and underlined with photographs mainly by Hella Mewis.

Manuscript supported by the Goethe-Institut Irak.

1

Der Park der Literatur zwischen Dschawad Salims
Freiheitsmonument und Fa'iq Hassans Mauerbild
"Frieden"



حديقة الأديبين نصب الحرية لجواد سليم وجدانية السلام لمفاتيح حسن

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Catalogue

DIAPOSITIV: PUBLIC_COLLECTION BAGHDAD

Installation of an Art Collection in Public Space in
the SYNTOPIAN VAGABOND

By Michaela Rotsch

edited by Michaela Rotsch and Hella Mewis

The catalogue PUBLIC_COLLECTION BAGHDAD
introduces the research and exhibition project as well
as different cultural organisations and institutions
involved in the collection.

*Supported by the Goethe-Institut Irak in cooperation
with the Ministry of Culture, Republic of Iraq.*



Report

CHALLENGES IN THE ARTS IN IRAQ

Analysis of the current situation of arts and culture in Iraq

Written by Hella Mewis, 2014

The report „CHALLENGES IN THE ARTS IN IRAQ“ describes the situation in the cultural and creative field in Iraq (both formal and informal sector) and the most important challenges the sector is facing. The examined art sectors encompass architecture, film and cinema, literature, music, performing arts and visual arts.

*A survey written by Hella Mewis
Commissioned by the British Council, Iraq*

Image: Dr. Balasim Mohammed



Contact

hellamewis@gmail.com

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