

M A D R A S S A
مدرسة

CALL FOR PARTICIPA- TION

MADRASSA is a programme conceived by l'Atelier de l'Observatoire, implemented with Spring Sessions in partnership with Mass Alexandria and aria (artist residency in algiers).



MADRASSA SESSION 2



DEADLINE TO APPLY: 5 MAY 2017

SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS: 30 MAY 2017

LOCATIONS: ALEXANDRIA, ALGIERS, AMMAN, CASABLANCA

FOR INFORMATION: programme.madrassa@gmail.com

Madrassa is a programme of curatorial research and practice in contemporary art. It is one of the first of its kind in the region. The programme strives to educate and connect a community of young arts professionals through training and networking opportunities.

Madrassa supports innovative, independent curatorial practices that look beyond the dominant dynamics and modes of production, and seek to render art more accessible to all. It explores socially engaged visual arts practices, promotes collaborative projects and rich transnational exchange, and offers a platform for experimentation to the region's emerging curatorial talents.

The first edition of the programme was launched in 2015 by l'Atelier de l'Observatoire (Art and Research) in Casablanca. The second edition of the programme will accept eight participants and is comprised

of two components. The first is a **training session in Casablanca (25 - 29 September 2017)**. It will include meetings, site visits, presentations and case studies led by regional and international curators and speakers. The second component is a **ten-day curatorial residency in one of Madrassa's partner institutions in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan or Morocco** (see below). The training and residencies are specifically dedicated to alternative historiographical approaches that are being developed in North Africa and the Middle East through curatorial practices. In the specific context of the region, we will think and reflect about the essential role of contemporary exhibitions and curatorial essays and projects, in the important writing of narratives and histories of art and culture.





REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION :

- Madrassa targets professionals (or students about to finish their studies) who wish to train or specialize, and who fill at least two of the following criteria:
 - Experience in a structure such as a museum, an arts center, a gallery, a festival, a biennale, an artists' residency, an arts or culture magazine, archives, etc.
 - Studies in cultural management or arts
 - A strong interest in curatorial practices and art history
- All participants must be:
 - Active in North Africa and/or the Middle-East
 - Available for five days of training and for the ten-day curatorial residency
 - Able to participate in training sessions which will be given - or translated - in English, as it is the common language of most participants and speakers.

PRACTICAL INFORMATIONS :

- There is no age limit and no restriction in regards to nationality
- Accommodation and half-board during the training and the residency are covered by the programme
- For the curatorial residency, international transportation is covered by the programme (round trip, with a possibility of leaving from the training location)
- For the training in Casablanca, international and domestic transportation must be ensured by the participants (or their institutions). They can apply to financial partners, including (but not limited to) foreign embassies, Art Moves Africa, Prince Claus Mobility, Roberto Cimetta Fund, European Cultural Fund, Mawred, Afrikayna, etc.
- The programme can help the participants in their application and can offer mobility funds in exceptional cases for participants requiring financial support.





APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are to be sent in English to programme.madrassa@gmail.com before the 5th of May 2017 and must include :

- A resumé
- A cover letter explaining your interest in the Madrassa programme and the themes of this session, your previous experience, as well as your professional projects (1 page). Please specify if you need to apply for a mobility fund for the training in Casablanca.
- A project proposal related to the curatorial residency in the country of your choice (1 page max). Please make sure to specify your motivations and the main ideas of the project. You may propose the following projects to which a small production fee will be attributed: meetings and interviews with the local arts scene (artists, curators, spaces, etc.); research in the framework of a curatorial project involving libraries and archives; writing of curatorial texts; organizing a public curatorial event (meeting, workshop, round table, exhibition, screening, radio intervention, etc.). Projects should be in relation to the main topics of this year's Madrassa, which are alternative historiographical approaches developed throughout North Africa and the Middle East.
- Your projects will be discussed during the training in Casablanca
- You may add any other documents you see fit (art or writing portfolio, etc.)

CURATORIAL RESIDENCIES

Please find below a brief about each residency. Include in your application which programme you would like to attend. A maximum of 2 applicants will be accepted in each space.

- **aria (artist residency in algiers), Algeria**

- Residency: 1-10 October 2017
- aria (artist residency in algiers) was founded by artist Zineb Sedira in 2011, shortly joined by independent curator Yasmina Reggad. aria strives to instigate and develop cross-border dialogues as well as expanding a dynamic network across diverse international art communities within and beyond Algeria. Through residency, commissioning and exhibitions programmes, aria provides opportunities for emerging and established artists from North Africa and across the world to conduct artistic and cultural research and production.
- Mentor: Yasmina Reggad

<http://ariaprojects.org>

www.facebook.com/ariaprojects





• **Mass Alexandria, Egypt**

- Residency: 1-10 October 2017
- MASS Alexandria is a space founded in 2010 by Wael Shawky to provide an opportunity for independent study and learning for artists in Egypt. The basement is a shared studio, meeting, screening and performance space. Through its programme, MASS Alexandria aims to supplement existing art education programmes, with a focus on the conceptual aspects of artistic production. Artists, art educators and curators lead monthly workshops, seminars and lectures. Focusing on contemporary artistic practices, the programme encourages students to explore and experiment with cultural, artistic and scientific ideas in the fields of art history, theory and interdisciplinary studies.
- Mentor: Berit Shuck

www.facebook.com/MASSAlexandriaSpace

• **Atelier de l'Observatoire (Art and Research), Morocco**

- Residency: 1-10 October 2017
- Atelier de l'Observatoire is a space for art and research developing participative and socially engaged projects involving artists, researchers and the general public. To this end, the Atelier de l'Observatoire experiments with alternative approaches through different programmes and formats such as talks, researches, workshops, exhibitions, trainings, film restorations, artwork productions and publications.
- Mentors: Léa Morin, Mohamed Fariji and guest curator (to be confirmed)

www.atelierobservatoire.com

www.facebook.com/AtelierObservatoire

• **Spring Sessions, Jordan**

- Residency: 1-10 October 2017
- Spring Sessions is an experiential learning programme and arts residency based in Amman which brings together emerging and established cultural practitioners to produce work and share outlooks. The purpose of Spring Sessions is to encourage participants to question existing paradigms by experimenting outside of traditional modes. Conceived every spring since 2014, the 15-week programme consists of workshops, mentoring sessions and other activities that encourage participants to research and realize ideas related to the programme.
- Mentors: Noura Al Khasawneh, Victoria Dabdoub and guest curator (to be confirmed)

www.thespringsessions.com

www.facebook.com/thespringsessions





Conceived by :

ATELIER DE L'OBSERVATOIRE
art et recherche

and implemented with :

spring
الجلسات
sessions

In partnership with :

MASS
ALEXANDRIA

aria
artist residency in alexria

With the support of

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