

bétonsalon

Centre for art and research

Maryam Jafri

The Day After

March 18th – July 11th, 2015

Opening: March 17th, 2015 from 6 to 9pm

Curated by Mélanie Bouteloup and Virginie Bobin

National Archives of Tanzania, Mohamed Kouaci Archives (Algeria), National Museum of Syria, Sami Moubayed Archive (Syria), National Archives of Malaysia, Teen Murti Archives (India), Ghana Ministry of Information, Kenya Ministry of Information, Rift Valley Railways Archive (Kenya), Radiodiffusion Télévision Nationale Congolaise (DR Congo), Personal collection (Sudan), Mozambique National School of Photography, National Archives of Indonesia, Kuwait National Oil Company, Cosme Dossa Archive (Benin), National Library of The Philippines, Rizal Library at Ateneo de Manila University, Andre Zoungrana Archive (Burkina Faso), Presidential Archives Republic of Tunisia, National Library of Jordan, Royal Court Library of Jordan, Senegal Ministry of Communication, Photo-ANTA (Madagascar), National Archives of Sri Lanka, Lake House Archives (Sri Lanka), Fraternite Matin Archives (Ivory Coast), Morocco Ministry of Communication, Agence Burundaise de Presse (Burundi), Anonymous.

In the Spring of 2015, Bétonsalon – Centre for Art and Research welcomes artist Maryam Jafri to develop a four months experimental exhibition and public program in Paris. Titled *The Day After*, it will be the artist's first project in France and will activate a broad local and international network of collaborators and participants.

With contributions by Jean Genet, Kapwani Kiwanga, Dominique Malaquais, Saadat Hasan Manto, Erika Nimis, Franck Ogou, Helihanta Rajaonarison, S.N.S. Sastry, Jürg Schneider and Cédric Vincent; as well as by Soufiane Ababri and participants of the Denis Diderot workshop, the students from Master I Journalism, Medias and Scientific Communication with Thierry Lefèbvre and students from Julie Ramage's writing workshop with UFR LAC at Paris Diderot University.



Image: Maryam Jafri, detail from *Independence Day 1934-1975*, courtesy of the artist.

The Day After takes root in Maryam Jafri's ongoing project *Independence Day 1934-1975* (2009-present), an installation composed of photographs taken on the first independence day in former European colonies across Asia and Africa, between 1934 and 1975. The photos are sourced from the countries themselves and display striking similarities despite disparate geographical and temporal origins, revealing a political model exported from Europe and in the process of being cloned throughout the world. The installation gathers images sourced from 29 Asian and African archives, juxtaposed according to a specific grid around categories of events. In her arrangement, Jafri emphasizes the generic character of the rituals and ceremonies that took place during that 24 hours twilight period when a territory transforms into a nation-state. The grid, reminiscent of both photo-conceptualism and the storyboard medium, is broken, disturbing the ideological order at play in the images and suggesting non-linear readings.

The Day After will take this rare "collection of collections" – as Maryam Jafri calls it – as a starting point to question various artistic, historical and political issues arising from these images and their historical and institutional background.

What do we see when we look at the photographic depiction of an event? What is the role of photography in the construction of history? How are images and their significations affected by their context of circulation? How do visual symmetries and comparisons transform our understanding of the narratives arising from the days of independence and, by extension, the days after? And, backstage, what do conditions of access and preservation reveal about the stakes projected onto these photographs?

Conceived as a space of encounters and debates, the exhibition will serve as a terrain of investigation to map these questions through a constellation of material and immaterial contributions (workshops, seminars and performances) bringing the audience together with Maryam Jafri and a network of researchers, scholars, journalists and artists.

An augmented version of the project will travel to Tabakalera, a new Centre for the Creation of Contemporary Culture in San Sebastian (Spain) in 2016, and will act as a case study for a transversal research program on research on research exhibition, conceived with ar/ge kunst Galerie Museum in Bolzano (Italy), in the frame of PIANO - Prepared platform for contemporary art, France-Italy.

About Maryam Jafri

Maryam Jafri is an artist working in video, performance and photography, with a specific interest in questioning the cultural and visual representation of history, politics and economy. Over the last years, she notably investigated the connections between food production and the production of desire (*Avalon*, 2011) ; the elaboration of historical narratives through a post-colonial perspective (*Siege of Khartoum*, 1884, 2006) ; the effects of globalization on working conditions (*Global Slum*, 2012) or the political stakes of food networks (*Mouthfeel*, 2014). Informed by a research based, interdisciplinary process, her artworks are often marked by a visual language posed between film and theatre and a series of narrative experiments oscillating between script and document, fragment and whole. *The Day After* is her first exhibition in France.

Solo exhibitions include Gasworks (London), Bielefelder Kunstverein (Bielefeld), Galerie Nova (Zagreb), Beirut (Cairo), the Neuer Berliner Kunstverein (Berlin), and Malmö Konst Museum (Malmö). Her work has also been featured extensively in international group exhibitions, including at Beirut Art Center, 21er Haus (Vienna), Institute for African Studies (Moscow) and Contemporary Image Collective (Cairo); Camera Austria (Graz), Contemporary Art Gallery (Vancouver), CAFAM Biennial (Beijing), Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami (Miami) in 2014; Museum of Contemporary Art (Detroit), Mukha (Antwerp) in 2013; Manifesta 9 (Genk), Shanghai Biennial and Taipei Biennial (Taipei) in 2012, among others. She was an artist-in-residence at the Delfina Foundation in London in 2014, as part of the program «The Politics of Food». In 2015, she will be part of the Belgian Pavilion at the 56th Venice Biennial. She lives and works between New York and Copenhagen.

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

WED. MARCH 11 / 7-9 pm

MARYAM JAFRI AT SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW. Off-site / EHESS

TUESDAY MARCH 17 / 6-9 pm

OPENING

TUES. - THURS. APRIL 9

NATIONAL DAYS for ARTS and CULTURE in with University Paris Diderot

SATURDAY APRIL 11 / 2-7pm

IMAGES in DEPENDENCIES

Seminar with, among others: Maryam Jafri, Dominique Malaquais (Researcher at the Center for African Worlds Studies, CNRS) and Cédric Vincent (Doctor in Anthropology and researcher at the Center for Anthropology of writing, EHESS), Soufiane Ababri (artist), Sarah Frioux-Salgas (Head of Archive at Collections documentation, Quai Branly Museum)..

THURSDAY APRIL 23, MAY 21 AND JUNE 25 / 5.30 - 7.30pm

ARCHIVE in ECHO: RETHINKING MEMORIES and IMAGINARIES of POSTCOLONIAL INDEPENDENCES

A seminar led by the research group Le noeud de l'histoire : politique du corps post-colonial (Pauline Vermeren, Maïa Hawad, Jephthe Carmil)

SATURDAY APRIL 25 / 2-7pm

OUT OF FRAME: AN AMBIVALENT AFTERNOON

Performances and talks

WEDNESDAY MAY 13 / 6 pm

CINÉ DIDEROT: JEAN ROUCH, LA PYRAMIDE HUMAINE, 1960
Off-site / Amphi Buffon (Paris Diderot university)

MON-TUES JUNE 1&2

IS THERE a POSTCOLONIAL REGIME in the ARTS?

Seminar with University Paris Diderot and PIANO - Prepared platform for contemporary arts / Amphi Buffon

SAT. JUNE 13 / 10am-7pm

OTHER GESTURES: PRACTICES of HERITAGE

Seminar and performances with, among others Franck Ogou (archivist, head of programs at Ecole du Patrimoine Africain), Marian Nur Goni (historian), Emma Wolukau-Mananbwa (artist), Lotte Arndt (theory professor at École d'art et design in Valence), Zineb Sedira (artist), Nana Oforiatta-Ayim (writer and historian).

THURSDAY JUNE 25

WORKSHOP COLLECTING MATTERS with Kadist Art Foundation

WED. -FRIDAY, JULY 8-10

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE for AFRICAN STUDIES at La Sorbonne

SAT. JULY 11

FINISSAGE

Performances in collaboration with AFRICA ACTS

More information on events and workshops on www.betonsalon.net

ABOUT BÉTONSALON

Bétonsalon - Centre for art and research strives to develop a space of reflection and confrontation at the confluence of art and university research by giving form to discourses from the realms of the aesthetic, cultural, political, social and economic. Integrated into the site of the University Paris 7 at the heart of a neighbourhood undergoing reconstruction, the ZAC Paris Rive Gauche in the 13th district of Paris, Bétonsalon aims to ally theory and practice, with the objective of rearticulating the position of research and artistic creation in society.

The activities of Bétonsalon develop in a process-based, collaborative and discursive manner, following different time spans, in cooperation with various local, national and international organizations, and present themselves under different forms:

- Two to three large-scale exhibitions with an average duration of three months each are organized every year, and are enriched by different associated events (workshops, conferences, performances, round table discussions...).
- Seminars and workshops take place over the span of the university semester in collaboration with teachers from University Paris 7.
- Off-site research projects in partnership with other institutions are now in development, with the goal of offering residency possibilities open to researchers, artists and curators.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

TEAM

Mélanie Bouteloup, director
Virginie Bobin, associate curator; head of education
Garance Malivel, projects' coordinator
Elsa Delage, assistant
Vincent Ballard, assistant
Jennifer Caubet, technician

CONTACT

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ACCESS

Metro Line 14 or RER C
Stop Bibliothèque François Mitterrand
Bus 62, 89 et 132 stop Bibliothèque François Mitterrand
Bus 64 stop Tolbiac-Bibliothèque François Mitterrand
Bus 325 stop Thomas Mann
Tramway T3a stop Avenue de France

FREE ENTRANCE

Open Tuesday - Saturday / 11am-7pm

ADVISORY BOARD

Bernard Blistène (chairman),
Director of the National Museum of Modern Art,
Centre Pompidou, Paris
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President of the University Paris Diderot



PARTNERS

The Day After is conceived by Bétonsalon - Centre for Art and Research and co-produced by Tabakalera, San Sebastian, Spain

The Day After is developed in collaboration with the Master I Journalisme, Culture et Communication Scientifique and UFR Lettres, Arts et Cinéma (Paris Diderot university); the Denis Diderot workshop (service Culture, Paris Diderot university) ; the research group « Politiques du Corps Postcolonial » (Paris Diderot university); the library of Paris Diderot university ; the Ecole Supérieure d'Art de Toulon Provence Méditerranée; the Ecole Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Nantes-Métropole et the Kadist Art Fondation, Paris.

The Day After is supported by the Réseau Usage des Patrimoines Numérisés (Sorbonne Paris Cité), the Danish Arts Foundation, the Kamel Lazaar Fondation, the Ecole Supérieure d'Art et de Design Toulon Provence Méditerranée and the Service Culture de l'Université Paris Diderot. *The Day After* is part of is part of PIANO, Prepared Platform for Contemporary Art, France-Italy 2014-2016, initiated by d.c.a / French association for the development of centres d'art, in partnership with the Institut français in Italy, the French Embassy in Italy and the Institut français, with the support of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, the French Ministry of Culture and Communication and Fondazione Nuovi Mecenati.

Maryam Jafri is a laureate of the Programme de résidence international Ville de Paris / Institut français Les Récollets.

Bétonsalon – Centre for Art and Research would like to thank Bibliothèque Kandinsky - MNAM Centre Pompidou, Bibliothèque Universitaire des Langues et Civilisations, Films Division of India and African Photography Initiative as well as all researchers and contributors to the exhibition.

Bétonsalon is supported by the City of Paris, the Department of Paris, the Paris Diderot University, the Île-de-France Regional Board of Cultural Affairs - Ministry of Culture and Communication, Île-de-France Regional Council & Leroy Merlin (quai d'Ivry).

Bétonsalon is a member of TRAM, contemporary art network in Paris/Ile-de-France and d.c.a / the French association for the development of centres d'art.

