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248

When the Ventriloquist Came and Spoke to Me

Ahmad Ghossein

2016, Performance, 42 min., English, Arabic. Screenplay Ahmad Ghossein, Rasha Salti.

Ahmad Ghossein was born in 1981 in Beirut, Lebanon, where he also lives and works. He is an artist and filmmaker, whose work draws on political history through personal narrative. He graduated from the Lebanese University with a diploma in theatre, and has a masters degree in Visual Art from the National Academy of Art, Oslo. His work has been screened in different film festivals, galleries, and museums around the world. Currently he is preparing his first feature film.

Films

2004: Operation Nb/amaleha rqm... (30 min.). 2006: Faux-raccord (4 min.). 2007: 210 m (11 min.). 2008: An Arab Comes to Town (54 min.), Faces Applauding Alone/ujuh tusafeku le wahdeha (8 min.). 2009: What Does Dot Resemble Me Looks Exactly like Me (30 min.). 2011: Abi Ma Zala Shiueean/My Father Is Still a Communist (Forum Expanded, 32 min.). 2012: You have to Swim, You have no Choice (10 min.). 2013: Relocating the Past, Ruins for the Future, Part Two (20 min.). 2015: Al Marhala Al Rabiaa/The Fourth Stage.

When investigating mythology and legend in countries where the collective imagination is shaped by illusion and superstition, one encounters monuments erected in secluded areas. Their sudden appearance on these sites – lacking symbolic significance or any clear connection to the events they are intended to commemorate – can seem perplexing.

Ahmad Ghossein's lecture performance looks at architects and sculptors working on symbolic and abstract monuments that celebrate the victory in the south of Lebanon, while paving the way for a new visual hegemony.

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