

# Rabih Mroué: ~~I, the Undersigned~~ The People are Demanding

(Title change in response to Middle East events)

Exhibition

23 March – 14 May 2011

Press view

22 March 2011, 10am-12 noon, curator's talk at 11am

Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts) presents the first solo exhibition in the UK by Lebanese artist, theatre director, playwright and actor Rabih Mroué at Rivington Place. A last minute intervention by the artist directly responds to current political events, the original title *I, the Undersigned* has been replaced with *The People are Demanding* and a new work produced. The exhibition explores politics, conflict and the relationship between personal responsibilities and the wider narratives of Lebanon and the region.

The iconic slogan 'The People are Demanding' is being heard in cities across the Middle East where a revolution is unfolding, and becomes the title of a new installation for the window space. Including this slogan with a list of actions, the work is an acknowledgment of the extraordinary revival of popular unity, linking the exhibition to the street and elsewhere.

Other installations in the exhibition pose questions concerning historical narration, memory and forgetting. Mroué's approach merges critical theatre and performance art, incorporating video footage, photographs, found documents and newspaper clippings.

In *On Three Posters. Reflections on a video-performance, 2004*, Mroué analyses the different film takes rehearsed by one of the first suicide bombers in Lebanon. *Grandfather, Father and Son, 2010*, brings together material from the library of Mroué's grandfather, a religious scholar turned Communist; a treatise written by his father during 1982, the year of the Israeli occupation of Lebanon, and a story by Rabih Mroué himself in 1989.

*Je Veux Voir* (I want to see), 2010, an installation made especially for the exhibition, is based on Mroué's experience of co-starring with French actress Catherine Deneuve in a feature film (2008). She went to see the aftermath of the 2007 Israeli attack on the South of Lebanon with Mroué for what was his first visit back to his native village.

The Inivators (Iniva's Youth Advisory Board, aged 18-25), in collaboration with artist Tania El Khoury, are staging live art performances and public interventions with their individual response to Rabih Mroué's work, follow their activities and book places at events online.



Caption: (1) *Je Veux Voir* (detail), (2) *Grandfather, Father and Son*, (3) *Je Veux Voir* installation view, BAK, basis voor actuele kunst, Utrecht, 2010

### Editors' notes

A talk and performance by Rabih Mroué takes place on Wednesday 23 March at 6.30pm. Reserve your place online or in person at Rivington Place.

The exhibition, curated by Cosmin Costinas, is a project by BAK, basis voor actuele kunst in Utrecht, where it was on view in spring 2010. A new iteration is presented in collaboration with Iniva (23 March - 14 May 2011) and includes a new commission by the artist. The project will continue to travel to a number of international venues in 2011 and 2012.

### Rabih Mroué Biography

Rabih Mroué (born 1967) is an actor, director, playwright, visual artist, and a contributing editor of *The Drama Review* (TDR) as well as a co-founder and board member of the Beirut Art Center (BAC), Beirut. In 2010 Mroué was awarded an Artist Grant for Theatre/Performance Arts from the Foundation of Contemporary Arts, New York and the Spalding Gray Award.

Recent exhibitions include: Performa 09, New York, 2009; 11th International Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, 2009; *Tarjama/Translation*, Queens Museum of Art, New York, 2009; Sharjah Biennial, Sharjah, 2009; *Soft Manipulation – Who is afraid of the new now?*, Casino Luxembourg, Luxembourg, 2008; and *Medium Religion*, Center for Art and Media (ZKM), Karlsruhe, 2008. Mroué lives and works in Beirut.

### Possible Damage:

The Inivators in collaboration with Tania El Khoury

23 March – 14 May 2011, Iniva's Education Space  
Thu 12-9pm, Fri/Sat 12-6pm

Responding to Rabih Mroué's work, the Inivators and artist Tania El Khoury investigate the construction of social memory and its consequent realities. They form a collective archive through which we can imagine a group's shared experiences, narratives and conflicts. Find out about an immersive live art piece, an installation and public interventions at [www.iniva.org](http://www.iniva.org) or [www.rivingtonplace.org](http://www.rivingtonplace.org)

### Exhibition listings Information

Exhibition: Rabih Mroué: I, the Undersigned – The People are Demanding

Dates: 23 March – 14 May 2011

Venue: Rivington Place, London, EC2A 3BA

Rivington Place public opening hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 11am – 6pm

Late Thursdays: 11am – 9pm (last admission 8.30pm)

Saturday: 12noon – 6pm

Admission: free

[info@rivingtonplace.org](mailto:info@rivingtonplace.org),

[www.rivingtonplace.org](http://www.rivingtonplace.org)

Tubes: Old Street/Liverpool Street/Shoreditch High St  
Rivington Place is fully accessible, for parking & wheelchair facilities call +44 (0)20 7749 1240

### About Iniva

Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts) engages with new ideas and emerging debates in the contemporary visual arts, reflecting in particular the diversity of contemporary society. We work with artists, curators, creative producers, writers and the public to explore the vitality of visual culture. ([www.iniva.org](http://www.iniva.org)) Iniva is supported by Arts Council England.

### About Rivington Place

Opened in 2007, Rivington Place is home to Iniva and Autograph ABP. Designed by architect David Adjaye OBE, this award winning building is dedicated to the display, debate and reflection of global diversity issues in the contemporary visual arts. An ongoing programme of exhibitions and events is presented in the 2 project spaces and Education Space. It is also home to the Stuart Hall Library.

[www.rivingtonplace.org](http://www.rivingtonplace.org)

### Further information

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