

FOUNDATION FOR ART & PSYCHOANALYSIS

FAP - 10 YEARS IN LONDON

Queer Lives, Art & Psychoanalysis in the Arab World

10 June 2026, Camden Arts Centre, London

This is the second event in the FAP - 10 Years in London: Questioning the Feminine and Masculine in Arab Worlds cycle. It follows the virtual round table 'Art, Psychoanalysis, Gender and Sexuality', held in June 2025.

The Foundation for Art & Psychoanalysis celebrates its tenth year in London with an evening exploring how queer and gender-nonconforming lives in Arab worlds are shaped, constrained and imagined through art, law and psychoanalysis. Bringing together performers, artists, clinicians, writers and legal advocates, the event asks how bodies, stories and institutions hold fantasies about “the feminine”, masculinity and queerness, and how these fantasies might be re-worked rather than simply repeated.

Through short talks and an extended conversation, we will consider the risks of visibility, the politics of translation between Arabic, French and English, and the possibilities of new queer world-makings that exceed familiar Western coming-out narratives.

Special guest: Artist Matthew Collings will be drawing impressions from the evening.

We kindly request that photographs are not taken during this evening.

Agenda

18:30

Welcome

Fedja Klikovac (Art Director, FAP) – 10 years of FAP in London; why bring together art and psychoanalysis; why focus on Arab worlds and gender/sexuality now.

18:35

Chair's framing

Juliet Jacques introduces the titles, explains that the evening is staging different, not unified, positions, and outlines the structure.

18:40

Keynote: Michael Mason, Palestine Programme Director at LSE Middle East Centre

Note – we would like to thank Michael Mason for stepping in at short notice to replace Polly Withers who was unfortunately unable to make the event.

19:05

Break

19:10

Artist Contributions: Bodies, Performance, Gender:

Focus: the performing and artistic body as a political, erotic and psychic site.

- **Alexandre Paulikevitch** – on dance, threats, and the queer Arab body as archive and act of refusal. (Participating online).
- **Inès Bouallou** (BIS) – on art practice and curating around gender and sexuality, and how exhibitions negotiate local and international expectations.
- **Rania Kurdi** – on humour, shame and risk in staging sexual and gendered Arab identities.

19:40

Break

19:45

Conversation: Institutions and responsibility

Juliet Jacques in conversation with Alexandra Balafrej-Dhorne (British Council Morocco) on how the British Council and related institutions address questions of gender, sexuality and queer/feminist content in Morocco and the UK.

20:00

Conversation: Justice, identity and power

Juliet Jacques in conversation with Hasan Kilani, specialist in gender equality, on justice, identity and power.

20:15

Panel questions

Juliet Jacques poses a small number of questions drawing together the keynote, artists' contributions, institutional perspective and Hasan Kilani's intervention.

20:40

Extended Q&A (listening) with Dr Ramzi Nasir, Elias Jahshan, Dr Camille Germanos Al Hasan, Dr Nicola Streeten

A structured conversation discussing how art, law, activism and clinics hear each other and where they mishear.

- **Dr Ramzi Nasir** – on early gender/sexuality questions in families; how parents voice anxieties; how clinicians respond.
- **Elias Jahshan** – on Queer Arab family narratives
- **Dr Camille Germanos Al Hasan** – on discourse and shame.
- **Dr Nicola Streeten** – on shame and exclusion in Western culture.

20:55

Closing remarks – final thanks and close, followed by drinks and nibbles in the garden.

Speaker and Artist Bios

Alexandra Balafrej-Dhorne is Country Director, Morocco & Arts Lead, Maghreb at the British Council. She has previously worked with governments, NGOs, donors and private sector partners on programmes focused on youth development, education, civil society strengthening and local governance. She has held long-term assignments managing US government-funded projects in Morocco and programmes in the philanthropic sector in Australia, France and Morocco.

Inès Bouallou is a photographer and poet. Her work focuses on gender and the body as a non-gendered object of research and study. Bouallou's photographic approach, where the self-portrait is a major iconographic theme, allows her to distance herself from contemporary pictorial standards while reinventing old pictorial aesthetics whose value is based on the duality of self and other. Sometimes described as a painter-photographer, Inès Bouallou questions gendered identities through a self-portrait where her self multiplies to better deconstruct and desexualize the norms imposed by society.

Matthew Collings is a UK-based artist, writer, and broadcaster. He studied painting at the Byam Shaw school of art in the 1970s and did the Goldsmiths MA Fine Art Course in the early 1990s. He has written many books including *Blimey! From Bohemia to Britpop: The London Artworld from Francis Bacon to Damian Hirst* and has written and presented popular TV series like the BAFTA winning *This Is Modern Art* on Channel 4. With his partner Emma Biggs he collaborates on abstract paintings based on colour relationships, which are in collections around the world. Currently, he is working on an illustrated book titled *Alternative Art History: What's happening, why do we have souls, what's art for?*

Dr Camille Germanos Al Hasan practises psychoanalysis in London in English, French and Arabic and is co-founder of the Foundation for Art and Psychoanalysis. Her work spans curatorial ethics, oral history, publishing, education, and cultural programming with academic and artistic institutions in London and internationally.

Hasan Kilani is a Palestinian-Jordanian activist, speaker, and DEI practitioner based in London, with over 13 years of experience working across international organizations in the MENA region. His work brings together activism and programme design to challenge power, deepen inclusion, and move beyond performative approaches to justice.

Juliet Jacques is a writer, filmmaker and academic/lecturer. She has published six books, including a memoir and two collections of short stories, alongside numerous articles, essays and short stories. Much of her creative and critical writing has explored LGBT subjects, including her own transition — documented in the *Transgender Journey* series for *The Guardian* and in the book *Trans: A Memoir*, which was runner-up for the Polari First Book Prize in 2016. Her work has also focused on queer and trans art, film, literature and history. She has made four short films, including a documentary about queer and feminist art in Ukraine, co-written two films with Jasmina Cibic, winner of the Jarman Award, and acted in *Female Human Animal* (2018), directed by Josh Appignanesi.

Elias Jahshan (he/him) is a Lebanese-Palestinian journalist and writer, and the editor of groundbreaking anthologies *THIS ARAB IS QUEER* (2022) and *THIS QUEER ARAB FAMILY* (2025), both published by Saqi Books. *This Arab Is Queer* was a 2023 Lambda Literary Awards finalist in the USA and shortlisted for the 2023 Bread & Roses Award in the UK, and has been translated into Italian and soon in French. Elias is a former editor-in-chief of *Star Observer*, Australia's longest-running LGBTQ+ media outlet, and his writing has been published in *The Guardian*, *The New Arab*, *My Kali*, *Gay Times*, *Raseef22*, and more. His short memoirs have also appeared in several anthologies, most recently with his chapter 'Palestinian Dreaming' in *Homosexual Intifada* (ed. Hannah Moushabek & George Abraham; Interlink Books, 2026). Born and raised in Sydney, Australia, Elias now lives in London, UK.

Fedja Klikovac has lived in London since 1982 and worked for various art galleries. In 2002, Klikovac established the pioneering medievalmodern gallery in Marylebone, where he curated a series of exhibitions that saw contemporary artists work with medieval artifacts. He is currently the Director of Handel Street Projects, a gallery dedicated to promoting new British and international contemporary art. handelstreetprojects.com

Rania Kurdi is a British-Jordanian actor, writer, and transformational coach working with LGBTQ+ and neurodiverse clients. Her work fuses dark comedy, music, and storytelling to interrogate fame, identity, and the politics of the female body. With over 20 years' experience across the Arab world and the UK, she challenges dominant narratives and amplifies underrepresented voices. She has collaborated with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to create bold, accessible social media content on sexual health and reproductive rights for young people in the Arab world. Her television characters, produced in Jordan, have also been used as case studies of Arab culture at Stanford University.

Dr Ramzi Nasir is a Palestinian Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician based in London. His clinical work, research and advocacy efforts are focused on the support and understanding of children with developmental differences and other forms of diversity, with a focus on children living under conditions of adversity and in zones of war and conflict.

Professor Michael Mason is Professor of Environmental Geography in the Department of Geography and Environment at LSE and an Associate of the Grantham Research Institute for Climate Change and Environment. He is Palestine Programme Director at LSE Middle East Centre, and from 2018 to 2025 he served as the Director of the centre.

Alexandre Paulikevitch was born in 1982 in Beirut, Lebanon. In 2000, he moved to Paris to pursue his interest in dance and graduated from the University of Paris VIII with a degree in Theater and Dance. He trained with various women dance icons in the Arab world. His research, art practice and methodology revolve around developing and reviving "Baladi Dance" commonly known in the west as "belly dancing" or raqs sharqi into a contemporary and politically charged art form. He performs in spaces ranging from underground parties to theatre festivals and museums.

Dr Nicola Streeten is a UK-based award-winning graphic novelist and comics scholar. Publications include graphic memoir *Billy, Me & You* (2011), *The Inking Woman* (2018) 250-year illustrated history of British women's cartoonists, *UK Feminist Cartoons and Comics: A Critical Survey* (2020) based on her PhD research. Her graphic novel *YIELD* is a fictional story of queer repression within a progressive context. Set at Black Mountain College, North Carolina in 1937 it is inspired by the story of Nicola's uncle, one of the founding members of Black Mountain College. *YIELD* is being supported by an award from Arts Council England and will be published in the UK in November 2026. Nicola is based in Norfolk where she runs The Grange Projects artist residencies with artist John Plowman from their home. Insta: @nicolastreeten | Substack: @ nicolastreeten www.streetenillustration.com

Dr Polly Withers is a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at the LSE Middle East Centre, where she leads the project 'Neoliberal Visions: Gendering Consumer Advertising and its Resistances in the Levant', which considers how gendered images in advertising practices mediate shifts in gender and sexuality in post-Oslo Palestine and current-day Jordan. Prior to beginning this project, Polly's work focused on the gender and sexuality politics of popular music in current-day Palestine and its diaspora. Her work has appeared in *Feminist Media Studies*, the *British Journal of Middle East Studies*, and related gender and cultural studies outlet