

Arabicity | Ourouba

Inaugural exhibition curated by Rose Issa

September 14 - November 23, 2019

MEI Gallery, Washington, DC

A new museum dedicated to Arab arts and culture is about to open its doors in the oldest US think tank devoted to Arab regional affairs. Located in Washington and embedded within the Middle East Institute, the new gallery will occupy about 112 square metres of a refurbished historic building from September, and will focus on rotating shows of Middle Eastern art and photography.

The first show has been put together by veteran Arab curator Rose Issa, a well-regarded expert in the field. For the past 15 years Issa has been exploring what she calls “Arabicity”, which looks at how Arab artists represent their heritage and identity. Her book on the subject, *Arabicity: Contemporary Arab Art*, published by Saqi, will also be launched during the MEI’s opening festivities.

Arabicity | Ourouba explores the aesthetic, conceptual, and socio-political concerns of the Arab world over the past twenty years as expressed by its leading artists. The show features works by 18 artists, including Chant Avedissian, Ayman Baalbaki, Anas Albraeche, Hassan Hajjaj, Susan Hefuna, Tagreed Darghouth, Adel Abidin, Raeda Saadeh, and Said Baalbaki.