

The Seven Lives of M. Said

by Salah Saouli

Salah Saouli presents different aspects of the life of M. Said, an adventurer, body-builder, fighter, arms dealer and film producer. Having been a young and fervent body-builder, M. Said gained recognition with his involvement in the brief armed crisis of 1958. Afterwards, he worked as a bodyguard for several political figures, fought briefly at the beginning of the Civil War, and eventually became a well-known arms dealer. In the early 1980s, M. Said decided to leave the "dirty businesses" behind and produced five, mostly action, films in the early 1980s before going bankrupt. Today, M. Said is 76 years old. He lives in Beirut and runs a traditional café in a popular neighbourhood. Through a critical reflection on the often-contradictory facets of the protagonist's personality, this exhibition, made up of objects, prints and video installations, offers a parable on the sociocultural reality of Lebanon, and specifically the city of Beirut, from the late 1950s until the present day.

Born in Beirut in 1962, and based in Berlin since 1985, Salah Saouli received his formal training in painting from the Institute of Fine Arts in the Lebanese University, Beirut, painting and sculpture from the Hochschule der Künste (University of Arts), Berlin, and printmaking from the Chelsea School of Art, London. He has been exhibiting in solo and group exhibitions in Europe and Asia since 1991. He has also been invited to various artist residencies, including at the Nagoya University of Arts in Japan. Saouli is the recipient of several awards, including the Honor Award at the third Sharjah Biennale (1997), and the 1st prize at the Blickachsen Sculpture Biennial (2006) in Worms, Germany.









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