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**Artists in Dialog: Al Fadhl & Aissa Deebi**Prinzenallee 34  
13359 Berlinwww.artlaboratory-berlin.org  
[presse@artlaboratory-berlin.org](mailto:presse@artlaboratory-berlin.org)  
Mob (+49) 172 - 176 55 59***My Dreams Have Destroyed My Life***  
**Some Thoughts on Pain**29 April – 26 June, 2011, Fri–Sun, 2–6 PM and by appointment  
Opening 28 April, 2011, 8PM**A Roundtable discussion - *Al Tahrir: The Day After, 1 May, 2011, 3PM***

Since January of this year a wave of protests, originating first in Tunisia, and then in Egypt, have spread across the Arab world. Demonstrators have demanded democracy and the freedom of expression. How will the ongoing changes affect the lives artists and cultural production? What has been the role of politics in the arts in the Middle East and how might this change? Supposedly new technological media such as social networking platforms have played an important role in this year's 'Arab Spring'. Is this really true, and if so what potential does technology have to foster change as well as aid in inter-cultural communication?

On May 1, 2011 at 3PM, in conjunction with the ongoing exhibition *My Dreams Have Destroyed My Life. Some Thoughts on Pain* there will be a round table discussion on the cultural and political changes taking place in the Middle East in the wake of the current wave of protests. The artists **Aissa Deebi**, who teaches at the American University in Cairo, and **Al Fadhl** will be joined by **Munira Khayyat** (anthropologist), **Heiko Wimmen** (political scientist) and Christian de Lutz (who will be the moderator)

**Aissa Deebi** is a Palestinian-American artist, who has produced a body of work in photography, video, new media and the graphic arts. He is currently assistant professor in visual art, new media at the Department of Performing and Visual Arts at The American University in Cairo. An award winning artist, Deebi's work has been internationally exhibited in Germany, Qatar, UAE, Bahrain, Spain, Chile, Palestine and the United States.

**Al Fadhl** is an artist working in multimedia and performance. He has staged exhibitions at various venues including the Sharjah Biennale, Venice Biennale, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, and the Kuandu Museum, Taipei. Since 2003 he has been the initiator of the project 'Iraq Pavilion'. He currently lives in Lugano Switzerland and Berlin.

**Munira Khayyat** is a PhD candidate in Anthropology at Columbia University, New York. She is currently completing her dissertation entitled *A Landscape of War: On the Nature of Conflict in South Lebanon*. An ethnographic inquiry into life in a rural war zone, her dissertation attends closely to the landscape, its features, practices and rhythms, to gain an understanding of the ordinary - 'naturalized' - experience of inhabiting war. From 1998 to 2000 she worked as a journalist.

**Heiko Wimmen** is a PhD fellow at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs in Berlin. Between 2004 and 2009 he worked as a Program Manager and Deputy Director at the Middle East Office of the Heinrich Böll Foundation in Beirut. From 2002 to 2004, he was a professional fellow of the Social Science Research Council, conducting research on coexistence and conflict in divided cities, and between 1997 and 2002, he worked as a radio journalist and producer in Beirut. He specializes in political mobilization and social movements in divided societies.

**Christian de Lutz** (moderator) is Co-Director and Curator at Art Laboratory Berlin. He studied Art History and Fine Arts at New York University, and is also an artist working in photography, video and new media.

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