

## “International Women’s Day”

Participants in this event (in alphabetical order)

Alshofi, Orwa  
Alzakout, Nour  
Ashour, Doha  
Corti, Rasha  
Enomoto, Hisa  
Hourani, Fida  
Khalil, Sabiha  
Lenz, Lisa  
Saifo Hamdan, Widad  
Zahra, Linda

### Organizers:

Aleid, Dema  
Aleid, Mai  
Aleid, Mazen  
Ammar Nasser  
Ayoub, Ayham  
EDER, Beate Maria Mag.  
Hawijah, Sanaa  
Idomir, Maria  
Khalil, Nadier  
Kiriaky, Marie Therese  
Moustafa, Mouhamad  
Nesteroite, Viktorija

Speaking Languages: Arabic/English and German

Bazar and Buffet.



## “International Women’s Day”



Nazir Nabaa 1969

## A Tribute to the Syrian Women

Arab Austrian Women’s Association – Austria  
in cooperation with  
Afro-Asiatic Institute – Vienna

## **“Balsam Project”**

**On the occasion of the International Women’s Day**

### **Women’s Initiative for Peace in Syria and the Arab World**

It is no longer possible to keep silent about the combatants’ continuation of sending our children like firewood into an absurd war, which seems to be endless and without any clear horizon. This war is destroying our country and all our children’s capabilities, leaving them without any hope for the future.

We are women from the diverse spectra of the harmonious rainbow of our beloved countries. We call you to immediately seize this senseless fighting that is stealing the lives of our children. We call you to stop and let your conscience scrutinize this dire situation.

We, Women, say to you in frank and explicit words: stop right now and immediately, this inferno that is demolishing all our aspirations for a prosperous future of our children based on foundations of co-existence that was established over centuries.

We are women, who, lost and lose our children daily in this absurd war, believe that we, before any other, have the right to demand for this abominable bloodbath to stop – for we are the ones who generate life, and we give birth to children not to make them fuel for war between siblings. Our hope is to see them creating, producing and achieving a prosperous future for themselves and their homeland, and raising their country’s name in glory by virtue of their contribution to human civilization.

We, women, categorically reject turning our beloved country into killing arenas. And, since we are the most affected by this war, we see that it is our obligation to order all sides (governments and

#### **Rasha Corti (Moderator)**

**Rasha Corti** studied English Literature at the university of Aleppo and Damascus. She is also Licenced guide and interpreter for refugees in Vienna/Austria. She worked as fixer and organizer for documentaries films .



## **MUSIC**

#### **Orwa Alshofi**

Studied at the Higher Institute of Music in Beirut.

He was the director of "Nineveh" Institute for music and singing in the Swaida/Syria. He and colleagues (Ayman Hilal /Violin, Ahmed/Guitar, Ragheb Massa’/Chello)

founded "Orphee" band, which made its first composed Orchestral work by them in Sweida/Syria. Supervised "Orphee" a Band (Al Manarah Choir) for children, led by Miss Manar Al Shaar, the choir members was more than one hundred boys and girls, they performed in Sweida/Syria. Winner of the second prize "Passion" for composing music in Syria for his musical piece "Hopes Fade". Composer and professor. The director of "NAI" group in the Arab/Austrian Women Association.



## FILM

### Linda Zahra – Film – “The Hope”

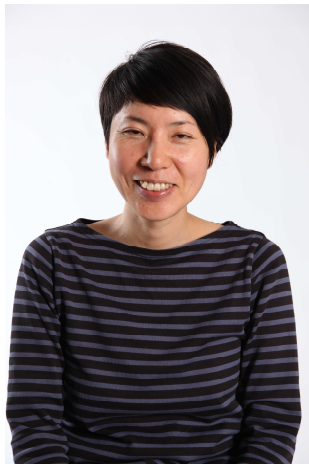


**Linda Zahra** is a photographer and film producer from Syria. She studied Make-up Design at the Academy of Fine Arts in the Republic of Moldova. Since graduating, she

has worked on numerous projects as a make-up designer, photographer and producer. Her make-up design credits include Mohammed Malas's (Maharem, Maharem), and Alfouz Tanjour's short (A Little Sun). Her credits as a photographer include (Damascus City Symphony), Alfoz Tanjour's (Faraway, So Close from Borderline)\_2014. She was a producer on (Black Stone), (Cola Bridge).

## EXHIBITION

### KOINOBORI Fish Exhibition for the artist **Hisa Enomoto** (Japan)



**Hisa Enomoto** a Japanese artist (painter), she studied at the Fine Arts Academy in Vienna and had her diploma. Hisa is the founder and head of the Association “Kokemoos”. She had with other artists many exhibitions. Through the Association “Kokemoos” she directed many workshops for the Japanese, Austrian and Syrian refugee children.

oppositions) alike to stop this horrible and shameful segmentation, which they exert on the country and its nation's body.

We, Women, declare our unequivocal and absolute rejection of any external interference on the sacred soil of Syria and of other Arab countries, no matter who this intruder is, and with which clashing side it aligns itself.

He or she would be delusional, the one who believes that the solution of arms, whichever victory was declared by means of, can bring peace, coexistence and integrity to all the Syrians and Arabs. We also certainly believe that resuming this bloody track would mean one and only thing, namely our mass defeat and common standing before the dead corps of both our homeland and our children.

Our call is directed toward all belligerents.

**Stop the fighting  
between siblings,  
lay down weapons,  
and launch a dialogue of  
braves.**

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

## Programme

18:00 – 18:30 Exhibitions opening

18:30 – 18:45 Screening Short Film “The Hope”  
“Balsam Project 8”

Film done by **Ms. Linda Zahra (Syria)**

18:45 – 19:45 **PLATFORM**

**Participants** (in alphabetical order):

- **Ms. Sabiha Khalil (Syria)**
- **Ms. Doha Ashour (Syria)**
- **Ms. Fida Hourani (Syria)**

**Moderator**

- **Ms. Rasha Corti (Syria/Austria)**

19:45 – 20:15 **Open Discussion**

20:15 – 21:00

**Poem**

- **Ms. Wedad Seifo (Syria)**
- **Ms. Nour Alzakout (Syria)**
- **Ms. Lisa Lenz (Austria)**

**Musik**

- **Mr. Orwa Alshofi (Syria)**



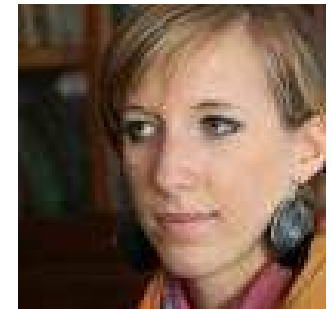
**Ms. Widad Hamdan Saifo (Syria)**

Widad Hamdan Saifo is a Syrian poet. She completed her studies in library science at the University of Damascus. She is writing in several Arab newspapers and websites where she published her poems and articles. She worked for the station "Voice of Youth" in Damascus / Syria

and in the Foundation Raya in the field of documentation in Istanbul / Turkey. She will publish soon her first poetry book shortly.

**Lisa Lenz (Austria)**

Lisa Lenz studied Cultural and Social Anthropology at the University of Vienna. Since 2010 she has been doing her Master degree at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology with a research focus on Islam and the Middle East region. Ms. Lenz has finished a master thesis on Shiite mourning rituals in Ashura in Lebanon. Her academic fields of interests are integration, migration, identity and Arabic language. She is assistant at the chair of studies of religions and edits publications of Prof. Dr. Reiss including books on “Islamic Statements on the IS”, “Parties and Organizations of Political Islam in Egypt 25 Jan 2011-3July 2013”.





**Ms. Sabiha Khalil (Syria)**

Ms. Sabiha Khalil is living in Germany. She was graduated from Homs University and has a Bachelor Degree of Literature , English- Arabic Translation Program.

She was a teacher of English in Aleppo Intermediate (preparatory) Public Schools and in Kuwait.

She is working now as an advisor for refugee in SBH (German Association for Refugees).

She is a member of different organizations and parties like " Syria Women's League", " Komela Jin"

Kurdish National Council in Syria, Kurdish-Arabic Relief Committee, Syria Women Network, Coordination and Follow up Committee of SWN, Syrian Feminist Lobby She writes articles on politics and other issues in some websites and magazines.

**POEMS****Ms. Nour Alzakout (Syria)**

Nour Alzakout is pedagogist for children. She studied music and she was a teacher at the same time.

She is a poet and she published her poems in many electronical websites and newsletters.

**EXHIBITIONS****1) “Women in the Syrian Antiquities/Archeologists”**

Syrian women have held throughout history, which dates back to the ninth

millennium BC after the entry of the Levant era agriculture a prominent socially place reflected through archaeological finds which focused on women in all symbols to which such as fertility, worship, beauty, love and tender. The photographs exhibition reflect the wide culture of the



Syrians, their creations, their deep logical and human life at all stages of human civilization and culture capacity to enhance the status of women and their role in the sanctity of life. The exhibition includes images of Goddess and forms of women of different symbols, also refers to aspects of life such as the use of the wonderful costumes and amazing ornaments do well and determination of gold and silver and precious stones. “Afro Café”.

**2) “Project Balsams’ Photos 2011 - 2016”**

Photos of Balsam Project work during five years.



## PLATFORM

Participants (in alphabetical order):

3) **“Poppets – The production of Syrian Women’s Refugees in Kilis/Turkey”**

Each doll is a unique one done by Syrian women’s refugee in Kilis. By buying one of it you help a family of 4 members to survive one week.



4) Syrian women’s Refugee Exhibition **“Syria in the eyes of women”**, directed by the artist **Hazar Bakbachi-Henriot (Syria /France)**



5) **KOINOBORI Fish Exhibition** for the artist **Hisa Enomoto (Japan)**  
KOINOBORI

The KOINOBORI (fish) is a symbol of strong and loving life.



**Ms. Doha Ashour (Syria)**

Ms. Doha Ashour is graduated from Damascus University , faculty of Information.

She is a writer in many Arabic newsletter and some websites.

She was political prisoner in Syria (1993 to 1999) and gave birth to her daughter (Diana) in prison. She was deprived of her civil rights by virtue of the Supreme State Security Court (Prevention of work, travel ban, election and nomination for election etc. She is now an activist for freedom and peace, and a member of the “Syrian Women’s Network”. She is now writing a book about her experience in prison.

**Ms. Fida Hourani (Syria)**



Fida Hourani is an Arab nationalist intellectual and daughter of Akram al-Hourani, founder of the Arab Socialist Movement; helped launch the Damascus Declaration in

2005, imprisoned in 2008 alongside eleven other Damascus Declaration leaders.