

PRESS RELEASE

JASAD, the Arab body

Mole Vanvitelliana, Ancona

29 August/ 26 September 2010-06-18

Inauguration **Sunday 29 August at 6pm**

From Tuesday until Sunday / from 17.00-20.00/ free entrance

For the entire Mediterranean Adriatic Festival / open to the public 17.00-24.00

Can a cultural magazine be so scandalous as to be sold in a sealed envelope?

At the **Mediterranean Adriatic Festival**, the city of **Ancona** will inaugurate the exhibition dedicated to the famous **Lebanese magazine JASAD** ("body" in Arabic) at **the Mole Vanvitelliana on 29 August at 6pm**.

The magazine, created by Lebanese poet and journalist **Joumana Haddad**, periodically hosts artworks by Arab contemporary artists who reflect on the **concept of the human body and on its social implications**. In the magazine there are also articles and essays by Arab intellectuals and writers who dare to openly discuss one of the main taboos in Arab and Islamic society: the female body.

This explains why the magazine is sold in Beirut newsstands - the most "liberal" capital in the Middle East - but only in a sealed envelope. In the other Arab countries, JASAD magazine is prohibited and reaches its readers by alternative means of transportation.

The exhibition, organized by **MAC manifestazioni artistiche contemporanee**, will show a few pieces the JASAD magazine that are considered particularly provocative and the works of two Arab women artists who are famous in the contemporary artistic panorama. **Ninar Esber (Lebanon) and Sama Alshaibi (Iraq)**, whose art was boldly featured on the front cover by the editor in chief of JASAD magazine.

The two artists see the human body as the principle toll of expression because, as art critic Gabriele Tinti writes, **"the body is vision and transgression, it's a place of individuality and of differences – of freedom"**. The works on display are the fruit of great courage and speak of sexuality, love, freedom and of the conservative and fundamentalist femininity in the Arab world.

The city of Ancona is hosting the first stop of this show which will also travel to London and Berlin. Joumana, Ninar and Sama will be present at the inauguration of the exhibition, and will discuss what has motivated them to do what they do, and will also talk about their courage to question conservative moral standards in the Arab countries.

CREDITS

curated by MAC Manifestazioni Artistiche Contemporanee
promoter Adriatico Mediterraneo Festival
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Chamber of Commerce of Ancona

INFO

www.adriaticomediterraneo.eu
www.maconline.it
www.jasadmag.com



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