

# URBAN CULTURES IN PALESTINE

PRESS RELEASE

June 2022

FROM JUNE 22 TO JUNE 26  
**HIP HOP CULTURE ALLIANCE**  
**A PALESTINE-FRANCE ARTISTIC BRIDGE**

**slap future**  
**شلال**

**TAQI SPATEEN • JUNGLE RAIDDOG • COMER OBK • SHAREEF SARHAN**  
**AYMAN AL HOSSARY • FUAD ALYMANI • RANI SHARABATI • MICHAEL SANSOUR**  
**FIDAA AL-HASANAT • YOUSSEF KLOPP**

  
CONSULAT  
GÉNÉRAL  
DE FRANCE  
À JÉRUSALEM  
Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité

**INSTITUT  
FRANÇAIS**  
JÉRUSALEM

**hiya!**

 **IMAGES**  
اميجز

## SUMMARY

The Palestinian underground scene, a symbol of resistance, is the standard-bearer of the emerging scene that has been booming for several years in Palestine, led by emblematic figures such as the group DAM, the Stereo48 company or the visual artists Taqi Spateen (West Bank) and Shareef Sarhan (Gaza). Hip hop, dance, graffiti, the culture of the 21st century remains a privileged means of expression for the young generations, allowing them to make their voices and their aspirations heard in Palestine but also abroad through social networks. At the same time, in France, urban cultures are becoming more popular and successful, as is the case with rap, which remains the most listened-to genre on streaming platforms.

In this framework, the French Institute in Jerusalem, in partnership with the French collective Hiya! is organizing a collective and participatory graffiti art project, "slap future | صَفْعَة المستقبل" from June 22nd to June 27th. During this week, 10 artists are brought together to create mural graffiti together in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ramallah and Gaza : two French graffiti artists - **JUNGLE RAIDDOG** and **COMER OBK**- along with Palestinian artists - **Shareef Sarhan, Ayman Al Hossary, Taqi Spateen, Rani Sharabati, Michael Sansour, Feda Al-Hasana** and **Youssef Klopp**. In the same time, the French Artists [YOSHI DI ORIGINAL](#) & [FAYA BRAZ](#) will perform live hip-hop/beatbox music with the Palestinian rapper [Dave Kirreh](#) at the French Institute in Jerusalem - Chateaubriand (June 16) and in Ramallah (June 18).

## ABOUT THE GRAFFITI PROJECT "SLAP FUTURE / صَفْعَة المستقبل"

"Slap future | صَفْعَة المستقبل" is a project in partnership with the Hiya! collective for the co-creation of graffiti murals in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ramallah and Gaza within a focus on urban cultures organised throughout the month of June by the French Institute in Jerusalem.

Street culture is known for its hybrid forms by creating bridges between several artistic disciplines. It can be a vector of encounter and a catalyst for change. A series of workshops, documentary screenings, discussions and performances will be held to showcase the diversity of urban cultures and reflect on the place of the artist in contemporary societies.

Street culture in France is known for introducing the movement to the European scene. Graffiti was the element that began the street art movement which in turn developed all styles of urban art (poster collage / ceramic plaques on walls, etc).

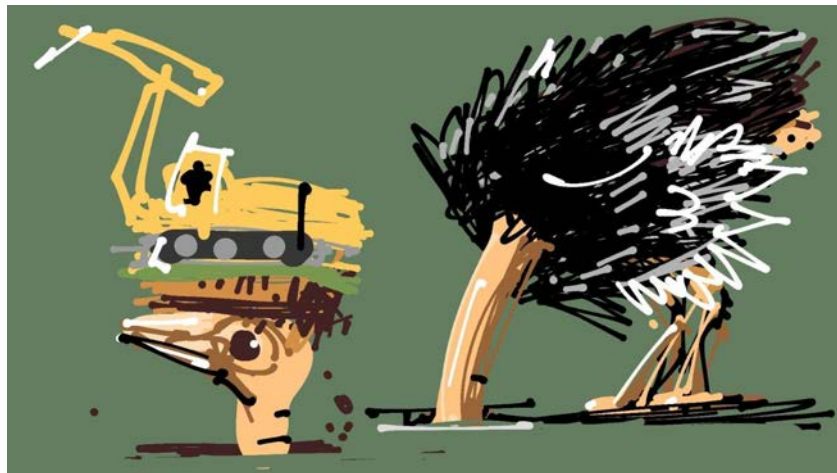
This collaboration between Palestinian and French artists aims at creating a bridge between two urban cultures that emerged in two different parts of the world, in very different contexts, yet still converging towards similar goals of offering new avenues of expression for critical thinking and social change.

The title "slap future | صَفْعَة المستقبل" aims to challenge its audience and trigger questions. Above all, it aims to shake things up and get people out of their comfort zone to start building a better tomorrow despite all challenges expected, be it climate change, inequalities or political turmoil. Collectively "slapping" the future, now, right away, through a mural, not to disrupt it but to set it on the right track!

## General presentation of graffiti in Palestine

The practice of graffiti was born in the refugee camps in Palestine with the First Intifada in 1987. At the initiative of political factions at a time when access to the media was limited, mural painting first gained recognition in Gaza. Accompanied by graffiti, it was a way to communicate and convey messages of political and social protest, freeing oneself from the censorship of the traditional media. With the Second Intifada, graffiti developed widely and became a visual tool to "reinvent a subjectivity of resistance that Palestinian political factions like to feed by creating a strong competition between artists of each political faction." This practice has developed considerably during and after the Palestinian Spring in 2011 in Palestinian cities, and graffiti is spreading, with the use of stencils or traditional paint. In addition, initiatives around street art are created which aim to reconnect art to the Palestinian society. For the past ten years, the separation wall has become what could be called an "open-air gallery", which is not without heated debates within the artist community.

- Marion Slitine



## Artist statement

Man's ability and desire to be reborn are united from within his desire and passion for what he believes in and what he wants to be. These wishes are fulfilled by perseverance, learning and taking risks. With art, we can reproduce what we thought lost, to change the direction of our lives, or build new paths on that which already exists.

A dialectical relationship has connected art to politics throughout history, as authorities seek to 'legitimize' their existence through art - and art criticizes, and protests or confirms it. Art, in its various forms, will not be isolated from any changes in politics and life; art announces its desire to connect, continuously communicate, affect, and influence.

The project examines the artist's relationship with authority in general, (whether it is political, economic, religious or social), and the role that authorities and institutions play in influencing the form of artistic production, (in terms of subject matter, form and content), as well as the reflection of this influence on the type of artwork, the method of production, processing and presentation, and even on the artist, both physically and psychologically.

Since childhood, we have been hearing: the ostrich buries its head in the sand, in the belief that it is hidden simply because it can no longer see others; whoever refuses to face his problems and escapes from his reality is like an ostrich, their head in the sand, and their body outside receiving non-stop criticism.

This project explores the artist's relationship with power, criticizing and protesting it, to declare its desire to affect and influence the creation of a new vision of an imagined future.

Where such visions can be a reality wake-up-call for the present and the future when implemented, it allows the viewer to delve into the artist's mindset, and then it strongly affects people's existing way of thinking.

- Taqi Spateen

### **Graffiti - Collective murals**

The Hiya! collective alongside with Palestinian graffiti artists will tour Palestine, in all the network's branches. Together, they will create collaborative murals with local artists in Jerusalem, Gaza, Bethlehem, and Ramallah from June 22 - 26th<sup>1</sup>.



## About the artists



### Taqi Spateen (West Bank)

Taqi Spateen is a multi-talented Palestinian artist/activist, and a Fine Arts graduate of the International Academy of Art (IAA) in Ramallah. Spateen's landscape paintings are where he thrives most, though he also creates street art and large murals for communities, including murals created in honour of George Floyd and Iyad Hallaq on the separation wall in Bethlehem. He recently completed a 4-month Artist Residency with Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris. In 2022, Taqi Spateen worked on a collaborative group project with Riwaq entitled 'The World Reversed', creating murals at Qalandiya Historic Center, and he developed a series of art workshops for youth, in a shared collaboration with the City of Cergy in France and the Town of Safa.

Images of Spateen's street art currently feature in a one-year group Exhibition at the MK&G Museum in Hamburg-Germany entitled 'Be with the Revolution', about the power of street art in the Middle East. Spateen's artwork is also part of a group Exhibition at the Venice Biennale, Italy.

#### Social media

- <https://www.facebook.com/taldyn2>
- [https://www.instagram.com/taqi\\_spateen](https://www.instagram.com/taqi_spateen) / @taqi\_spateen

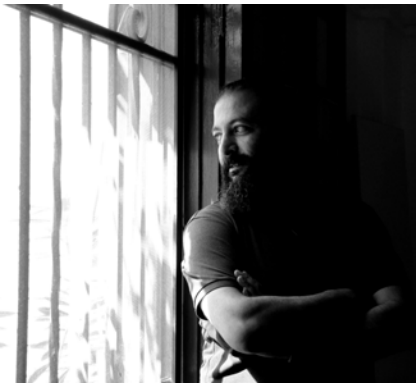


### Fuad Yamani (West Bank)

A Palestinian of Yemeni descent, Fuad was born and raised in Ramallah and works as a visual artist. A student of the Young Artists Forum of the Institute of Fine Art in Ramallah, Fuad graduated from Birzeit University with a bachelor's degree in modern visual arts in 2021. He has participated in a number of exhibitions both nationally and internationally (Ismail Shammout exhibition in Bethlehem in 2018, Zawya Gallery "خذ بيدي أيها المستحيل" and "خذ بيدي أيها المستحيل", the Arab Forum for Visual Artists' exhibition in Cairo and Tangiers - Kingdom of Morocco in 2017-2018, the Comics Festival in Amman and Cairo in 2019, a visual arts exhibition in Bratislava, Slovakia, 2015). He has won a number of international honors, such as the prestigious World Health Organization award in 2014. In collaboration with a group of artists, he has launched creative and mural projects in a number of Palestinian cities.

#### Social media

- <https://www.facebook.com/fuad.salah>
- [https://www.instagram.com/fuad\\_alymani](https://www.instagram.com/fuad_alymani) / @fuad\_alymani



### **Shareef Sarhan (Gaza)**

Born in Gaza in 1976, Shareef is an artist, professional photographer and freelancer. He is a founding member of Shababek Contemporary Art group and an active member in the Association of Palestinian Artists. Shareef received his diploma in Arts from the University of ICS in the United States. He participated in several art training courses and workshops locally and internationally. He received the Bronze award of the Festival of Arab Photographers – 2010 and Oscar Benally Cultural International Award in Cairo

2009 and has participated in many Solo exhibitions and group exhibitions in Gaza, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Amman, Britain, the United States, Sharjah, Dubai, Cairo, Paris, Rome, Milan and Marseille.

#### Social media

- <https://www.facebook.com/shareef.sarhan>
- [https://www.instagram.com/shareef\\_photo\\_art](https://www.instagram.com/shareef_photo_art) / @shareef\_photo\_art



### **Ayman Al Hosari (Gaza)**

Born in Gaza City in 1988, Ayman holds a BA in Fine Arts and is a practitioner of street art, video art, and contemporary performing arts. He held a personal exhibition in 2020 entitled "Shay min" with sculpture and installation work, funded by the Al-Qattan Foundation.

Ayman has participated in artistic residencies as well as many group exhibitions locally and internationally. He specializes in Arabic calligraphy and creates many paintings and exhibitions in this genre.

#### Social media

- <https://www.facebook.com/ayman.alhossary>
- <https://www.instagram.com/aymanalhossary> / @aymanalhossary
- <https://twitter.com/aymanelhosary> / @aymanelhosary



### **JUNGLE RAIDDOG (France)**

Paris, somewhere in the 80s. A teenager crosses paths with a neighborhood dog. Rescued from the flames, the animal is coated with mercurochrome. The encounter will prove to be decisive... Paris, end of the 80s. It is in an art school that JUNGLE

tames his demon of the pencil, but it is on the walls of the XIXth district that he does the practical work. His first works are stencils of cartoon characters and of comic strips. Around him, hip-hop invested the capital with graffiti as its arm, in charge of putting colors on the walls. Jungle was a part of it, but the exposure was too strong for him not to be surrounded with it.

#### Social media

- <https://www.instagram.com/jungleraiddog/?hl=fr> / @jungleraiddog
- <https://www.facebook.com/RaidDog> / @RaidDog
- <https://twitter.com/jungleraiddog> / @jungleraiddog
- <https://www.raiddog.com/>



#### **COMER OBK (France)**

COMER OBK has been a major actor of the Parisian vandal scene since the 90s. Like many, his daily life changed during the wave of arrests that shook the scene in 2001. An experience that COMER carried with him for more than 15 years before deciding to share through writing. COMER OBK is also a lecturer, as well as the author and editor of "Paris City Graffiti" (2010) and "Marqué à Vie ! 30 Ans de Graffiti Vandal..."(2017).

#### Social media

- <https://www.facebook.com/comer.obk>
- [https://www.instagram.com/comer\\_obk](https://www.instagram.com/comer_obk) / @comer\_obk



#### **Rani Sharabati (West Bank)**

Rani Sharabati is a Palestinian artist Born in Hebron in 1998. He holds a BA in Fine Arts, from Al-Quds University and works as an art teacher. Rani is interested in culture, arts, graffiti, design and crafts and is a member of the administrative board of the Masahat Association for Culture and the Arts in Hebron. He received the Ismail Shammout Prize for Palestinian Fine Art in 2019 and has participated in many local and international exhibitions, such as the Egypt Int'l Art Fair 2022, Dar art daratfair 2021 in Amman. His latest solo exhibition in Hebron is called "based on the unknown".

#### Social media

- <https://www.facebook.com/Artist-rani-sharabati>
- [https://www.instagram.com/rani\\_sharabati/](https://www.instagram.com/rani_sharabati/)



### **Michael Sansour (Jerusalem)**

Michael Sansour, is an artist from Jerusalem who possesses several artistic talents, such as drawing, sculpture, ceramics, and interior design, among others. He studied at the Nazareth College of Art and obtained the title of Art Advisor. He teaches art classes in Jerusalem at several art and educational centers and institutions in the city. He has also worked in several summer camps for children of different age groups, where he teaches clay modeling, pencil drawing, colors and mosaics. He is currently a member of the Jerusalem Club's fine arts department.

### **Yousef Kalloub (Gaza)**

Born in 1980, Yousef Kalloub works as a visual artist. He has participated in several art exhibitions locally and internationally and has led many visual art workshops. He has also contributed to many murals and is keen on continuing his professional career and enhancing his artistic skills to develop a distinctive style.

### **Feda Al-Hassanat (Gaza)**



Feda is a visual artist, born in 1989, with a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts, a member of the Syndicate of Fine Artists, a member of the Gaza Atelier of Fine Artists. She studied and has practiced art for more than ten years. Her artistic identity is shaped by the formation of her soul in every season and in every climate. She expresses what she feels, and feels what she expresses. She has participated in many art exhibitions on cultural and national occasions, with different visual artworks ranging from drawing, painting, design to video art.

#### **Social media**

- <https://www.instagram.com/feda.hassanat/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/Fedo.najeeb>

#### **The HIYA! collective**

HIYA! is a cultural ecosystem and a hiphop artist collective that values creation, bringing to life the 21st century's culture and those who create it. Its activities are divided between a media, event & cultural production, a contemporary art e-shop, and a communication agency. HIYA! connects the ideas of contemporary creators with audiences (communities, brands, institutions, etc.) in search of new stories. The collaborations arising from these encounters thus generate value – artistic, societal, economic – for everyone.

#### **Social media**

- <https://il.linkedin.com/company/hiya->
- <https://www.instagram.com/hiya.fr/>



## ABOUT THE HIP-HOP MUSIC PROJECT - YOSHI DI ORIGINAL & FAYA BRAZ + DAVE KIRREH

In the framework of the catalogue "La Collection" of the French Institute Paris, the artist and freestyler Yoshi Di Original, as well as the beatboxer Faya Braz are invited to perform in Jerusalem (16 June) and Ramallah (18 June) with [Dave Kirreh](#) (Palestine).

The artists will offer Beatbox workshops lasting 2 to 3 hours in Jerusalem and Ramallah.

Beatmaking workshops for a non-beginner audience, will be held at the Al Bustan Cultural Center in Silwan and the French-German Cultural Institute of Ramallah (FGCI).



### About the artists

**Dave Kirreh** is a producer, lyricist and performer, born and raised in the intensity and extremities of the old city of Jerusalem. Dave's whole "raison d'être" is to use his musical talent to express day to day life on the streets he was raised on, in a way people everywhere can relate to, as well as to serve as a voice of a generation.

<https://www.instagram.com/davekirreh/>

**YOSHI DI ORIGINAL & FAYA BRAZ** (France) is the first 100% Beatbox/Rap duo in France, uniting two major actors of their discipline: **Faya Braz**, French beatboxer and looper and **Yoshi Di Original**, rapper and ambience artist. Since 2011 they have been united in the group "The Beat and The Voice" and have performed together all over France and abroad.

<https://www.instagram.com/fayabraz/>

<https://www.instagram.com/yoshidioriginal/>

## ABOUT THE FILM SCREENINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Film screenings

Documentary films about parkour and graffiti will be screened throughout the Institut français network (in Jerusalem, Gaza, and Ramallah) followed by discussions with the filmmakers.



**The Walls of Dheisheh** Documentary on graffiti art in the Dheisheh camp

By Clémence Lehec and Tamara Abu Laban | 36 min | 2019 | Switzerland and Palestine | In Arabic with English subtitles.

*In the Dheisheh refugee camp located in the West Bank, the alley walls are covered with graffiti. This space, refuge and exile, is paradoxically situated in the heart of Palestine. From the origin of Palestinian graffiti until today, the artists retrace their motivations.*

railer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRycAsOleUE>



**One More Jump** Documentary about parkour in Gaza

By Emanuele Gerosa | 82 min | 2019 | Italy, Switzerland and Lebanon | In Arabic, English and Italian.

*Jehad and Abdallah, founders of the Gaza Parkour Team, brought up together in the Gaza Strip but their choices divided them for years. Today, more than ever, they need to find out if there is a way that can lead to freedom someone who, like them, was born in prison.*

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGYqf8TKmG4>

### Discussions

Alongside the collaborative creations and workshops, a round-table discussion on the role of the artist will be offered to the public on June 26<sup>th</sup>, following the screening of the documentary film 'Les Murs de Dheisheh' about graffiti in the Dheisheh camp. The round-table discussion will be held in the presence of Tamara Abu Laban, co-author of the movie with Clémence Lehec, and Marion Slitine, anthropologist and post-doctoral fellow at the EHESS and the MUCM in Marseille who has worked on visual arts in public space in Palestine (West Bank & Gaza). She holds a doctorate entitled "La Palestine en créations. The making of contemporary art, from the occupied territories to the globalized scenes".

## Urban cultures of resistance in Palestine, from graffiti to street art (presentation)

Looking back at the history of urban cultures and particularly at graffiti and its role in the Palestinian resistance movement, this presentation will explore the evolution of contemporary urban artistic practices (street art, street installations, performances) in Palestine, based on two case studies, Ramallah and Gaza. These practices take place in the urban public space and generate particular ways of life, concern different ways of living in the city and often claim to be protesting. The hypothesis is that these urban cultures can be considered as strategies of circumvention to colonial domination, in a context of progressive institutionalization of these practices.

### About Marion Slitine



**Marion Slitine** is an anthropologist and currently a post-doctoral fellow at EHESS and MUCEM in Marseille. She holds a PhD entitled "Palestine in Creations: The Making of Contemporary Art from the Occupied Territories to the Globalized World", she conducts research on the interactions between art, city and politics in the Arab world, and more specifically on the visual arts, urban arts and urban cultures in Palestine and Morocco. More broadly, her research explores cultural circulations between the Near East and the Maghreb and the disciplinary crossings between artistic and ethnographic practices. In parallel to her research, she has worked as a cultural programmer in Syria, Palestine, Morocco and France.

She is the winner of the 2020 Thesis Prize of the Musée du quai Branly-Jacques Chirac for her thesis, under the supervision of Franck Mermier, defended on October 1, 2018, at the Institut de recherche interdisciplinaire sur les enjeux sociaux (IRIS): "Palestine through creations. The fabrication of contemporary Palestinian art, from the Occupied territories to the globalized scenes". She is now a postdoctoral researcher at the Centre Norbert Elias - CNE.

### Social media

- <https://fr.linkedin.com/in/marion-slitine-06457b26>
- <http://www.theses.fr/2018PSLEH098>

## PROGRAMME OF THE MONTH

### Dates :

- **June 14th** at 7PM: « [One More Jump](#) », documentary by Emmanuel Gerosa about parkour in Gaza : <https://www.facebook.com/events/1031320057800128/> - Screening followed by a discussion with the filmmaker at the Institut français of Jerusalem-Chateaubriand (on line)
- **June 15th**
  - at 5:30PM: Beatbox workshop for teenagers at the Al Bustan Cultural Center, with [YOSHI DI ORIGINAL](#) & [FAYA BRAZ](#)
  - at 7PM: « [Les murs de Dheisheh](#) », documentary by Clémence Lehec and Tamara Abu Laban, at the Institut français of Jerusalem-Chateaubriand: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1020930531867395/>
- **June 16th**
  - from 10AM-12PM: Beatbox workshop at the French-German Cultural Institute in Ramallah with [YOSHI DI ORIGINAL](#) & [FAYA BRAZ](#)
  - at 7:30PM: Concert « Hip-hop night France Palestine » with [YOSHI DI ORIGINAL](#) & [FAYA BRAZ](#) + [Dave Kirreh](#) (opening solo) at the Institut français of Jerusalem-Chateaubriand : <https://www.facebook.com/events/363129292554419/>
- **June 18th** at 7PM: Concert « Hip-hop night France Palestine » with YOSHI DI ORIGINAL & FAYA BRAZ + [Dave Kirreh](#) (opening solo) at the Al Kasaba Theater in Ramallah: <https://fb.me/e/1yxBNgVov>
- **June 23rd** at 3PM: Screening of the film « One More Jump » at the Institut français de Gaza - Screening followed by a discussion with the filmmaker (online)
- **From June 22nd to June 26th** : Co-creation of graffiti murals in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Gaza and Ramallah by the Hiya collective and the Palestinian artists.
- **June 26th at 6PM**: Screening of the film « [The Walls of Dheisheh](#) » by Clemence Lehec and Tamara Abu Laban at the Institut français de Ramallah. It will be followed by a round-table about the role of the artists with Marion Slitline, anthropologist and post-doctoral fellow at the EHESS and the MUCEM in Marseille.

## CONTACTS

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Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/IFJChateaubriand/>

Instagram : <https://www.instagram.com/if.jerusalem/>

Twitter : <https://twitter.com/IFjerusalem>

**Institut Français de Ramallah :**

Al-Salaam street, Ramallah / Tel : 02 298.19.22

Site : <https://www.institutfrancais-jerusalem.org/ramallah/>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/iframallah/>

Instagram : <https://www.instagram.com/iframallah/>

LinkedIn : <https://fr.linkedin.com/company/institut-fran%C3%A7ais-de-ramallah>

**Institut Français de Gaza :**

Victor Hugo Ar-Rimal street, Gaza / Tel : 08 286 7883

Site : <https://www.institutfrancais-jerusalem.org/gaza>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/InstitutFrancaisGaza/>

Instagram : <https://www.instagram.com/ifgaza/>

Twitter : <https://twitter.com/ifgaza>