

MANA CONTEMPORARY PRESENTS REVOLUTIONARY ART FROM SYRIA
***SYRIA: A SILENCED SCREAM* OPENS ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2013**



"And a Human Will Be Born Among Us"

"We wanted to focus more on the human side of the revolution ... and communicate the Syrian face to the world." – The Syrian People Know Their Way

JERSEY CITY, NJ, Sep. 10, 2013—As tensions escalate in the Middle East, Mana Contemporary's Middle East Center for the Arts presents a deeply moving and timely exhibition of resistance art coming out of Syria since the start of protests against the regime of Bashar al-Assad. *Syria: A Silenced Scream* opens on Sunday, September 29, from 1:00-6:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public and free transportation from Manhattan will be provided.

Shown in the United States for the first time, the exhibition presents political posters created digitally by the collective *The Syrian People Know Their Way* and other artists. Operating anonymously both within Syria and beyond its borders to avoid imprisonment and torture, this community of young artists, designers, bloggers and activists use social media to provide a political and theoretical commentary of life on the ground in Syria. More than 250 works, published online from 2011 to the present, have been translated from Arabic to English for the first time.

Thematically, the works address issues at the forefront of the conflict today, including atrocities directed by the al-Assad regime; perspectives on foreign intervention; the role of major international actors including the U.S., Hezbollah, Iran, and Egypt; and opposition to sectarian violence and religious extremism. These materials, challenging decades of Ba'athist control over creative expression, allow viewers to examine the political reality of Syria authentically and unmediated through the perspective of the strugglers, rather than learning about the conflict through Western norms and points of view. Published in an archival format, the exhibition documents the movement and makes it accessible for generations to come.

“Linguistic barriers and the relentless imagery of violence coming out of Syria has prevented this material from reaching a Western audience,” said Tyler Waywell, Director, Middle East Center for the Arts (MECA). “Our mission was to collect the work, make it accessible, and ultimately present a relatively unmediated perspective of the conflict.”

The exhibition *Syria: A Silenced Scream* is organized by Mana Contemporary’s Middle East Center for the Arts (MECA) and the Master’s Degree Program of Interdisciplinary Design at the Holon Institute of Technology. For more information, please visit: www.artmanafest.com/syria.

ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST CENTER OF ART

MECA is a nonprofit exhibition space at Mana Contemporary providing an equal-opportunity platform for artists, curators, scholars, and institutions—based in the Middle East and its Diasporas—to showcase new and influential works of art. MECA’s core mission is to educate the greater public about the Middle East through a year-long program of exhibitions, educational initiatives, and institutional alliances, providing an exciting forum for cultural exchange. For more information about MECA, please visit www.themeca.org.