



Organized by:



مجلس
البيئة
COUNCIL OF
ENVIRONMENT
KOBAYAT القبيات



REEF 5th Edition ريف

RURAL ENCOUNTERS
ON ENVIRONMENT & FILM أيام
بيئية وسينمائية

٣١ آب - ٤ أيلول
31 AUGUST - 4 SEPTEMBER
القبيات KOBAYAT

٨ - ١٠ أيلول
8 - 10 SEPTEMBER
الهرمل HERMEL



Organized by من تنظيم



Supported by بدعم من



In partnership with بالشراكة مع



In collaboration with بالتعاون مع



Media partners شركاء اعلاميون



REEF **5**th Edition ريف

RURAL ENCOUNTERS
ON ENVIRONMENT & FILM أيام
بيئية وسينمائية

٣١ آب - ٤ أيلول
31 AUGUST - 4 SEPTEMBER
القبيّات KOBAYAT

٨ - ١٠ أيلول
8 - 10 SEPTEMBER
الهرمل HERMEL

Index

| | |
|--|-----------|
| What Does Half a Decade of REEF Represent? | 3 |
| About REEF | 4 |
| REEF'S ORGANIZERS | 4 |
| THE MASCOT: Turtle | 5 |
| THE THEME: Transformations | 5 |
| THE HOST: Silk Factory, Kobayat | 5 |
| Jurors | 6 |
| REEF FILMS - THE MAIN SELECTION | 7 |
| REEF FILMS - MEDIUM LENGTH FILM COMPETITION | 12 |
| REEF FILMS - SHORT FILM COMPETITION | 14 |
| REEF AMBASSADORS | 19 |
| Film Moderators | 20 |
| NATURE ACTIVITIES | 21 |
| Creative Workshops | 24 |
| Panels | 26 |
| Performances | 28 |
| Additional Activities | 30 |
| Waste management - ZERO WASTE FESTIVAL | 32 |
| DETAILED PROGRAM | 33 |
| CREW | 36 |
| VOLUNTEERS | 37 |
| THANK YOU | 37 |

Editorial

What Does Half a Decade of REEF Represent?

Festival Director/ Dr. Antoine Daher

5 years of REEF represent a transformation in the cultural and festive fabric of Kobayat and Akkar. What was once a season marked by waning cultural and economic vibrancy has transformed into a second summer brimming with ecological splendor, cinematic enchantment, music harmonies, and environmental mindfulness. It represents the staunch support of an entire community to reinvigorate the landscape and redefine the region's identity, turning it into a favored destination for locals and foreigners alike. It represents an active act of resistance in the face of socio-economic, political, and environmental crises, standing as a beacon of unity, vitality, and environmental stewardship, enriching both spirit and surroundings.

Artistic Director / Eliane Raheb

Over the span of five years, REEF has transformed from a two-day cinematic experiment intertwined with nature into a five-day festival that captivates over 4000 enthusiasts annually. This journey has involved molding REEF according to aspirations, regional culture, and pressing issues, such as the environment's impact, preserving landscapes, pandemic challenges, waste crises, and forest fires. Cinema has served as a compelling medium, drawing the public into rural life and ecology.

At its core, we conduct enlightening workshops on environmental issues for both young minds and adults, encompassing crucial topics like sorting, composting, and recycling. Furthermore, each edition witnesses specialized workshops catering to diverse segments of our audience. The youth delve into short film production, teenagers explore the realm of animation film creation, and we cannot help but marvel at the unyielding spirit and zeal of the women from Akkar, who create one-minute films.

Ultimately, REEF's five-year evolution reflects a profound metamorphosis that fosters a deeper connection between the people and the environment, while highlighting the exceptional beauty of Kobayat's woodland and surroundings.

Executive Director/ Jana Wehbe

From its inception as a cinema-nature blend, REEF has progressively expanded. The aim is to connect and bridge with different regions discussing and finding solutions for urgent rural and environmental issues. After 3 off-site editions in Bisri, Rashaya-Kfarmashki, and Hammana, REEF this year extends to Hermel in collaboration with Hermel cultural association to demonstrate the power of art to bridge gaps, extend boundaries, and connect diverse aspects of society.

About REEF

Since 2019, the Council of the Environment and Aflamuna have collaborated to organize a unique festival in the Akkar region of Lebanon, celebrating natural heritage, cinema, and rural culture. The festival has expanded to other regions in the country, and this year, it will be held in Kobayat from August 31 to September 4 and in Hermel from September 8 to September 10. The aim of the festival is to provide access to culture and foster discussions about preserving the environment, even amidst ongoing socio-economic challenges. The theme for the 2023 edition is «Transformations», focusing on the various changes in the natural world and their impacts, as well as exploring alternatives and solutions to address these issues. The festival will feature creative workshops, conferences, films, and field visits, engaging with locals and visitors to stimulate reflection and propose meaningful solutions.

REEF'S ORGANIZERS



COUNCIL OF ENVIRONMENT
KOBAYAT

مجلس
البيئة
الغبيات



The Council of Environment was founded in 1995 in Kobayat as a non-profit association. Since then, it has been working for 30 years to protect Akkar's natural heritage and raise awareness relating to ecological issues and the importance of forest resources. The association was the first in Lebanon to build a watchtower to prevent forest fires. It offers training courses for mountain guides and fire prevention and is involved in awareness workshops in Akkar schools. The Environment Council is also active in the development of ecotourism activities and has forged numerous partnerships with environmental associations to promote the exchange of experience and mutual support.

AFLAMUNA is a cultural nonprofit based in Beirut working to harness the power of independent Arab cinema to elevate the most pressing social, political, and cultural movements of our time. Established as a cooperative under the name of Beirut DC in 1999 by a group of Lebanese filmmakers and cultural organizers, it became a nonprofit organization in 2006 under the same name, launching multiple programs and initiatives that helped independent cinema flourish in the Arab region. Today, after over two decades, AFLAMUNA upholds this legacy while keeping an eye to the future.



THE MASCOT:

Turtle

The time-honored tradition of annually designating a mascot serves a meaningful purpose by sensitizing local residents to the critical importance of preserving their native wildlife. Against the backdrop of REEF 2023, the chosen emblematic representative tasked with embodying this crucial mission is the Turtle—an emblem that serves as a poignant and evocative testament to the urgent necessity of protecting and nurturing this extraordinary creature. The Turtle's symbolism stands as a potent reflection of the far-reaching repercussions brought about by the devastating fires that swept through the landscape in Akkar region during the years 2021 and 2022, resulting in a substantial decrease in the Turtle population. Through its embodiment of both determination and vulnerability, the Turtle's presence as the iconic symbol of REEF 2023 emerges as a unifying focal point for collective endeavor, infusing the occasion with a compelling blend of visual impact and emotional resonance that underscores the significance of safeguarding not solely this endangered species, but also the delicate equilibrium of the entire surrounding ecosystem.

THE THEME:

Transformations

Ever attentive to the difficulties faced by the country, REEF has chosen to approach the 2023 edition from the perspective of Transformations. These Transformations manifest as a series of modifications to the natural environment: geological changes, climate change, water pollution, deforestation, and migrations of animal species, leading to social, demographic, and cultural shifts.

REEF 2023 will not only address the negative consequences of these endured Transformations but also explore the alternatives and solutions arising from them: new sustainable lifestyles, consumption patterns, and movements of solidarity and cohesion.

This overarching theme will be woven throughout various creative workshops, conferences, films, and field visits, involving experts, local stakeholders, and residents, with the aim of stimulating reflection and generating proposals.

THE HOST: **Silk Factory, Kobayat**

The Silk Factory in Kobayat emerged as a prominent establishment in the late 18th century, thriving alongside the cultivation of silkworms. Its origins trace back to a modest enterprise founded by the «Faraoun» Family, evolving over time. As the 19th century dawned, a significant transformation occurred when «Alesandro Cassini,» an Italian surgeon hailing from Rome, united with a woman from Kobayat in matrimony. This union led to his acquisition of the factory from the «Faraoun» Family, subsequently modernizing and expanding it, along with establishing two additional facilities in Andaket. Under his stewardship, these factories garnered renown for producing some of the most exquisite and superior quality natural silk, which found its direct route to Lyon, France.

However, the mid 20th century witnessed the ascendancy of artificial silk, casting a shadow over the reign of natural silk. In recent history, precisely fifteen years ago, Mr. Elie Hakme assumed ownership of the factory, demonstrating a laudable gesture by generously offering its use for the REEF festival.

Jurors

Short film competition



Nada Bou Farhat is a Lebanese actress, a High Institute of Arts graduate. Starting her acting journey at a young age, she embraced Theater, TV, and Cinema while studying theatrical arts. Throughout her career, Nada earned numerous accolades and awards, notably the Best Actress award for her exceptional performance in «Under the Bombs» at the Dubai International Film Festival and the Oran Film Festival. Nada was also honored with another Best Actress award for «The Secrets of Sitt Badiaa» at the Sharm el Sheik International Theatre Festival for Youth, among other recognitions. Beyond acting, she serves as a jury member in esteemed film festivals and excels as an acting coach and instructor.



Mahmoud Korek, in 1998, founded the The Postoffice, a Beirut-based post-production, grading, animation, and VFX house. In 2021, he launched a Film restoration department. He is also a founding member of the «Cooperative des Métiers du Cinéma», initiated in 2022. Korek has been involved in producing numerous Lebanese, Syrian, and Palestinian films, working as a co-producer, post-production producer, or VFX supervisor, collaborating with acclaimed Lebanese Filmmakers like Mohamad Soueid, Ghassan Salhab, Jocelyne Saab, Nadine Labaki, Burhan Alawiye, Michel Kammoun, and Elie Khalife on features, documentaries, shorts, and animation projects.



Hady Zaccak is an award-winning Lebanese filmmaker and lecturer-researcher at IESAV film School, Saint-Joseph University, Beirut. He is known for his +20 socio-political documentaries about Lebanon and the Arab world. Notable works include «Ya Omri» (2017), «Kamal Joumblatt, Witness and Martyr» (2015), «Mercedes» (2011), and «A History Lesson» (2009). He has authored two books on cinema. His latest exhibition, «In this place: Reels of Beirut» (2022), was showcased at Mina Image Centre in Beirut. Zaccak's contributions have garnered recognition and acclaim both within Lebanon and internationally.

REEF FILMS

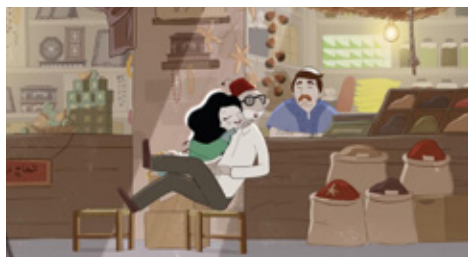
THE MAIN SELECTION

**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**31/08/2023
AT 4PM**

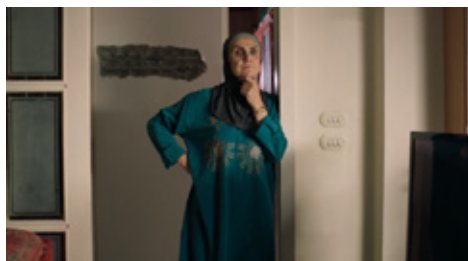
**Hermel cultural
association**

**09/09/2023
AT 3PM**



**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**31/08/2023
AT 9:30PM**



Dounia and The Princess of Aleppo

Directed by: Marya ZARIF & André KADI

Film Length: 72'

Genre: Drama

Country: Canada

A few nigella seeds tucked in the palm of her hand, 6-year-old Dounia leaves Aleppo with the Princess of Aleppo's help and travels towards a new world

Motherland

Directed by: Bane Fakih

Film Length: 18'

Genre: Drama

Country: Lebanon

When the youngest among three sisters is caught by her conservative family going to the protests against the Lebanese political establishment, the family's can of worms opens up leaving no secret untold.

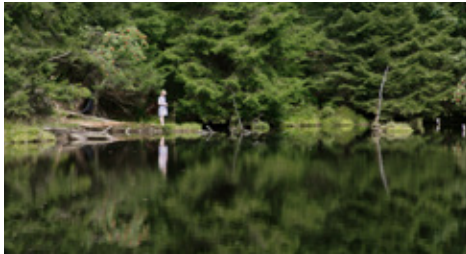
**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**31/08/2023
AT 9:50PM**



**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**01/09/2023
AT 11AM**



**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**01/09/2023
AT 9PM**



Gaza Mon Amour

**Directed by: Tarzan and Arab Nasser
Film Length: 87'**

Genre: Drama

Country: Palestine / France / Germany / Portugal / Qatar

Gaza, today. Sixty-year-old fisherman Issa is secretly in love with Siham, a woman who works as a dressmaker at the market. Finally determined to propose, he discovers an ancient statue of Apollo in his fishing net, which he decides to hide at home. When the political party discovers the existence of this mysterious treasure, troubles start for Issa... Will he succeed in declaring his love to Siham?

Lene and The Forest Spirits

Directed by: Dieter Schumann

Film Length: 94'

Genre: Drama

Country: Germany

Suitable for children and youth

Ten-year-old Lene is going to the Bavarian Forest. She begins her journey somewhat reluctantly, but the forest suddenly turns into a place full of strange creatures: One of them is the "Waldobelix" - half ghost, half national park guard.

EO

Directed by: Jerzy Skolimowski

Film Length: 88'

Genre: Drama

Country: Poland / Italy / United Kingdom

The film follows a donkey who encounters on his journeys good and bad people, experiences joy and pain, exploring a vision of modern Europe through his eyes.

**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**02/09/2023
AT 11AM**



Animal

Directed by: Cyril Dion
Film Length: 105'
Genre: Documentary
Country: France
Suitable for youth

Teenagers Bella and Vipulan travel to meet with scientists and activists around the world, searching for another way of living alongside other species, as co-habitants rather than predators.

**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**02/09/2023
AT 10:00PM**



The Dam

Directed by: Ali Cherri
Film Length: 84'
Genre: Drama/Mystery
Country: Serbia / Germany / Sudan / France / Greece / Qatar / Netherlands / Lebanon

Every evening, a worker in a traditional brickyard by the Nile secretly builds a mysterious mud construction. 'The Dam' is a political fable about the power of imagination set against the backdrop of the Sudanese revolution.

**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**03/09/2023
AT 8:00PM**

**Hermel cultural
association**

**08/09/2023
AT 7:00PM**



Foragers

Directed by: Jumana Manna
Film Length: 84'
Genre: Documentary
Country: Palestine

Foragers moves between documentary and fiction to depict the dramas between the Israeli Nature Protection Authority and Palestinian foragers. With a wry sense of humor, the film captures the inherited love, resilience and knowledge of these traditions, over an eminently political backdrop.

**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**03/09/2023
AT 9:30PM**



The Mountain

Directed by: Thomas Salvador

Film Length: 115'

Genre: Fiction

Country: France

Pierre, a Parisian engineer, goes up in the Alps for his work. Irresistibly attracted by what surrounds him, he camps out alone high in the mountains and leaves behind his everyday life. Up there he meets Léa, a chef of an alpine restaurant, while mysterious glows glitter in the deep mountain.

**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**04/09/2023
AT 7:15PM**



This stolen Country of Mine

Directed by: Marc Wiese

Film Length: 93'

Genre: Documentary

Country: Germany / Ecuador

In Ecuador, an indigenous leader and a journalist fight against China plundering their country's natural resources and taking control of political events

**Hermel cultural
association**

**09/09/2023
AT 7:30PM**



Thank you for the Rain

Directed by: Julia Dahr

Film Length: 87'

Genre: Documentary

Country: United Kingdom / Norway

Kisilu, a Kenyan farmer, uses his camera to capture the life of his family, his village and the damages of climate change.

**Hermel cultural
association**

**09/09/2023
AT 9:30PM**



**Hermel cultural
association**

**09/09/2023
AT 9:50PM**



**Hermel cultural
association**

**10/09/2023
AT 5:00PM**



Love in Galilee

**Directed by: Nader Chalhoub
& Layla Menhem**
Film Length: 20'
Genre: Documentary
Country: France

At the age of 28, Faten is pushed by her family to marry a man she has not chosen. Convinced that this new life could bring her a long-awaited freedom, she finds herself all alone facing her own disillusionment. That is when she decides to return to her hometown in South Lebanon in search of a love she never received.

Under the Fig Trees

Directed by: Erige Sehiri
Film Length: 92'
Genre: Drama
Country: Tunisia / France / Switzerland / Germany / Qatar

Taking place over the course of a day, UNDER THE FIG TREES presents an intergenerational dialogue between a group of teens and older folks as they work the summer harvest, catch feelings, attempt to understand each other, and navigate the complicated terrain of building deeper ties.

The song of the Living

Directed by: Cécile Allegra
Film Length: 82'
Genre: Documentary
Country: France

Constructed through songs and memories, this acute musical film addresses the traumatic experience lived by young survivors from different parts of Africa. In the French village of Conques, a therapeutic space is provided to them so they might overcome their past and, by singing out loud, allow themselves to think and live a possible future.

REEF FILMS

MEDIUM LENGTH FILM COMPETITION

This medium-length competition aims to broaden the global reach of REEF by taking it onto the international stage. Film submissions were received from 32 different countries. All the selected films revolve around the theme of Transformations. The young ambassadors of REEF will undergo training to evaluate the films and subsequently unveil the winner.

**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**31/08/2023
AT 8PM**



Confessions of a Runner

Directed by: Bachar Khattar
Film Length: 29'
Genre: Documentary
Country: Lebanon

"Unlike runners pursuing medals, or fame and glory, most ultra-runners have more complex reasons for their all-consuming hobby."
 - Timothy Rockwood

Unscripted and unpredictable, Confessions is an exploration of what has driven Patrick to run incredible distances and redefine his limits in an inspiring journey to peace and redemption.

**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**31/08/2023
AT 8:30 PM**



Haulout

**Directed by: Maxim Arbugaev
and Evgenia Arbugaeva**
Film Length: 25'
Genre: Documentary
Country: Russia

A man waits in his cabin on the desolate expanse of the Russian Arctic. He perseveres to observe a natural event that happens there every year, but ocean warming is taking its toll.

**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**01/09/2023
AT 5PM**



The Returned

Directed by: Pieter De Vos

Film Length: 25'

Genre: Documentary

Country: Belgium

'Los Retornados' tells the story of a Maya community in Guatemala, fighting the construction of a hydroelectric dam. This is set against their memory of the genocide on the Mayan population during the armed conflict. Combining powerful testimony with strong visuals, the film exposes a forgotten genocide and connects it with today's struggle for indigenous rights and the defence of biodiversity.

**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**01/09/2023
AT 5:30 PM**



The Illusion of Abundance

Directed by: Prika Gonzalez Ramirez,

Mathieu Lietaert

Film Length: 60'

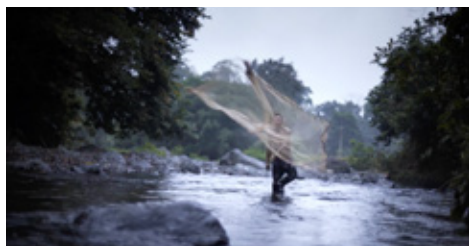
Genre: Documentary

Country: Belgium

Three women share a common goal: Carolina, Bertha and Maxima are leading today's fight against modern conquistadors. Whereas governments and corporations, trapped in a global race towards unlimited growth, need to get the cheapest raw materials, these three women tell us a story of tireless courage: how to keep fighting to protect nature when your life is at risk? When police repression, corporate harassment, injuries or even death threats are part of your daily routine?

**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**03/09/2023
AT 8:00 PM**



Sonic Forest

Directed by: Josh Thome

and Simón Hernández

Film Length: 35'

Genre: Documentary

Country: Colombia

Sonic Forest showcases the inspiring journey of Simón Mejía, founder of Latin music sensation Bomba Estéreo, deep into the jungles of the Colombian Pacific to discover the richness of Earth's most megadiverse places through its local music and its people: indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities who work every day to preserve their territories.

REEF FILMS

SHORT FILM COMPETITION

From a pool of around 120 submissions, the 11 shortlisted short films themed around Transformations will be screened at the Silk Factory on September 2nd. On September 3rd, the jury will announce the recipients of the first and second prizes.

Furthermore, an exclusive online selection will stream on www.aflamuna.online from the 4th to the 30th of September. During this period, the audience is invited to participate in the voting process, contributing to the selection of the Audience Award winner.

This online selection comprises nine short films, including four to be showcased during the physical screening on September 2nd.

**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**02/09/2023
AT 7:30 PM**



The Migratory Bird

Directed by: Mourane Matar
Film Length: 7'
Country: Lebanon

Preoccupied with leaving Lebanon, Pierre spends the last hours with his bird.

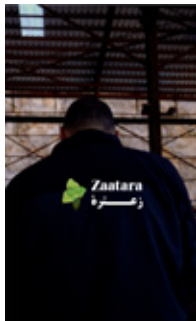
**available for public voting from 4 September till 31 September on www.aflamuna.online*



Drowning Fish

Directed by: Amir El-Shenawy
Film Length: 8'
Country: Egypt

Drowning Fish is a short documentary about one of the last few fishermen in Lake Qarun in Fayoum, Egypt. Samir, a 67-year-old fisherman, lives in Shakshouk village where the entire community depends on fishing as a key source of income. Over the years, the lake suffered from many pollution problems which made young fishermen in the village leave to coastal cities across Egypt while old fishermen live in memory of golden days of the lake. Through telling a simple story, the film sheds light on the consequences of damaging the ecosystem on the fishermen community in Egypt.



Zaatara

Directed by: Adeeb Farhat

Film Length: 10'

Country: Lebanon

On Monday, October 3rd, 2022, Ziad Abi Chaker's factory burned down, and the only thing that survived was the thyme plant "Zaatara"- a story of resilience and hope amid flames.

**available for public voting from 4 September till 31 September on www.aflamuna.online*



How My Grandmother Became a Chair

Directed by: Nicolas Fattouh

Film Length: 10'

Country: Lebanon

Grandmother loses her five senses, one after the other, until she transforms into a wooden chair. Throughout her transformations, she realizes that her housekeeper is not the monster Grandmother thought she was but the genuine, caring, and strong family member she sought.

**available for public voting from 4 September till 31 September on www.aflamuna.online*



He looked at me

Directed by: Evelyne Hlais

Film Length: 11'

Country: Lebanon

While watching a documentary about her hometown, Zgharta, filmed in 1966 during challenging and critical times, the filmmaker found a familiar face. She decided to re-edit specific sequences from the documentary to raise questions about image ownership and the village's heritage.

**available for public voting from 4 September till 31 September on www.aflamuna.online*



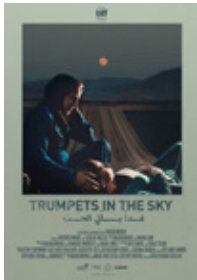
Trinou

Directed by: Nejib Kthiri

Film Length: 15'

Country: Tunisia / United Kingdom

Omar – a young boy – escapes his failing body and secluded life by traveling in dreams, which he created from magazines his mother used to give him. When his step-father urges his wife to change how she deals with her son and stop giving him magazines, both mother and son take an important and life-changing step.



Trumpets in the sky

Directed by: Rakan Mayasi

Film Length: 15'

Country: Lebanon / France/ Belgium / Palestine

Boushra, one of the Syrian potato-picking girls in Lebanon, returns from a long day of work in the field only to learn that today her childhood will come to an end.



Rest in Piece

Directed by: Antoine Antabi

Film Length: 9'

Country: Germany / France

Midyan is on the run from his war-torn country. His unbearable hunger forces him to start eating his beloved possessions. The side effects are monstrous but keep him going.



Claw Machine

Directed by: Georges Salameh

Film Length: 14'

Country: Greece

Claw Machine is the story of an immersion into the experience of being uprooted. Fragments and words. The unspoken, the indescribable. Memory shaken. Eyes closed. The city is under siege. Drift towards the unknown. The dilemma: resistance or migration? Mediterranean voyages of no return.



Not far from here

Directed by: Jihad Saade

Film Length: 14'

Country: Lebanon

While attending an 'Education and Peace' conference in Beirut, Ramy unexpectedly crosses paths with his former love interest Farah. Although she's pressed for time, he persuades her to have a brief catch-up at a nearby coffee shop. However, as Farah follows Ramy in her car, they get stuck in a massive traffic jam due to an unexpected detour.



Memory of A Land

Directed by: Samira Badran

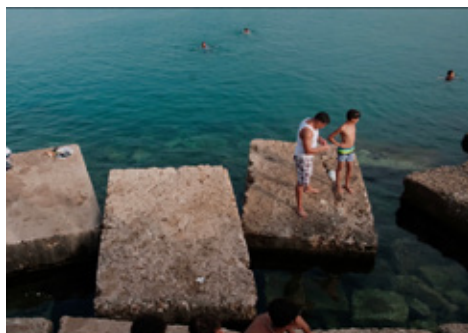
Film Length: 12'

Country: Spain

Palestine. A body is trapped at a checkpoint; an essential mechanism of the Israeli occupation. The body is pierced by structural and physical violence, which is aggressive and arbitrary and prevents and attacks its free movement and existence.

Online selection

www.aflamuna.online from the 4th to the 30th of September



The Pool

Directed by: Myriam Amri

& Margaux Fitoussi

Film Length: 6'

Country: Tunisia

It is a summer tradition to escape the heavy heat of the Tunisian sun and find one's friends by the pool, the greatest pool of all, the Mediterranean. "La Piscine" is an impression of a place and time, a slice of life in the small seaside town of Tabarka. It is a film in two parts: The first lyrically evokes the filmmakers' vision of an idyllic summer landscape, and the second follows a group of boys who show up every day without fail to run, jump, and swim.



Olivia

Directed by: Shawki Boukef
Film Length: 5'
Country: Algeria

After her olive grove gets burned, the woman in black tries to adapt to another far and different place, where she tragically loses her baby. This loss leaves her deluded, eventually leading her to make a sudden and life-altering decision.



A Dream In The City Of Leipzig

Directed by: Ahmed T. Aboudonia
Film Length: 7'
Country: Egypt

After years of returning from Germany to Egypt, the film's protagonist reminisces about those days and tries to explain why he came back from the West.



Memories From a Film Stock

Directed by: Hisham Hourani
Film Length: 15'
Country: Lebanon

Hisham, a 25-year-old, living in his aunt's house after seeking refuge in Lebanon nine years ago, carrying old photos and tapes that hold memories of his scattered family, each living in a different country. Hisham eagerly awaits the moment when his family will reunite in one house again.



To Matter

Directed by: Oussama Essaidi
Film Length: 7'
Country: Tunisia

I decided to follow the journey of tomatoes, whose cultivation has grown exponentially in Tunisia. The process of producing this fruit is long and results in various damages.



REEF AMBASSADORS

Introducing an exciting addition to this edition, REEF's Young Ambassadors comprise a dedicated group of approximately twenty volunteers from Akkar, ranging in age from 13 to 18 years old. Their pivotal role involves comprehensive engagement throughout the festival, encompassing tasks such as conducting interviews with esteemed experts and professionals, facilitating select exchange sessions, participating in a condensed film assessment workshop for presenting awards within the mid-length film competition. Guided by experienced members of the REEF team and the Cultural Salon, they will also partake in awareness sessions focused on pressing environmental concerns and filmmaking.



Film Moderators

In alignment with our commitment to achieving impactful goals and enhancing the overall experience, a dedicated team of 3 moderators will spearhead the post-screening discussion sessions. These dialogues aim to spark curiosity and inspire discussions that align with the essence of each presented film.



Lara Bou Saifan

Film Producer



Rima Kaddissi

Artist



Elie Kamal

Filmmaker and
Cinematographer



NATURE ACTIVITIES

This year's selected trails are aligned with our theme of Transformations. Each hike will focus on exploring and understanding a specific facet of nature's Transformations, enabling us to fully comprehend the advantages and disadvantages encapsulated within our chosen theme. These conveniently accessible hikes will be complemented by informative educational presentations.

Departure point: 01/09/2023
Silk factory From 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Water Trail Hike followed by "Narratives of Transformations" with The Cultural Salon

Level : easy

Duration : 3 hours

Meeting point : Kobayat Silk Factory - Prior registration required

The hike begins on the hills of Halbousah valley and continues along the water springs that feed the village of Kobayat. Along the way, hikers will meet farmers and learn about the effects of climate change and uncontrolled tree cutting. At the end of the tour, the Kobayat Cultural Salon team members will present the major Transformations that have taken place in the region.

Departure point: 02/09/2023
Silk factory From 9:00 am-1:00 pm

The Earth Narratives followed by Geology trail in Karm Chbat

Level : medium

Duration : 4 hours

Meeting point : Kobayat Silk Factory - Prior registration required

Geology Day starts with a meeting with Dr. Atta Elias from 9:00 AM until 10:00 AM, followed by a lecture about Akkar's geology and the geological Transformations in Lebanon and the world. The lecture includes examples of observations and signs of these Transformations and their imprints on nature and landscapes. Afterwards, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, there will be a field trip with Dr. Elias to explore the geological transformations on the ground in the high-lands of the mountainous region, walking through Karm Shbat and along the Yammouneh Fault Line that divides the region into two large plates: the African plate moving in one direction and the Arabian plate moving in the opposite direction, leading to significant changes.

Departure point: 03/09/2023
Silk factory From 9:00 am-12:00 pm

The Artistic Trail with Collectif Kahraba preceded by a presentation “Halsban Valley: Reality and Challenges” with Kobayat Cultural Salon

Level : easy

Duration : 3 hours

Meeting point : Kobayat Silk Factory - Prior registration required

Halsban Valley: Reality and Challenges Organized by the Cultural Salon. Before the beginning of the Art Path and within the vastness of the valley's nature, there will be a half-hour presentation about Halsban Valley, its natural, environmental, agricultural, heritage, historical, religious, and touristic significance. An overview of the work of the Halsban Valley Park group, the plans that have been made, the obstacles encountered, and the ongoing “Transformations.”

The Artistic Trail Organized by Collectif Kahraba, is a beautiful and easy trail in the Halsban Valley, with several artistic stations harmoniously integrated with the natural surroundings. A wonderful concept created by the Artist House and implemented in Hammana, and now being applied for the first time in Kobayat. The duration is three hours, accessible to everyone.

Departure point: 09/09/2023
The Rafting Squat From 9:00 am-12:00 pm
Club - Hermel

“The Orontes, between land and water”

Level : easy to medium

Prior registration required

Equipment : bathing suit and water shoes

A Rafting activity of 90 minutes, preceded by 15 minutes explanation on safety and rafting technique;

Or a hiking activity on the path of the Orontes River Valley that starts from the club on the banks of the river and ends at the historical waterfall of Hira. The path is easy to medium. During the path there are some natural caves and the Hamour waterfall.

**Both activities will take place in parallel. REEF participants will get to choose one of the two activities*



Departure point: 09/09/2023
The Rafting Squat Club - Hermel From 9:00 am-1:00 pm

“Towards the Hills and Outskirts of Hermel” Hiking

Level : easy to medium.

Prior registration required

Equipment: bring a hiking stick, water and wear hiking shoes

Half of the path rests at a rocky cliff that rises about 300 meters. The path passes through a forest of perennial cedar and Juniper trees.

Creative Workshops

Ahead of the REEF festival, creative workshops have been organized with the inhabitants of Akkar and Hermel. Several artists have dedicated their creativity and energy, and their efforts have resulted in a remarkable collaboration with the local participants and a collection of projects and achievements. As the festival unfolds, attendees will have the chance to witness firsthand the tangible outcomes of the workshop participants' hard work, underscoring the power of collaboration and the spirit of innovation.

**Silk Factory,
Kobayat** **31/08/2023**
 AT 6:00 PM

**Hermel Cultural
Association** **08/09/2023**
 AT 3:00 PM

One Minute Films Directed by Women from Akkar and Hermel "Correspondences between Women"

In preparation for REEF, two workshops were organized, under the guidance of Egyptian filmmaker Amal Ramsis, enabling Akkar and Hermel female residents to acquire basic techniques for using a camera and achieving one-minute films under the title "Correspondences between Women." The workshop aims to facilitate dialogue among women from diverse backgrounds through the medium of videography. The resulting films will be shown during the festival.



**Silk Factory,
Kobayat** **31/08/2023**
 AT 6:00 PM

**Hermel Cultural
Association** **08/09/2023**
 AT 3:00 PM

Hermel's Young Talents in Stop Motion Creations

Organized by the Youth Animation Platform, a workshop was held prior to the festival, allowing young participants from Hermel to explore the realm of animation films. Under the guidance of Fadi Siriani, the founder of YAP, the participants gained fundamental techniques to create short animated videos. These resulting stop-motion videos will be shown during the festival.



Two Creative performing workshops with The Knowledge Workshop in collaboration with BAHH

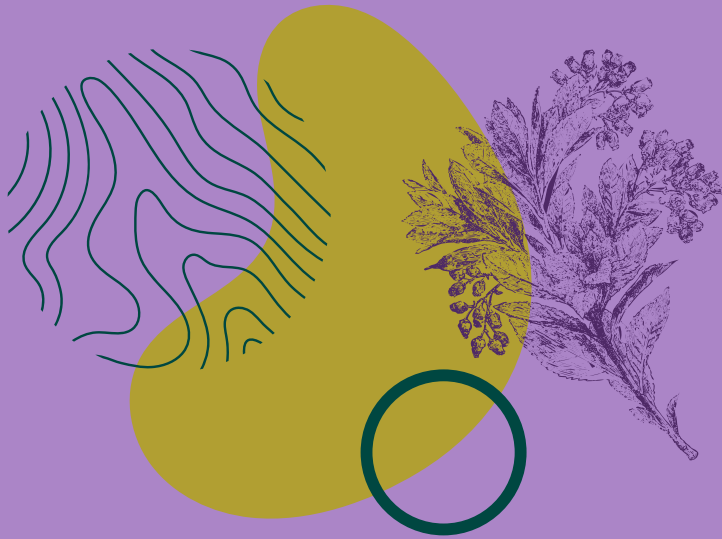
The workshops are held in Kobayat and in Hermel and aim to employ various artistic and expressive tools, including creative writing, sensorial physical movement, and nature walks, to encourage women participants to share stories related to our bodies, nature, land, and environment. Through this process, female participants will examine their physical, social, and political connections to the changing environment.

Participants will embark on a physical, artistic, and imaginative journey creating their own narratives about its ecological history and disappearance. These stories will serve as inspiration for participants to find their voices as storytellers and share their narratives in a performance during REEF.

**Silk Factory,
Kobayat** **01/09/2023**
 AT 7:00 PM

The Creative Performance by Akkari women

As a result of the workshop, the performance will feature Akkari women telling stories related to our bodies, nature, land, and environment. The participants will employ various artistic and expressive tools, including creative writing and sensorial physical movement.



**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**04/09/2023
AT 5:00 PM**

“What Remains of Ecology and Economy”

A talk addressing the political economy of the agricultural sector and its Transformations. Overview: from the family economy to the rentier economy, discussing how our relationship with food is shaped, and listen to the alternatives that environmental activists are working on, such as models of independent or liberal agriculture, model farms and participatory lands. Within this context, the experience of ‘Daera’ collective will be shared and their work on the seed network, also highlighting the ‘Koni anti’ experience supporting women and implementing environmental activities.

**Organized by The Knowledge Workshop*

**Maison
de l’Oronte**

**09/09/2023
AT 5:00 PM**

“The Endangered Gift of Hermel”

A natural and economic resource for Hermel, the Orontes is threatened by serious pollution. The conference will address these vital issues for the region with a panel of experts.

**Organized by the Cultural Association of Hermel in partnership with The Legal Agenda*

Performances

This year's edition include performances that align with our overarching theme of «Transformations». Attendees will have the opportunity to experience the artistry that embodies our central theme. These performances not only offer entertainment but also serve as a medium to delve into the intricate aspects of Transformations.

**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**01/09/2023
AT 8:00 PM**

Origin of a tale by Collectif Kahraba

“Origin of a Tale” is a creative project for young audiences combining storytelling, dance, and object manipulation by Aurelien Zouki and Éric Deniaud. The performance explores the genealogy of fables and their origins, reflecting on how simple wisdom has been transmitted through time and space, and how thoughts and stories continue to transcend borders.



**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**05/09/2023
AT 11:00 AM**

Vol Terre by Collectif Kahraba

"Vol Terre" will visit Kobayat village and wander its streets in a quest to discover the infinite forms of Love. "Vol Terre" is a clown on a quest for love, seeking it everywhere: in the streets, in grocery stores, in homes if invited, on trees, in hearts, and in retirement homes. The performance is not a show but an intimate interactive encounter, creating space for new stories, awakened memories, simple dances, and moments of silence to be cherished. Inspired by the experiences of a clown doctor, Marielise Aad, with hospitalized children and later with the elderly.



**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**02/09/2023
AT 6:30 PM**

"Rouh" Fashion Show

In a world where change is constant and ever-evolving, what better way to engage with the multifaceted concept of transformations than by viewing a hands fashion show, meticulously crafted around the theme of upcycled clothing?

"Rouh", an Arabic word meaning both "soul" and "go", is a yearning for belonging. It's a collection almost entirely made of upcycled fabrics. "Rouh" is an invitation to reconsider everything around us! To upcycle our thoughts, to give a chance to ourselves and to our beloved country!



Additional Activities

**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**31/09/2023
AT 7:00 PM**

PARADE SHOW / OPENING CEREMONY with LAMI CONSERVATOIRE

A musical parade will roam the streets of Kobayat, reaching the Silk Factory to inaugurate the festival. The program will commence with a welcome speech, followed by a musical contribution by the LAMI Conservatory. Subsequently, the local products and food market will be opened for visitors to enjoy.



**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**31/08-3/09/2023
AT 6:00 PM**

MARKET Local products and Food market

The Local Products and Food Market offers a vibrant space where local artisans and producers gather to showcase their creations. From handcrafted goods to delicious homemade delicacies, this market provides a platform for the community to support and engage with local businesses.



**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**02/09/2023
AT 6:00 PM**



BOOK SIGNING

"The Last Film Screening, a biography of Cilama Tripoli" by Hady Zaccak

Writer and filmmaker Hady Zaccak signs his latest book "The Last Film Screening, a biography of Cilama Tripoli", sharing with REEF's audience the outcome of his research and writings. Cinema was known in the popular dialect in Tripoli as "Cilama". It played an important role in the life of the city from the thirties till the end of the 20th century. This book recounts the rise, development and fall of "Cilama" with its temples, rituals, stories, films, stars... The biography of Cilama merges with the life of an Arab city that has experienced all kinds of films. It interacts with the modern history of the capital of North Lebanon before declaring the end of the screening and leaving a lot of pictures and sounds.

**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**03/09/2023
AT 11:00 AM**

**Maison de
L'Oronte, Hermel**

**08/09/2023
AT 9:00 PM**

PLANTING ACTIVITY

"Let's Plant Our Seeds" (for youth)

Planting activity organized by Buzuruna Juzuruna. Young participants will learn more about seeds, planting different types of seeds in an informative and practical session. Participants will take their planting results home.

CONCERT

Concert with the artist and oud player Hussein Khalil and Hermel's talents

A musical evening with Artist Hussein Khalil and showcasing the best from the Hermel local talents singing and playing on their instruments. Highlighting the talents : Fofou Salhab, Ahmad Kourdyeh, Mouhamad Blaybel, Reda Rachini

**Hermel Cultural
Association**

**09/09/2023
AT 11:00 AM**

STORYTELLING

Environmental Stories Activity (for youth)

2 stories for children, from 7 to 12 years old, followed by an activity raising environmental awareness - Duration: 1:30h

Waste management

ZERO WASTE FESTIVAL

The festival has made environmental consciousness a priority, evident through its meticulous waste management strategies and its successful implementation of a zero-waste festival in the previous edition. By prioritizing responsible waste disposal and recycling initiatives, the festival aims to minimize its ecological footprint. In the previous edition, in collaboration with Cedar Environmental and with active participation from attendees, the festival achieved an impressive milestone by diverting a substantial amount of waste away from landfills. This accomplishment not only reflects the festival's dedication to sustainability but also serves as an inspiring example for future events. As the festival continues its commitment to eco-consciousness, it strives to set a higher standard for waste management and contribute positively to both the environment and the community it serves.

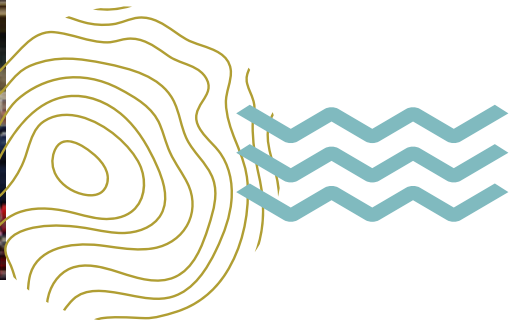
**Silk Factory,
Kobayat**

**03/09/2023
AT 04:00 PM**

PLASTIC transformation

“Transforming Plastic Waste into Durable Benches with Cedar Environmental”

REEF will feature a live demonstration that highlights the conversion of single-use plastics into sturdy benches. Spearheaded by the expert team at Cedar Environmental, headed by the environmental engineer Ziad Abi Chaker, this captivating showcase will include the installation of compact machinery. Attendees will witness the process of transforming single-use plastics into versatile profiles and observe how these profiles are skillfully crafted into enduring benches – a powerful illustration of the possibilities inherent in recycling and sustainable practices.



DETAILED PROGRAM

31 AUGUST
THURSDAY

1 SEPTEMBER
FRIDAY

2 SEPTEMBER
SATURDAY

16:00

FILM

Dounia and The Princess of Alepo (72')
A film by Marya ZARIF & André KADI
(Suitable for youth and children)

18:00

SCREENING

**Animation Workshop and
The One Minute Workshop
"Correspondence Between Women"
Films**

19:00

**PARADE show and opening
with Lami Conservatoire**

MARKET

**Opening of local products
and Food market**

20:00

MEDIUM FILMS COMPETITION

Confession of a Runner (29')
Bachar Khattar

Haulout (25')
By Maxim Arbugaev,
Evgenia Arbugaeva

21:30

FILM

Motherland (18')
By Bane Fakhri
(in the presence of the filmmaker)

Gaza Mon Amour (87')
By Tarzan and Arab Nasser

9:00 - 12:00

NATURE ACTIVITY

**Water Trail Hike followed by
"Narratives of transformations"
with The Cultural Salon**

11:00

FILM

Lene and The Forest Spirits (94')
By Dieter Schumann.
(Suitable for youth and children)

17:00

MEDIUM FILMS COMPETITION

The Returned (35')
By Pieter De Vos

The illusion of Abundance (60')
By Erika Gonzalez Ramirez,
Matthieu Lietaert

18:00

MARKET

Local products and Food market

19:00

PERFORMANCE

**Creative performance
by Akkari Women
with The Knowledge Workshop**

20:00

PERFORMANCE

**Geologie d'une fable
/ Origin of a tale
By Collectif Kahraba**

21:00

FILM

EO (88')
By Jerzy Skolimowski

9:00 - 12:00

NATURE ACTIVITY

**The Earth Narratives followed by
Geology trail in Karm Chbat**

11:00

FILM

Animal (105')
By Cyril Dion
(Suitable for youth)

16:00

CONFERENCE

**Transformations and Development
Opportunities in Akkar
with the Legal Agenda**

18:00

BOOK SIGNING

**"The Last Film Screening, a biography
of Cilama Tripoli" by Hady Zaccak**

MARKET

Local products and Food market

18:30

FASHION SHOW

**"Rouh" from Fabric and Soul
by Designer Rytta Couture**

19:30

SHORT FILMS COMPETITION

(in the presence of the filmmakers)

22:00

FILM

The Dam (84')
By Ali Cherri

3 SEPTEMBER
SUNDAY

4 SEPTEMBER
MONDAY

9:00 - 12:00

NATURE ACTIVITY

Presentation "Halsban Valley: Reality and Challenges" with The Cultural Salon followed by The Artistic Trail with Collectif Kahraba

11:00

PERFORMANCE

VOL TERRE with Collectif Kahraba

11:00

NATURE ACTIVITY

"Let's Plant Our Seeds" with Buzuruna Juzuruna (for youth)

17:00 - 19:00

CONFERENCE

What Remains of Ecology and Economy with The Knowledge Workshop

16:00

PRESENTATION

From Plastic Waste to Durable Bench with Ziad Abi Chaker

19:15

MEDIUM FILMS AWARD

17:00

PANEL AND SCREENING

Food Sovereignty now! Organized by Rosa Luxembourg Stiftung – Beirut Office.

19:30

FILM

This stolen Country of Mine (93') By Marc Wiese

18:00

MARKET

Local products and Food market

***Screening of the films from the short length competition (In the presence of the filmmakers)**

19:30

SHORT FILMS AWARDS

20:00

MEDIUM FILMS COMPETITION

Sonic forest (35') By Josh Thome and Simón Hernández
FILM

Foragers (65') By Jumana Manna
(in the presence of the filmmaker)

The Migratory Bird (8') by Mourane Matar
Drawing Fish (8') by Amir El-Shenawy
Zaatara (10') by Adeeb Farhat
How My Grandmother Became a Chair (10') by Nicolas Fattouh
He Looked at me (11') by Evelyne Hlais
Trinou (15') by Nejib Kihiri
Trumpets in the Sky (15') by Rakan Mayasi
Rest in piece, (9') by Antoine Antabi
Claw machine (14') by Georges Salameh
Not Far From Here (14') by Jihad Saadé
Memory of a Land (12') by Samira Badran

21:30

FILM

The Mountain (115') By Thomas Salvador

All Screenings and nature activities are free of charge

For information and Reservations, please contact 81 073 756 or log-in to IHJOZ and book your spot <https://ihjoz.com/>

* All Hikes and performances require reservation

CREW

Festival President
Antoine Daher

Executive Director
Jana Wehbe

Artistic Director
Eliane Raheb

Event and Hospitality
Manager
Sandra Sleiman

Film Programming
Coordinator and
Communications
Manager
Thimar El Dahr

President of Hermel
Cultural Resources
Lina Al Achek

Coordinator -
Hermel Cultural
Association
Khuzama Jawhari

Graphic Designer
Rachelle Abi Ramia

Advertising
Filmmaker
Samir Kawas

Infographic/Motion
Graphic Filmmaker
Raed Zino

Press Attaché
and Media
**Joelle El Khoury
Serrano**

Local Press Attaché
Michel Hallak

Arabic Catalogue
Editor
Derar Mohamad

Silk Factory Manager
Joseph Wehbe

Venue Manager
Anna Maria Fahed

Market Coordinator
Chayla Sukkar

Guest Relations
Assistant
Rita Antoun

Venue Assistant
Omar Daher

Execution
Coordinator
Mounir Ghosn

Execution
Coordinator
Daniel Ghosn

Technician
Projectionist
Ahmad Jabakhanji

Films translation
and subtitling
Nidale Monzer

Sound Technician
and Sound
Equipment
Pierre Antoun

Sound Assistant
Jean Paul Antoun

Panels Coordinator /
Youth Program
Yara Ayoub

Youth Program
Coordinator
Lara Moussa

Youth Program
Coordinator /
Impact Coordinator
Wahib Wehbe

Impact Coordinator
Doris El Zir

Cultural Salon
Programmer
Antonio Meaiki

Cultural Salon
Programmer
Ralph Daher

Videographer /
Editor
Michel Akawy

Photographer
Georges Mikhael

Accountant
Georgio Massouh

Assistant - Hermel
Cultural Association
Najah El Jawhari

Assistant - Hermel
Cultural Association
Ghalia Chamas

Transportation
Gilbert Karam

AFLAMUNA
Executive Director
Jad Abi Khalil

AFLAMUNA Team
**Farah Fayed
Stephano Mendelek
Lina Sahab
Riham Jalloul
Abbas Jalloul
Zeina Kiwan
Sandra Sayej**

AFLAMUNA.
ONLINE
**Renee Awit
Riham Assi
Thimar El Dahr**

VOLUNTEERS

REEF KOBAYAT

Mourane Matar
Shourouk Ahmad Nour El Dine
Sally Zeitouny Fares
Georges Mikhael
Rita Drayaa
Merry Georges Ghosn
Jessy Georges Semaan
Helena Semaan
Edith Fahed
Dona Maria Zraiby
Rita Georges Ghaya
Charbel Sayah
Charbel Joseph Nader
Perla Georges Kodeih
Fatmeh Ahmad Sleiman
Rita Maria Iskandar
Zainab Walid Bou Ali
Charbel Chidiac
Hassan Sassine
Antonia Ghaya
Artimos Nader
Charbel Nader

REEF HERMEL

Ali Sakr
Chaden Allam
Mostapha El Jawhari
Dima Nassredine
Maya El Jawhari
Shatha El Jawhari
Lyn Khalaf
Hiba Chachine
Hussein Amhaz

THANK YOU

Elie Hakme
Sarkis Hakme
Joseph Wehbe
Joumana Wehbe
Rizk El Dahr
Charbel Abou Khalil
Badih Massaad
Ghadi Alam
Mary Lynn Samaha
Fadi Syriani
Elie Flouty
George Assaf
Zeina Sfeir
Ziad Abi Chaker
Nina Rodriguez

**And everyone who contributed in the
 making of this edition 2023**

Organized by من تنظيم



Supported by بدعم من



In partnership with بالشراكة مع



In collaboration with بالتعاون مع



Media partners شركاء اعلاميون



