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## A Theater Of Limitless Possibilities: Lebanon At The Venice Biennale



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For the 55th edition of the [Biennale](#), the Lebanese Pavilion passes the torch to the acclaimed international photographer and filmmaker Akram Zaatari – a complex artist and an eager archivist, who has been researching, collecting and recontextualizing visual information on the Middle East for the past 15 years.

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Akram Zaatari, *Composition for 2 Wings I* @ Kunst Hus, Oslo

**APEAL** (the Association for the Promotion and Exhibition of the Arts in **Lebanon**) is a non-profit organization focused on the multileveled support and promotion of Lebanese artists within and beyond the country's borders. They have commissioned *Letter To A Refusing Pilot*, the exhibition at the 2013 **Lebanese Pavilion** and the second Biennale participation for renowned artist Akram Zaatari. A dynamic and versatile curatorial duo, the creators of the multidisciplinary platform **Art Oriented**, Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath envisioned this year's show and share Zaatari's perception of an art that pierces through time and space in order to form new thoughts, relationships and resonances for the viewer.

*Letter To A Refusing Pilot* is a new work by Zaatari, with 'an amazing story lying at the heart of it.' The curatorial team defies the disruptions brought to the 'essence' of a creative work by the spatial, temporal or even theoretical limitations in the nature of a national pavilion, feeling that Zaatari's body of work holds an artistic,

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Reaffirming, from his part, this absence of finality, the artist comments on his Letter, 'different subjects, characters or figures that I dealt with in my past work never leave me ... they totally inhabit my imagination and make me realize that they turn my work into a theater of limitless possibilities. It's a theater where strangers from different worlds find themselves on stage face-to-face.'

*Akram Zaatari, Time Capsule, video commissioned by dOCUMENTA(13).*



## **Akram Zaatari. Time Capsule - Kassel. Documenta(13).**

from [akram zaatari](#)

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Akram Zaatari (b. 1966) has long been investing in the power of the image in his personal work, which ranges from film and photography to performance and installation, but also as a co-founder of the [Arab Image](#)

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produced more than 40 films and videos, and, in addition to the 2007 Biennale, he has exhibited everywhere from Kassel's Documenta to Paris' Centre Pompidou. In the summer of 2013, New York's MoMA will be holding the solo 'Projects 100: Akram Zaatari', the North-American premiere of the video installations *Dance to the End of Love* (2011) and *On Photography*, comprising YouTube videos made by Arab youngsters and archival material from the AIF.

### Lebanon team

*Artist:* Akram Zaatari.

*Commissioner:* APEAL.

*Curators:* Sam Bardaouil, Till Fellrath.

*Venue:* Pavilion at Arsenale.

### About The Culture Trip's Venice Biennale Project

The 55th International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale will take place from 1 June – 24 November. [The Culture Trip's Venice Biennale Series](#) is an article series leading up to the start of the exhibition. With 88 countries participating in this year's Biennale – 10 of them for the first time – and 150 artists from 37 countries, our coverage over the next couple of months will highlight a selection of the National Pavilions that will be participating in the 2013 edition of the Venice Biennale. Watch this space for our daily Venice Biennale

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