



Walid Raad

By *Finbarr Flood*



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Lebanese artist Walid Raad is an influential voice in art from the Middle East. Published for his first comprehensive exhibition in the US, this catalogue surveys three decades of Raad's practice in photography, video and performance. Beginning with his groundbreaking project *The Atlas Group* (1989-2004), to his recent work on the history of art in the Arab world (2007-ongoing), it offers an overview of Raad's career and features his most momentous bodies of work. Raad explores the ways we represent war and history, casting doubt on the veracity of photographic and video documentation.

Essays by scholars place Raad's art in the context of contemporary photography and video, as well as art made in Lebanon since the 1960s; provide an overview of Raad's performance lectures; and examine Raad's most recent bodies of work made in the Islamic galleries at the Louvre and Metropolitan Museum of Art, which explore the history, collecting and display of historical and modern art and artifacts from the Arab world and Iran. A special contribution by Raad presents a fictional interview with multiple artists, curators and writers.

Walid Raad was born in 1967 in Chbanieh, Lebanon, and moved to Beirut as a child. In 1983, at age 16, Raad left Lebanon for the US. He enrolled at the Rochester Institute of Technology to study photography, and earned his PhD in Visual and Cultural Studies from the University of Rochester. Raad currently lives in New York and Beirut, and has been an Associate Professor of Art at The Cooper Union since 2002.

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Editorial Review

Review

Walid Raad...makes elaborate artistic fictions with a wry and whimsical sense of humor delivered in a deadpan style worthy of Borges. (Christopher Lyon *Bookforum*)

About the Author

Eva Respini is the Barbara Lee Chief Curator at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, and former Curator in the Department of Photography at The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

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Barry Flood is the William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Humanities at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University.

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