Disclaimer: The statements, findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed in this exhibit are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view of, or are endorsements from the Center for Mediterranean Integration or any of the Center’s members and partners.
Rana JARBOU (Saudi Arabia)

33-year-old Saudi-born Rana Jarbou has been documenting and researching graffiti and street art in the Arab world since 2007, in search for a counter narrative for the Arab identity. Rana is currently pursuing her masters in Social Documentation at University of California Santa Cruz Film and Digital Media.

«One Thousand and One Walls»

«One Thousand and One Walls» has spanned twelve countries so far and gives voice to society’s silent cries, highlighting issues of censorship and the politics of space. The motivations identified during the study include: identity; religion, politics, love, freedom, social commentary, pop-culture, Palestinian solidarity, feminism and football. The Arab Uprisings of 2011 witnessed a shift in common motivators as the revolutionary mantra was contagious and the cacophony of voices in the Arab world was expressed through urban discourse.

This collection includes collaborations and contributions from Mashallah News co-founder Jenny Gustafson, Ali Garbousi, William Parry, Al-Sahraa, Al-Akhbar’s “Walls of the People” publication, and FromHereToFame Publishing’s Arabic Graffiti, White Wall and Walls of Freedom.

Mahn KLOIX (France)

33-year-old Mahn Kloix lives and works in Marseille, France. He worked as a graphic designer for the past 10 years. As an artist, he uses collage and stencil to spread poetic or critical messages in the streets about our life in society.

Small Is Big

Like many of you, I’ve avidly followed the different protest movements that took place over recent years in several countries. I started a street art project in tribute to these social movements based on the 2011 Time magazine edition, in which “the protesters” were elected “Person of the Year”. The magazine commissioned a photographer, Peter Hapak to capture the portraits of some protesters from different movements in different countries: (1) the Arab spring in Tunisia and Egypt, where people were protesting against ruling dictators; (2) the Plaza del Sol movement in Madrid; (3) the “indignés” in Greece (4) Occupy Wall Street in New York and Occupy Oakland where people protested the economic and political system of their country in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. The Portraits of around 50 protesters were published. These protesters are bloggers, mothers, journalists, students, policemen, and civilians...

With the consent of the photographer and the protesters, I created a set of ink drawing of these portraits. I printed them in a large format, and went on a tour to paste these portraits in the streets of the cities where these movements started: Athens, Madrid, Tunis, New York and Oakland. In each place, I met and interviewed some of the protesters and asked them about the changes that they had seen compared to the situation 3 years ago. I compiled their answers in a 10 minutes documentary.

My objective was to pay tribute to the people who took part in these movements and to show that each one of us, on our own level, can take part in society and make changes happen.

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