

Within the 10th Edition of the Festival du Monde Arabe de Montréal (FMA), Electrochocks Productions, the Gesù and the FMA present a project by Nada Raphaël: HYPHEN ISLAM-CHRISTIANITY. The project comprises a photo exhibition, postcards and a 700 pages collector's book. It is presented at the Gesù-creativity center, 1200 Bleury street, from September 23 to November 12, 2009.

BOOK LAUNCHING : NOVEMBER 4, 2009 at 5PM

"Mohammad is Christian." "Mary is Muslim." "In the 1980s, when some political parties wanted to destroy the mosque, the Christians rallied in front of it and declared that they would have to destroy the church first."

These are just some of the thoughts shared by Muslims and Christians in Lebanon. So forget what you think you know about a people whose religion is an inseparable component of its culture and have a different look at images that are most and foremost about "normal people".



Contrary to what the title says, this is not a project about religion nor is it about proselytizing. It is about human diversity, as it exists in Lebanon, as well as in Montreal, France and elsewhere in the world. Humans, with intersecting identities, nationalities, and religions, are a hyphen between memory and knowledge, past and present, between the West where we live and the East where we grew up.

It is the human element that links religion and culture; that builds, through culture, a relationship with others, with a neighborhood, a community, a town or village, a country and, yes let's dare to hope, the world.

The exhibit, which runs from September 23 to November 12, 2009, features more than 130 photographs as well as numerous stories excerpted from Hyphen Islam-Christianity, a 700-page book launching on November 4, 2009 at 5PM at the Gesù-creativity center, 1200 Bleury street (metro Place des Arts).

We wanted to remember and recount the part played by humans in a plural society, far from academic, political and public discourses. We wanted to plunge into a people's memory, to listen to the often ignored stories; we wanted to treat ourselves with everything researches don't mention.

There haven't been many projects as thorough in its exploration of Lebanese Muslim-Christian relations as this one. Because a picture is worth a thousand words, because words are human and memory is universal, this exhibition promises to be a fascinating, wondrous, and hopeful glimpse into a nation often misunderstood by the rest of the world.

- 30 -

Electrochocks Éditions et Productions
Joelle Sfeir

514 962-4167
hyphen@electrochocks.com

Gesù-Creativity center
Nicolas Sado

514 861 4378 #232
nsado@gesu.net

Festival du Monde Arabe de Montréal
Médias : Béata Ginel

514 – 378-9063
beatacommunications@videotron.ca

