



Seminar

LILIA LABIDI

Fellow, SCAS.

Professor of Anthropology and Psychology, University of Tunis

*Women Artists in Today's Arab World:
Creativity and Social Justice*

Tuesday, 14 February, 11:15 a.m.

In the Thunberg Lecture Hall
SCAS, Linneanum, Thunbergsvägen 2, Uppsala
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ABOUT LILIA LABIDI

Lilia Labidi is an anthropologist and psychologist, holding a doctorate in Psychology and a *Doctorat d'Etat* in Anthropology, both from Université Paris VII.

In Tunisia, Labidi cofounded several research associations, directed a program on The Construction of Public Morality in the Arab World and Africa (Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, and Egypt), and from January to December 2011 was Minister for Women's Affairs in the provisional Tunisian government following the fall of the Ben Ali regime. She has held fellowships at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, and at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, DC, and has been a visiting professor at the American University in Cairo, Yale University, and the Middle East Institute at the National University of Singapore.

Her writings on the Arab world have treated subjects such as the history of the feminist movement, the construction of identity, attitudes toward death, and the work of women artists in the aftermath of the Arab Spring. Her major works include *Çabra Hachma: sexualité et tradition* (1989); *Joudhour al-harakat al-nisa'iyya: riwayaat li-shakhsiyyaat tarikhiyya* [Origins of Feminist Movements in Tunisia: Personal History Narratives] (3rd edition, 2009); 'Islamic law, feminism, and family: the reformulation of Hudud in Egypt and Tunisia' (in V. Moghadam (ed.) *From Patriarchy to Empowerment: Women's Participation, Movements, and Rights in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia*, 2007); 'Le Printemps arabe en Tunisie: constitutionnalisation des droits des femmes' (in J. Baubérot, M. Milot, P. Portier (eds.) *Laïcité, laïcités: Reconfigurations et nouveaux défis*, 2014); and 'Political, aesthetic, and ethical positions of Tunisian women artists, 2011–2013' (in *The Journal of North African Studies*, 2014).

At SCAS, she will be working on women artists in today's Arab world.

ABSTRACT

This project focuses on Arab women artists in the aftermath of the uprisings in the Arab world that began in late 2010, and will concentrate on women from the region who work in the domains of painting, photography, installations, videos, film and documentaries, rap music, and cartooning, etc. This study will address how these women articulate and respond to questions related to the situation of women, democracy, governance, and social justice and will also explore how societies across the Arab world are dealing with the social criticism in these artists' works, the effects of their work on the struggle for social justice, and the works' national and international resonance. Among the questions explored are: To what extent does the work of this group of artists constitute a rupture with the practices of women artists of the preceding generation? What has been the public impact of these artists work? How has public response affected the artists in their lives and work?