

Antwerp Research Institute for the Arts (ARIA)
21 september 2021 Seminar “on art and violence”
by dr. Athar Jaber



'Stone sculpture is oft the material of choice because of its durability ../.. However, it has also been implemented as a faithful assistant for the enforcement of systemic violence'. This is an extract from the PhD text part by Athar Jaber. His research on visual arts and particularly sculpture and violence was presented, debated and confronted with research on performance arts and violence. The seminar was organized with the Antwerp Research Institute for the Arts (ARIA). It was also the opening vent of the Open Laboratory Weeks of Body and Material Reinvented, research group at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp, that happened from Tuesday 21 September to Friday 8 October 2021 included except for the weekends.

Program

2:00 pm *Welcome* by Prof. dr. Bart Eeckhout, ARIA, University of Antwerp.
2:05 pm *Introduction* by dr. Ria De Boodt, Academy supervisor of PhD Athar Jaber.
2:15 pm *Per forza di levare. On sculpture and violence*, a PhD film by Athar Jaber .
2:45 pm *On art and violence*, Prof. dr. Brad Evans interviewing dr. Athar Jaber .
3:45 pm Q&A guided by moderator Inge Henneman.
4:15 pm Afternoon tea break.
4:30 pm *Does Your Blood Not Move: Structural violence, the body of art*, presentation by Kopano Maroga.
5:15 pm Q&A guided by moderator Inge Henneman.
5:30 pm *Documentary Choreography as a Practice of Activism*, presentation by Arkadi Zaides .
6:15 pm Q&A guided by moderator Inge Henneman.
6:30 pm Break with diner for invited guests guests only.
8:00 pm 'Stranger' live performance by BARRY and Laurent Delom de Mézerac in Wintertuin of the Academy.
10:00 pm Doors closed.

The seminar was live streamed on the Academy YouTube channel
<http://youtube.com/royalacademyantwerp/live>

Lecturers

Athar Jaber is an Iraqi-Italian rooted sculptor, currently professor at the sculpture department at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts Antwerp and researcher in the arts. In 2021 he obtained his PhD degree with *Per forza di levare. On sculpture and violence*. <https://www.youtube.com/c/AtharJaber> and <https://www.atharjaber.com/>



Brad Evans is professor of political violence & aesthetics at the University of Bath (UK). His latest books are *Ecce Humanitas: beholding the Pain of Humanity* (Columbia University Press), *When the Towers Fell* (LARB) and *Conversations on Violence: an Anthology* (Pluto Press); his most recent articles are *The Comedy Divine* (in the *LA Review of Books*), *Violence in a Post-Liberal World* (in *Amidst the debris*, Hurst Books) and *Portraits of Violence: critical Reflections on the Graphic Novel* (in *Sociologica*, 15/1), all published in 2021. He is also column editor of *Histories of Violence* at the Los Angeles Review of Books.

www.brad-evans.co.uk and www.historiesofviolence.com

Kopano Maroga (they/them) is a performance artist, writer, cultural worker and co-founding director of the arts organization ANY BODY ZINE. They are currently living in Brussels, Belgium and working as a curator and guest-dramaturge at Kunstencentrum Vooruit in Ghent, Belgium. Their debut anthology of poetry, *Jesus Thesis and Other Critical Fabulations*, was released through uHlanga press in December of 2020. They very much believe in the power of love as a weapon of mass construction.

www.anybodyzine.org.za



Does Your Blood Not Move: Structural violence, the body and art, lecture by Kopano Maroga

Over the past years Kopano Maroga has been asking myself questions regarding the public culture(s) of state sanctioned violence through colonial statuary in South Africa and the cultures of violence that circulate within the dance field that seem to mirror the capitalistic culture of the undervaluing of labour that is performed by the body. Somehow, for him, there seems to be a connection between these two spheres: the realm of labour and the realm of labour's product. In his talk he endeavored to trace the contours of this inquiry, using case studies from South Africa and Belgium, to try and uncover some of what lies at the intersections of art, capitalism, the body and violence.



Arkadi Zaides is an Israeli independent choreographer and visual artist of Belarussian origin, currently living in France. In Israel, he performed in several companies before embarking on an independent career in 2004. He obtained a master's degree at the AHK Academy of Theater and Dance in Amsterdam (the Netherlands). His performances and installations have been presented in numerous dance and theater festivals, museums, and galleries across Europe, North and South America, and Asia. Over the years he has curated multiple projects. He is also a recipient of numerous prizes.

www.arkadizaides.com and www.facebook.com/arkadi.zaides

Documentary Choreography as a Practice of Artivism, lecture by Arkadi Zaides

The field of choreography is driven by critical experimentations but remains largely uncharted when it comes to adopting documents into its corpus. When considered as an intermedial practice, however, it is able to weave together factual information and embodied practices. In this presentation choreographer and performer Arkadi Zaides, a PhD candidate as part of the CORPoREAL research group at the Royal Conservatoire and the University of Antwerp, demonstrated some of his investigations and transformations of archives of violence into what he terms “documentary choreographies”.



Bart Eeckhout is the chair of the Antwerp Research Institute of the Arts (ARIA). He is professor at the department of Literature specialized in American modernist poetry, LGBTI+/queer studies and urban studies at the University of Antwerp. <https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/staff/bart-eeckhout/>

Inge Henneman is a writer, lecturer and researcher on photography and contemporary art at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts Antwerp. She curated exhibitions on conflict photography such as *Shooting Range. Photography and the Great War* (2014) among others. Inge manages the artistic legacy of her husband Joris Ghekiere (1955-2016). <https://ap-arts.be/en/person/inge-henneman>

Ria De Boodt is an art historian specialized in sculpture and Academy supervisor of the PhD of Athar Jaber. She is the chair of Body and Material Reinvented and theory professor at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts Antwerp, department of AP University College. <https://ap-arts.be/en/person/ria-de-boodt>

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