GENERATION: Contemporary Art from Saudi Arabia, presents San Francisco’s first exhibition of contemporary art from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This timely, cross-generational survey of 15 artists working at the Center of the Islamic world, opens at Minnesota Street Project in the heart of the Dogpatch district, on Thursday August 11 and runs September 6 2016.

GENERATION marks the third stop on a multi-city Saudi artist’s tour of the United States, and is supported by The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (ithra) in partnership with prominent Saudi artists. The tour, which launched earlier this summer at the Station Museum in Houston, Texas before traveling to Aspen-Colorado, aims to generate people-to-people dialogue and better understanding between nations. Following a run at Minnesota Street Project in San Francisco, the tour will continue to Bates College Museum of Art in Lewiston, Maine and major cities across the country.

As the world’s media reports a resurgent tide of religious intolerance and conflict, a tight-knit group of Saudi artists, both men and women, have acted upon a dream to discover the people and the diversity of America—from the East to West coast—trekking across the US interstate highway system and major cities on a mission to share not only their innate passion to create but also to learn from the local public’s reactions to their artworks.

As Abdulnasser Gharem, founder of Gharem Studio and a driving force behind the tour, comments, “The artists in this show present a new intellectual paradigm that utilizes unique concepts and terminology to define the artists’ role within their society and their generation. Rather than analyzing art and society separately, the artists confront art as a reflection of society, positioning themselves as its mirrors.”

San Francisco has always welcomed marginalized groups and outsider voices. Since the 50s, the Bay area has attracted influential artists, poets, thinkers and been the incubator for some of the great generational movements of their time. More recently, technological innovation and a cultural renaissance in the heart of downtown have once again put the ‘City of Rebels’ on the world stage. It now seems fitting that San Francisco welcomes these outsider artists from Saudi Arabia, very much the pioneers of their generation, willing to address cultural norms and taboos and their societal impact. In traveling to the U.S. at this time, they are defying mainstream expectations, reaching out directly to bridge the divide across the most contested political and ideological border of our time. This exhibition represents a unique opportunity for the people of San Francisco to enter into a meaningful dialogue with these artists at this crucial time.

The tour is spearheaded by Dr Khalid Al-Yahya, Programs Director at the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture, Saudi’s premier arts, culture and education institution, and will incorporate exhibitions and events at partner cultural institutions and universities across the United States. Dr Al-Yahya comments, “We at the Center are delighted to connect these young Saudi artists with US audiences, at this crucial time. The tour aims to create a platform for alternative dialogue and cultural empathy between communities.”
NOTES TO EDITORS

DATES

GENERATION
CONTEMPORARY ART FROM SAUDI ARABIA IN SAN FRANCISCO

Dates: 11 August – 6 September 2016
Opening Night: Thursday, August 11, 7-10PM
Talk: Saturday, August 13, 2-4PM

Address: Minnesota Street Project
1275 Minnesota St.
San Francisco, CA 94107

ARTISTS

SARAH ABU ABDALLAH       AJLAN GHAREM
AHAAD ALAMOUDI           MASAMEER
NJOUD ALANBARI           NUGAMSHI
AHMAD ANGAWI             SHAWEESH
DANA AWARTANI            RASHED AL SHASHAI
AYMAN YOSSRI DAYDBAN     DHAFER AL SHEHRI
MANAL AL DOWAYAN         TELFAZ 11
ABDULNASSER GHAREM

ABOUT KING ABDULAZIZ CENTER FOR WORLD CULTURE (ithra)

The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture, simply known as ithra, is a one-of-a-kind institution that brings together multiple offerings under one roof. From arts and culture to science and innovation, this bold initiative by Saudi Aramco promises a continuous journey of enrichment designed to energize the next knowledge economy of Saudi Arabia.

We aim to make a positive and tangible impact on the cultural scene by focusing on building local talents in the knowledge and creative industries. Blending iconic architectural design with advanced technology, and unique learning methods with enriching programs, ithra is an infinitely inspiring platform for explorers, learners, creators, and leaders – a thriving hub of knowledge, creativity and cross-cultural engagement.

As the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia strives to achieve its ambitious national development goals to transition to a knowledge-based economy, ithra acts as a bridge connecting cultures and cultivating a creative and innovative community.

At ithra, we believe in the power of people and ideas to unlock new possibilities: the future is what we make of it.

http://en.kingabdulazizcenter.com

MINNESOTA STREET PROJECT

Located in San Francisco’s historic Dogpatch district, Minnesota Street Project offers affordable and economically sustainable spaces for art galleries, artists and related nonprofits. Inhabiting three warehouses, the Project seeks to retain and strengthen San Francisco’s contemporary art community in the short term, while developing an internationally recognized arts destination in the long term.

Founded by entrepreneurs and collectors Deborah and Andy Rappaport, Minnesota Street Project was inspired by the couple’s belief that philanthropic support for the arts today requires an alternate model—one suited to the innovative nature of Silicon Valley and the region as a whole.

Their vision of a dynamic, self-sustaining enterprise that shares its economic success with arts businesses and professionals aims to encourage heightened support for the arts from newcomer and established patrons alike.
**IMAGE SHEET**

Link to Download Images
Copy and Paste:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/x4tagrjksqfmr4m/AABP_b1ZAM-9htlq5TU_t-Xx4Sa?dl=0

**DHAFER AL SHEHRI**
Depersonalization

**ABDULNASSER GHAREM**
Obama: No More Tears

**AHAAD ALAMOUDI**
Auda

**AJLAN GHAREM**
Paradise has many gates

**SHAWEESH**
Evacuation of Al Faluja

**MANAL AL DOWAYAN**
Tree of Guardians

**NUGAMSHI**
Heaven’s Door

**AHMAD ANGAWI**
Street Pulse