



Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures
Fondation Euro-Méditerranéenne Anna Lindh pour le Dialogue entre les Cultures

مؤسسة أناليند الأورو-متوسطية للحوار بين الثقافات



REPORT ON THE THIRD EDITION OF THE EURO-MED AWARD FOR THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN CULTURES

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Introduction:

This document presents a report on the first three phases of the III edition of the Euro-Med Award for the Dialogue between Cultures (Euro-Med award). The next phase of the Award will be the awarding ceremony and the programme of the winner, which is being prepared now and will be shared with all the heads of network and will also be published online.

This year's edition of the Euro-Med Award is about **dialogue through arts**, in particular **visual arts** which includes the following disciplines: drawing, painting, photography, and sculpture.

The winner of the Euro-Med Award 2008 is **Rima Maroun** (Lebanese Photographer).

The five runners-up are (in descending order):

- **Abed Abdi**, (Palestinian Photographer)
- **Ramzi Harrabi** (Tunisian Painter, Poet, Singer)
- **Katja Schaefer** (German Artistic Director)
- **Marcel De Munnynck** (Belgian – Photography)
- **Atilla Durak** (Turkish Photographer)

OVERVIEW OF THE FIRST PHASE OF NOMINATION FOR THE EURO-MED AWARD 1 MAY – 10 JUNE 2008

The first phase of the Euro-Med Award is the nomination phase by the members of the national network.

Below is a detailed statistics of this phase:

- Number of applications received **before** the deadline: 44
- Number of applications received **after** the deadline: 3
- The total number of applications in **English**: 27
- The total number of applications in **French**: 14
- The total number of applications in **other languages**: 3
- The nominees are citizens from the following countries:
 - **Five** nominees from: Morocco – France
 - **Four** nominees from: Egypt
 - **Three** nominees from: Belgium – Lebanon – Tunisia
 - **Two** nominees from: Turkey – Italy – Israel – Austria
 - **One** nominee from: Palestine – Spain – Denmark – Poland – Netherlands – Greece – Algeria – Hungary – Jordan – Serbia – Slovenia – Germany – Syria
- **No nominees** from the following countries:
Bulgaria – Cyprus – Czech Republic – Estonia – Finland – Ireland – Latvia – Lithuania – Luxembourg – Malta – Portugal – Romania – Slovak Republic – Sweden – UK
- Number of members involved in the nomination: **40**
- **EIGHT** Nominations made by heads of network from: Denmark – Morocco – Belgium (2) – Germany – Turkey – Austria (2)

OVERVIEW OF THE SECOND PHASE OF SELECTION OF THE SIX FINALISTS OF THE EURO-MED AWARD 16 JUNE – 1 JULY

Phase II of the Euro-Med Award is the selection of the short-list finalists by the heads of network.

After the deadline of the online nomination for the Euro-Med Award on June 10th, the Network Coordination Unit team (Solera, Shaaban, Omera) made the first administrative screening of the received nominations (total 44) and have prepared a short list of the eligible candidates for the selection by the Heads of National Network from 16 June – 1 July through a dynamic and user-friendly online voting system.

The total number of heads of network who participated in the selection of the top five finalists is **27** which are the following: Cyprus – UK – Austria– Slovakia – Tunisia – Syria – Lebanon – Latvia – Italy – Germany – Belgium – Romania – Bulgaria – Hungary – Egypt – Jordan – Portugal – Morocco – Lithuania – Algeria – Czech Republic – Spain – Finland – Palestine – Poland – Malta – Greece.

The following countries expressed their disinterest in the selection of the five finalists: France and Israel because they “think they give a bad or false image of the ALF missions and objectives”. However, these countries were involved in the previous editions in the final selection of the winner.

The following countries did not participate in the selection (without giving reasons): Denmark – Estonia – Ireland – Luxembourg – Netherlands – Sweden – Slovenia – Turkey

The top six finalists are:

- (a) Attila Durak (Turkish) ----- 15 votes
- (b) Abed Abdi (Israeli/Palestinian) ----- 12 votes
- (c) Ramzi Harabi (Tunisian) ----- 12 votes
- (d) Katja Schaefer (German) ----- 11 votes
- (e) Marcel de Munnynck (Belgian) *ex aequo* Rima Maroun (Lebanese) ---- 8 votes

OVERVIEW OF THE THIRD PHASE OF SELECTION OF THE WINNER OF THE EURO-MED AWARD 17 – 27 JULY 08

The third phase of the Euro-Med Award is the voting for the winner of the Award.

For one week, the voting for the winner of the Euro-Med was published online on the homepage of the Anna Lindh Foundation website. It is the first time for the members of the national networks to be invited to choose and vote for the winner of the Euro-Med Award. During this week, three circular emails (on 17, 22, 24) were sent to the members of the national networks inviting them to participate in the voting process.

The total number of votes received: 189

- **Eligible** votes from members: 131 (7% of the total no. of nat. net. members)
- **Non-eligible** votes by non members: 57
- **Heads** of network voted: 22¹

N.B. no eligible votes came from the Luxembourg network.

Our **initial assessment** identifies the following reasons for the low participation of network members in the final election of the winner:

(a) the delay in the launch of the online voting for technical reasons. Therefore, the vote took place prior to summer and the holiday season.

(b) absence of network mobilization on the part of some heads of networks.

(c) the exposure to an innovative methodology which implies simultaneous electronic democratic consultation for the first time ever in the national networks history.

(d) the fact that some emails were not getting to the persons in charge of the ALF affairs but to direction offices.

The candidate who got the majority of votes within a national network, s/he was considered the candidate of this respective network.

- **Rima Maroun** has got the majority of votes in **16 countries**
- **Abed Abdi** has got the majority of votes in **10 countries**
- **Ramzi Harrabi** has got the majority of votes in **5 countries**
- **Katja Schaefer** has got the majority of votes in **4 countries**
- **Marcel De Munnynck** has got the majority of votes in **1 country**
- **Attila Durak** has got the majority of votes in **1 country**

¹ In some cases of equal votes, we had to resort to the heads of networks vote in phase II in order to decide who should be the candidate of this respective network.

ANNEX I: VOTES FOR EACH CANDIDATE PER COUNTRY

Rima Maroun (LEBANON)

Country	Members Votes	Country	Members Votes
Lebanon	<u>7</u>	Slovak Republic	<u>2</u>
Italy	<u>6</u>	Slovenia	<u>2</u>
Greece	<u>4</u>	Spain	<u>1</u>
Egypt	<u>3</u>	Turkey	<u>1</u>
Germany	<u>3</u>	Palestine	<u>1</u>
Finland	<u>2</u>	Romania	<u>1</u>
France	<u>2</u>	Morocco	<u>1</u>
Bulgaria	<u>2</u>	Latvia	<u>1</u>
Denmark	<u>2</u>	Ireland	<u>1</u>
Jordan	<u>2</u>	Estonia	<u>1</u>
Netherlands	<u>2</u>	Algeria	<u>1</u>

Abed Abdi (PALESTINE)

Country	Members Votes	Country	Members Votes
Palestine	<u>16</u>	Israel	<u>1</u>
Morocco	<u>4</u>	Algeria	<u>1</u>
Italy	<u>2</u>	Austria	<u>1</u>
Poland	<u>2</u>	Denmark	<u>1</u>
Bulgaria	<u>2</u>	Egypt	<u>1</u>
Cyprus	<u>2</u>	France	<u>1</u>
Czech Republic	<u>2</u>	Romania	<u>1</u>
Hungary	<u>2</u>	Spain	<u>1</u>
Ireland	<u>2</u>	Jordan	<u>1</u>
Malta	<u>2</u>	Lithuania	<u>1</u>
Sweden	<u>2</u>	Netherlands	<u>1</u>

Ramzi Harrabi (TUNISIA)

Country	Members Votes	Country	Members Votes
Italy	<u>25</u>	Jordan	<u>1</u>
Tunisia	<u>8</u>	Lebanon	<u>1</u>
France	<u>2</u>	Luxembourg	<u>1</u>
Spain	<u>2</u>	Morocco	<u>1</u>
Poland	<u>2</u>	Palestine	<u>1</u>
Portugal	<u>2</u>	Algeria	<u>1</u>
Romania	<u>1</u>	United Kingdom	<u>2</u>
Slovenia	<u>1</u>		

Katja Schaefer (GERMANY)

Country	Members Votes	Country	Members Votes
Greece	<u>3</u>	Turkey	<u>1</u>
Slovak Republic	<u>3</u>	Italy	<u>1</u>

Malta	<u>2</u>	Latvia	<u>1</u>
Germany	<u>2</u>	Cyprus	<u>1</u>
Poland	<u>1</u>	Denmark	<u>1</u>
Romania	<u>1</u>		

Marcel de Munnynck (BELGIUM)

Country	Members Votes	Country	Members Votes
Belgium	<u>4</u>	Sweden	<u>1</u>
Italy	<u>2</u>	Egypt	<u>1</u>
Palestine	<u>1</u>	Finland	<u>1</u>
Slovak Republic	<u>1</u>	Ireland	<u>1</u>

Attila Durak (TURKEY)

Country	Members Votes	Country	Members Votes
Turkey	<u>4</u>	Jordan	<u>1</u>
Bulgaria	<u>2</u>	Netherlands	<u>1</u>
Hungary	<u>2</u>	Tunisia	<u>1</u>
Italy	<u>1</u>		

ANNEX II: DISTRIBUTION OF VOTES FOR EACH CANDIDATE PER COUNTRY

The candidate which received the majority of the votes in this respective country

Country	Attila Durak	Abed Abdi	Ramzi Harrabi	Katja Schaefer	Marcel De Munnynck	Rima Maroun
Algeria		1	1			1 + HON
Austria		1				
Belgium					2 + HON	
Bulgaria	2 (not members)	2 (1 member)				1 + HON
Cyprus		2		1		
Czech Republic		1 + HON				
Denmark		1		1		2
Egypt		1			1 (HON)	3
Estonia						1
Finland					1	1 + HON
France		1	2 (not members)			2

Germany				2		2 + HON
Greece				3		4 + HON
Hungary	2	2 + HON				
Ireland		1 + HON			1	1
Israel		1				
Italy	1 (HON)	2	25 (not members)	1 (not member)	2	5
Jordan	1 (HON)	1	1			2
Latvia				HON		1
Lebanon			1 (not member)			7 (4 members + 1 HON)
Lithuania		1				
Luxembourg¹			1 (not member)			
Malta		1 (HON)		2		
Morocco		2 + HON	1			1 (not member)
Netherlands	1	1				2
Palestine		16 (5 not members + 2 repeated)	1 (not member)		1	1

¹ no eligible votes came from Luxembourg

Poland		1 + HON	2	1		
Portugal			2 (1 member)			
Romania		1 (HON)	1 (not member)	1		
Slovak Rep.				2 + 1 HON	1	2
Slovenia			1 (not member)			2
Spain		1	2 (not members)			1 + HON
Sweden		2			1 (HON)	
Syria			HON			
Tunisia	1		8 (only 2 members)			
Turkey	4			1 (not member)		1
United Kingdom			1 (not member) + HON			

ANNEX III: HIGHLIGHT ON THE WINNER OF THE THIRD EDITION OF THE EURO-MED AWARD FOR THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN CULTURES

Rima Maroun (Lebanon) - 01/10/1983:



I finished school in 2001, and started studying photography at the University Saint-Esprit in Kaslik. In 2005, I helped the artist Miha Vipotnik to set up a video-graphic and photographic installation in the centre of Beirut. Although my artistic involvement and reflection started at the beginning of my studies, it was only in 2006, when I finished university, that tangible projects were realised.

In April and May 2006, I wrote, staged and performed a play called *Min Wadi La Wadi*. The performances took place in the *Estral* theatre in Hamra Street, Beirut.

War broke out in June 2006. In September and October I started the photographic project *Murmures* and travelled to several villages in Southern Lebanon. I spent more time in the village of Quana, where I photographed the daily life of a family of survivors, after the burial of their close relatives.

In 2007, I founded the *kahraba* collective with Aurélien Zouki, Eric Deniau, and Camille Brunel. In March of the same year we created a children's play called *Arabiyetna*. We gave more than a hundred performances in different regions of Lebanon, in the South, the North, in villages, schools, towns etc... In October, I resumed taking photographs for the project *Murmures* in the South, and completed it. I exhibited the photographic project < Hala aged 24 > on the occasion of the international women's day, in partnership with the association Inn Concert.

In 2008 we gave *Arabiyetna* in Paris, and I exhibited *Mumures* in 'Le Réveil' café, boulevard Henri IV. Back in Lebanon in March I worked with the Italian NGO 'GVC' on photographic workshops in the Srifa region in Southern Lebanon. I worked on a new photographic project in the centre of Beirut and I showed my work *Murmures* in May... in Damascus, in the framework of the *Photographic Days of Damascus*.

Today, it seems to me that engaging in dialogue starts by the way we look at each other. *Murmures* aims at questioning us about that. The starting point of this work is a reflection on the choice of the perspective given or not to the audience.

Today we live in a country where cultural, religious, political and identity differences are the main cause of the war, be it internal or external. My artistic work stems from an unstable environment, where the words dialogue, sharing and tolerance become words on the lips of all politicians. And yet, the reality of Lebanon does not give the same picture.

If I try to create an artistic work it is because I am convinced that art calls for real *dialogue*, real *listening* and real *sharing*; that it is one of the rare places where people can meet their humane side. I am convinced that freedom starts through dialogue, where people start to listen to one another, and eventually manage to accept each other and their differences and similarities.

During the 2006 War, we were bombarded with pictures of a rare violence. These pictures deeply troubled our minds and were imposed upon us. I wondered "is a picture worth anything if the person looking at it cannot interact with what he or she sees?" *Murmures* is made up of 14 pictures. Each one shows a child photographed with his back to a wall. By not showing the look in the eyes of the children, I make the audience more responsible in view of the way it looks at these pictures, because it sees a reflection of itself. From there on, real dialogue can be installed, and the bodies of these children, through their games, poses and attitudes, go beyond violence to bring us a breath of life and freedom.

With the *karhaba* collective, our actions are directed towards different regions of Lebanon, and try to carry a message through art. Which one? That of listening, tolerance and dialogue.

Another project is *Hala aged 24*. Witnessing artistically the reality of Hala, who survived the massacre in Qana, is a way of admitting that the Other - different from me - lives and feels, and therefore is the beginning of the path towards dialogue.

By Rima Maroun