

Closer

With: Jananne Al-Ani Tony Chakar, Antoine D'Agata, Mona Hatoum, Emily Jacir, Jil Magid, Anri Sala, Lina Saneh, Lisa Steele, Akram Zaatari, and Cynthia Zaven.

January 16.09 – April 2.09
Opening: Thursday January 15

Beirut Art Center (BAC) has the pleasure to announce you to its opening with the inaugural exhibition: *Closer*

Beirut Art Center is a non-profit space and platform dedicated to contemporary arts in Lebanon. It is an independent building of 1 500 square meters located in an industrial zone of the city. Its aim is to produce, present and promote local and international contemporary art and cultural practices in Beirut throughout the year.

This unique and permanent public space in the country will make art accessible to a large and growing audience interested in the arts. Visitors will benefit from regular access to a contemporary art center that will present rich and diverse art practices.

Beirut Art Center includes, along with its exhibition space, an auditorium, a mediatheque and a bookshop. BAC will organize regular activities such as: lectures, concerts, performances, video screenings and workshops.

Beirut Art Center's opening exhibition *Closer*, features art works drawn from personal and intimate stories and which create a space to reflect on experiences both common and unique, familiar and without precedent, public and intensely private.

All of the works included in this exhibition have in common a defined starting point, from which narratives can take on various lives of their own. In initiating a process—whether it is switching on a camera before a relative without knowing where it would lead, or recording the passage of time through self-portraits taken over years—these art works create a field in which actions, ideas, and emotions may materialize unexpectedly, and even, accidentally.

Often, these works shake our notions of reality by fictionalizing intimate stories and/or situating the artists as the subject/object of the work itself.