

# Jalal Toufic

thinker and artist

His works has been shown at such venues as: Artists Space, New York; ICA, London; Witte de With, Rotterdam; Fundació Antoni Tàpies, Barcelona; Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Roskilde, Denmark; Nikolaj, Copenhagen Contemporary Art Center; and the 16th International Documentary Filmfestival Amsterdam (IDFA) in a “Focus Jalal Toufic” program. He has lectured at the U-TURN Quadrennial for Contemporary Art Copenhagen, 2008; taught at the University of California at Berkeley, California Institute of the Arts, USC, DasArts and Rijksakademie in Amsterdam, USEK in Lebanon, and he is currently a Professor at Kadir Has University in Istanbul.

<http://www.jalaltoufic.com>

His works include:

Videos: *Mother and Son; or, That Obscure Object of Desire (Scenes from an Anamorphic Double Feature)*, video, 41 minutes, 2006; *A Special Effect Termed “Time”*; or, *Filming Death at Work*, 32 minutes, 2005; *The Lamentations Series: The Ninth Night and Day*, 60 minutes, 2005; *Saving Face*, 8 minutes, 2003; *The Sleep of Reason: This Blood Spilled in My Veins*, 32 minutes, 2002; *‘Āshūrā’: This Blood Spilled in My Veins*, 2002; *Credits Included: A Video in Red and Green*, 46 minutes, 1995.

Mixed Media: *The Dual-Use Memorial*, 2007; *Mother and Son: A Tribute to Alexander Sokurov*, 2006; *This Is Not to Say that This Is Not the Case*, 2004; *I Am the Martyr Comrade Jamāl Sātī*, 2003.

Visual Art: *Minor Art: Conceptual Posters and Book Covers (aka Minor Art: Conceptual Film and Video Posters)*, 2000-present. Books: *Distracted* (1991; 2nd ed., 2003), *(Vampires): An Uneasy Essay on the Undead in Film* (1993; 2nd ed., 2003), *Over-Sensitivity* (1996), *Forthcoming* (2000), *Undying Love, or Love Dies* (2002), *Two or Three Things I’m Dying to Tell You* (2005), *‘Āshūrā’: This Blood Spilled in My Veins* (2005), *Undeserving Lebanon* (2007).

**Public presentations by  
Jalal Toufic in  
Copenhagen,**

# July-August 2009:

## ***The Lamentations Series: the Ninth Night and Day***

**Video Screening** followed by **SKYPE conversation**: Introduction to the video, answering questions, and reading by Jalal Toufic online from Istanbul.

***The Lamentations Series: the Ninth Night and Day***, video, 60 minutes, 2005.

Literaturhaus, Cinema  
Møllegade 8A,  
DK-2200 Copenhagen N  
[www.literaturhaus.dk](http://www.literaturhaus.dk)  
5 July 2009  
3 PM

## ***The Dancer's Two Bodies***

While watching a great dance film, I witnessed a dancer enter a painting. Taking into account that human bodies cannot do this, was that movement metaphorical or symbolic or oneiric? It was none of these. It struck me as a fact, an *aesthetic fact*. Consequently, since it happened and since normal human bodies cannot enter paintings, the question becomes: what kind of body is produced by dance and can do what I just witnessed, enter a painting? It is a subtle body with different characteristics than the physical one. In one sort of "dance," the dancer remains in the homogenous space and time where his or her physical body is—I consider this sort a form of theater or performance rather than dance. But another kind of dance projects a subtle dancer into a realm of altered movement, body, space and time specific to it. We will study the relation of dance, which connects directly what someone who is not dancing would consider and experience as non-contiguous space-times, to cinema, this medium of sudden "changes of place and focus" (Walter Benjamin); the freezing of dancers, which, as the genetic element of movement, is a condition of possibility for all sorts of extraordinary movements

(backward in time motion, slow motion ...); the fractional dimensions of the altered space of dance with its flat, often painted backdrops and its zones of spatial inexistence; and space-creation by the dancer.

Jalal Toufic

Recommended Reading:

- John Cage, *Silence*. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 1961.
- Gilles Deleuze, *Cinema 2: The Time-Image*, trans. Hugh Tomlinson and Robert Galeta (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1986), 60-64.
- Heinrich von Kleist, "On the Marionette Theatre," trans. Thomas G. Neumiller, *The Drama Review: TDR* 16, no. 3 (September 1972): 22-26.
- Jalal Toufic, *Forthcoming* (Berkeley, CA: Atelos, 2000), 194-209.

Recommended Films:

- Stanley Donen & Gene Kelly, *Singin' in the Rain* (1952).
- Vincente Minnelli, *An American in Paris* (1951); *The Band Wagon* (1953); excerpts from *Yolanda and the Thief* (1945).
- Excerpts from Charles Walters, *Easter Parade* (1948); *The Belle of New York* (1952).
- Maya Deren, *Meshes of the Afternoon* (1943); *At Land* (1944); *A Study in Choreography for Camera* (1945); *Ritual in Transfigured Time* (1946).
- Elliot Caplan/Merce Cunningham, *Points in Space* (1986).
- Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, *The Red Shoes* (1948); "Olympia" from *The Tales of Hoffmann* (1951).
- Carlos Saura's *Blood Wedding* (1980); *Carmen* (1983); *Love, the Magician* (1986).
- David Blair, *Giselle*, American Ballet Theater (with Carla Fracci and Erik Bruhn), 1969.
- Oleg Vinogradov, *Coppélia*, The Kirov Ballet, 1993.

**Overgaden,  
Institute for Contemporary Art**

Neden Vandet 17  
DK-1414 Copenhagen K

[www.overgaden.org](http://www.overgaden.org)

**4 & 5 August 2009  
both days 7-10 PM**

***Saving the Living Human's Face  
and Backing the Mortal***

**The Factory of Art and Design**

Sundholmsvej 46

DK-2300 Copenhagen S

[www.cphair.dk](http://www.cphair.dk)

**11 August 2009**

**7-10 PM**

***Two or Three Things  
I'm Dying to Tell You about  
"The Thousand and One Nights"***

**The Factory of Art and Design**

Sundholmsvej 46

DK-2300 Copenhagen S

[www.cphair.dk](http://www.cphair.dk)

**12 August 2009**

**7-10 PM**

**Video Screening, followed by talk:**

***Irruptions of the Real***

***Saving Face***, video, 8 minutes, 2003.

***The Sleep of Reason: This Blood Spilled in My Veins***, video, 32 minutes, 2002.

***Mother and Son; or, That Obscure Object of Desire (Scenes from an Anamorphic Double Feature)***,  
video, 41 minutes, 2006.

**Nikolaj,  
Copenhagen Center of Contemporary Art**

Nikolaj Plads 10

DK-1067 Copenhagen K

[www.kunsthallennikolaj.dk](http://www.kunsthallennikolaj.dk)

**16 August 2009**

**7-10 PM**

**Host for Jalal Toufic in Copenhagen**

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