

Manazir Journal, Vol. 7

Laura Hindelang, Bern

Defying the Violence: Lebanon's Visual Arts in the 1980s.

The Manazir Team is proud to announce the publication of Manazir Journal volume 7 (2025), titled "Defying the Violence: Lebanon's Visual Arts in the 1980s," edited by Nadia von Maltzahn (Orient-Institut Beirut).

This special issue delves into how Lebanon's civil war during the 1980s shaped the country's art world—a conflicted period during which artistic creation and exhibition practices have largely been overlooked. While conflict forced some exhibition spaces to close and artists to migrate, the 1980s also saw cultural infrastructures and artists adapting to the evolving context, and new spaces and art practices emerged.

The contributions address how the political, social and economic environment impacted everyday artistic production and reception. By challenging the conventional historical divide of pre-war "golden age", wartime collapse, and post-war renewal in the 1990s, this issue offers a nuanced rethinking of periodization. It situates artistic trajectories within broader social, political, and transnational currents, speaking to overarching questions that are relevant for art historical inquiry in a broader sense.

The issue features seven peer-reviewed research articles and two perspectives. Together, they shed new light on a neglected decade and offer fresh insights into Lebanon's visual arts that defied the violence.

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