

Jalal Toufic

Lectures, Seminars and Artist Talks

- “The Dancer’s Two Bodies,” Yale School of Art, Yale University, USA, March 1, 2018
- Lecture and Book Launch, followed by a conversation with artist Walid Raad, e-flux, New York, February 28, 2018
- A lecture, “The Crucified,” and a screening of my ‘*Āshūrā*’ video trilogy followed by a discussion with UC Berkeley Professor Stefania Pandolfo, “Illumination” conference, Johns Hopkins University, February 23, 2018
- “What Is the Sum of a Son and a Son—In a Dream?” Ashkal Alwan’s Home Workspace Program 2017–2018, Beirut, December 14, 2017.
- Lecture (“The Labyrinth”) and book launch for *What Was I Thinking?*, Vancouver Art Gallery, Canada, October 18, 2017
- “The Withdrawal of Tradition Past a Surpassing Disaster,” Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, October 17, 2007
- “The Dancer’s Two Bodies,” Scrivener’s Monthly Series, Western Front, Vancouver, October 12, 2017
- “The Auto-Mobility of the Inanimate in Dance,” seminar in the context of the module “Seeing Listening Writing Moving,” Ashkal Alwan’s Home Workspace Program 2016–2017, November 23, 2016
- “The Aura: An Approach; or, How Many Miracles Did Jesus Perform?” in the “Miracle Marathon,” Serpentine Sackler Gallery, London, October 8, 2016
- “Animate Assembly 4: Jalal Toufic, ‘Dance,’” Department of Art, Goldsmiths, University of London, October 6, 2016
- “Wall-to-Wall Relative Closures, then, Mysteriously, a Radical Closure,” Keynote Speech, 3rd Fast Forward Festival, co-organized with the Athens Biennale, Onassis Cultural Centre, Athens, May 27, 2016
- “Middle Eastern Films *Before Thy Gaze Returns to Thee*—in Less than 1/24 of a Second,” Keynote Speech in “Abstraction Unframed,” the Fourth Annual Conference of the Association for Modern and Contemporary Art of the Arab World, Turkey and Iran (AMCA) in partnership with Barjeel Art Foundation and NYU Abu Dhabi, May 22, 2016
- “A Hitherto Unrecognized Apocalyptic Photographer: The Universe,” Sursock Museum, Beirut, May 5, 2016
- “Don’t Go to Hell for the Sake of Finishing Watching the Film,” in the international colloquium “The irRESPONSABILITY of the Artist,” École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts (ENSBA) de Paris, April 27, 2016
- “The Aura: An Approach,” in the conference “Wounded Places, On the Integrity of the Body,” Ashkal Alwan, Beirut, February 28, 2016
- “Doing Away with the Nostalgia for Evil for Good,” 1st PARSE Biennial Research Conference, Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, November 5, 2015
- “An Outstanding—and Still Crazy—Task: Transforming Ourselves into Gods,” *Transformation Marathon*, Serpentine Gallery, London, 18 October 2015: <http://radio.serpentinegalleries.org/#/tracks/an-outstanding-and-still-crazy-task-transforming-ourselves-into-gods>
- Boiler Room Lecture: Jalal Toufic, “Which Is the More Difficult in the Christian Era: to Resurrect or to Bury?” Monash University Museum of Art (MUMA), Melbourne, August 11, 2015: <https://soundcloud.com/mumamonash/jalal-toufic-which-is-the-more-difficult-in-the-christian-era-to-resurrect-or-to-bury-1-2>
- “Middle Eastern Films *Before Thy Gaze Returns to Thee*—in Less than 1/24 of a Second,” The Anis K. Makdisi Program in Literature, American University of Beirut, February 24, 2015
- “Which Is the More Difficult in the Christian Era: to Resurrect or to Bury?” Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, February 14, 2015

- “The Dancer’s Two Bodies,” in “Reports to an Academy,” in the first “Pluriversale” biannual, the Academy of the Arts of the World (Akademie der Künste der Welt), Cologne, Germany, October 19, 2014
- “The Withdrawal of Tradition Past a Surpassing Disaster,” in “Tradition (Un)Realized,” Arko Art Center, Seoul, September 26, 2014
- “Creating and Dispersing Universes Again and Again,” the Lebanese Association for Plastic Arts Ashkal Alwan’s Home Workspace Program, July 15, 2014
- “A Hitherto Unrecognized Apocalyptic Photographer: The Universe,” 8th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art, Crash Pad, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, June 4, 2014
- Five keynote lectures for the five chapters of the third edition of Lebanese Association for Plastic Arts Ashkal Alwan’s Home Workspace Program: “Creating and Dispersing Universes (that Work without Working at Singularities),” November 7, 2013; “Creating and Dispersing Universes that Include Fiction/Artworks,” January 7, 2014; “Creating and Dispersing Universes that Include Dancers,” February 25, 2014; “Creating and Dispersing Universes that Include Ruins,” April 15, 2014; “Creating Universes that Include Will and/or Resurrection,” June 10, Beirut
- “The Aura: An Approach,” in “Practicing Philosophy in Lebanon: Texts, Trends, Traditions,” American University of Beirut, November 21, 2013
- “*Dé-position*: Research on the Body’s Agency,” Dance Congress 2013, Düsseldorf, June 7–8, 2013
- “*Every Name in History is I*,” CDA Projects, Istanbul, April 19, 2013
- “Don’t Go to Hell for the Sake of Finishing Watching the Film,” in the symposium “A Bewitched System: The Exorcising Role of Images,” CA2M Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo, Spain, June 20, 2012.
- “Dying Before Dying; or, Living to Tell the Tale,” in “Staging Knowledge,” CICA (Changing Identities and Contexts in the Arts) and SALT, Galata, Istanbul, June 15, 2012.
- “I Have Something to Say (Silence-over) and I Am Saying it (Thanks to Music-over) and that Is Poetry,” the Leslie Scalapino Memorial Lecture in Innovative Poetics, Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics’ Summer Writing Program, Naropa University, Boulder, USA, June 14, 2012.
- “I Have Something to Say (Silence-over) and I Am Saying it (Thanks to Music-over) and that Is Poetry,” the Leslie Scalapino Memorial Lecture in Innovative Poetics, Small Press Traffic, California College of the Arts, San Francisco, June 10, 2012.
- Artist Talk, Gallery 400, University of Illinois at Chicago, April 23, 2012.
- Book launch of *What Were You Thinking?*, followed by the lecture “The Aura: An Approach,” followed by a conversation with Hito Steyerl, Daadgalerie, Berlin, January 27, 2012.
- “Which Is the More Difficult in the Christian Era: to Resurrect or to Bury?” Oslo National Academy of the Arts, January 10, 2012
- “Future Image: James Elkins and Jalal Toufic,” in “Facing Forward: Art & Theory from a Future Perspective,” Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, December 14, 2011.
- “The Dancer’s Two Bodies,” Inter-University Centre for Dance Berlin (HZT [Hochschulübergreifendes Zentrum Tanz]), UdK Berlin/Hochschule für Schauspielkunst “Ernst Busch,” November 22, 2011.
- Keynote lecture, SHARE #1 Conference, the European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA) in collaboration with the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts (KUVA), Helsinki, November 4, 2011.
- “The Withdrawal of Tradition Past a Surpassing Disaster,” Städelschule, Staatliche Hochschule für Bildende Künste, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, October 25, 2011.
- “The Withdrawal of Tradition Past a Surpassing Disaster,” Kunsthalle Zürich, Switzerland, October 16, 2011.
- “Don’t Go to Hell for the Sake of Finishing Watching the Film,” in “CalArts Plays Itself,” PACT Zollverein-CalArts, Germany, September 30, 2011.

- “In Absentia: A Conversation between Walid Raad and Jalal Toufic,” Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary, Vienna, Austria, May 27, 2011.
- “Radical Closure,” Daadgalerie, Berlin, May 14 and 21, 2011.
- “Saving the Living Human’s Face and Backing the Mortal” (keynote lecture), “New Directions in Turkish Film Studies conference XII: Cinema and Philosophy,” Kadir Has University, Istanbul, May 5, 2011.
- “« Dans » le labyrinthe” (“in” the labyrinth), conversation with Walid Raad (accompanied by Omar Berrada), the Louvre, Paris, March 25, 2011.
- « Something you should know : artistes et producteurs aujourd’hui, » seminar organized by Patricia Falguières, Elisabeth Lebovici, Natasa Petresin and Hans-Ulrich Obrist, EHESS (École des hautes études en sciences sociales), Paris, March 23, 2011.
- “Untimely Collaboration,” with the participation of Walid Raad and Omar Berrada, Sharjah Biennial 10 (“Plot for a Biennial”), March 19, 2011.
- “The Dancer’s Two Bodies,” Merz Akademie, Stuttgart, Germany, January 18, 2011.
- “The Dancer’s Two Bodies,” Tanzquartier Wien, Vienna, November 19, 2010.
- “Two or Three Things I’m Dying to Tell You about *The Thousand and One Nights*,” Big Ideas series, Whitechapel Gallery, London, October 21, 2010.
- “Which Is the More Difficult in the Christian Era: to Resurrect or to Bury?” Beirut Art Center, August 16, 2010.
- “Walid Raad & Jalal Toufic: Entrevue,” in “Alles anders? Everything Different?” Wiener Festwochen, Kunsthalle Wien project space Karlsplatz, Vienna, June 12, 2010.
- “Mortal Courage: No(-thing Doing) Turning Back,” in the symposium “COURAGE!!!” IKT (International Association of Curators of Contemporary Art) Congress 2010, co-organized by the Athens Biennale, Benaki Museum, Athens, May 15, 2010.
- “Don’t Go to Hell for the Sake of Finishing Watching the Film,” in “Home Works V: A Forum on Cultural Practices,” The Lebanese Association for Plastic Arts Ashkal Alwan, Beirut, Lebanon, April 27, 2010.
- “The Dancer’s Two Bodies,” DEPO, Istanbul, March 29–31, 2010.
- Jalal Toufic and Fouad Khoury, “*Les Exilocrates : artistes et exil intellectuel / 3, Images/Théorie/Pratique*,” Jeu de Paume, Paris, February 12, 2010.
- “The Dancer’s Two Bodies,” followed by a conversation with Eduardo Cadava, Slought Foundation (with support from the Cinema Studies Program at the University of Pennsylvania), Philadelphia, February 5, 2010.
- “The Withdrawal of Tradition Past a Surpassing Disaster,” Program in Media and Modernity, Princeton University, February 4, 2010.
- “Two or Three Things I’m Dying to Tell You about *The Thousand and One Nights*,” Poetry Project, New York, February 3, 2010.
- “The Withdrawal of Tradition Past a Surpassing Disaster,” in the symposium “*Catastrophe ? Quelle catastrophe ! We All Live in a Catastrophic World!*” (Catastrophe? What a Catastrophe! We All Live in a Catastrophic World!), Manif d’art 5, the biennale of Québec, January 23, 2010.
- “Saving Face,” in “Blown Up! In Search of Deleuze’s Students,” Mains d’Œuvres, France, December 13, 2009.
- “Untimely Collaboration,” in “Three Uses of the Knife,” co-organized by the Contemporary Art Centre (CAC), the Lithuanian web-based contemporary art magazine www.artnews.lt and the Information Centre of the National Gallery of Art (IC NGA), November 6, 2009.
- “Conversation: David Riff and Jalal Toufic,” in “1st Former West Congress,” BAK, basis voor actuele kunst, Utrecht, November 6, 2009.
- “Two or Three Things I’m Dying to Tell You about *The Thousand and One Nights*,” in “Indicated by Signs,” Beirut Art Center, September 23, 2009.

- “Saving the Living Human’s Face and Backing the Mortal” and “Two or Three Things I’m Dying to Tell You about *The Thousand and One Nights*,” Fabrikken for Kunst og Design (Factory for Art and Design), Copenhagen, August 11 and 12, 2009.
- “The Dancer’s Two Bodies,” Overgaden Institute of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, August 4–5, 2009.
- “The Withdrawal of Tradition Past a Surpassing Disaster,” Bonner Kunstverein, Germany, July 21, 2009.
- “The Withdrawal of Tradition Past a Surpassing Disaster,” Fondazione Antonio Ratti, Como, Italy, July 9, 2009.
- “Ruins” and “Transit Visa to the Labyrinth!” in “Thinking: The Ruin,” Istanbul Studies Center, Kadir Has University, Istanbul, May 27 and 28, 2009.
- “The Withdrawal of Tradition Past a Surpassing Disaster,” in “Indicated by Signs,” the Contemporary Image Collective (CIC), Cairo, April 30, 2009.
- “Don’t Go to Hell for the Sake of Finishing Watching the Film,” Program in Cultural Management Thursday Talks, SantralIstanbul, Istanbul Bilgi University, April 16, 2009.
- Visiting Artist lecture, Department of Visual Arts, Franke Institute, University of Chicago, February 17, 2009: <http://lucian.uchicago.edu/blogs/opc/video/>
- Artist Talk, ZKM | Museum of Contemporary Art, Karlsruhe, Germany, January 11, 2009.
- “The Withdrawal of Tradition Past a Surpassing Disaster,” co-taught with Walid Raad, Night School Public Seminar 10, New Museum, New York, December 4–6, 2008.
- “Now? Walid Raad + Jalal Toufic in Conversation with Mohsen Mostafavi,” The Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, December 1, 2008.
- “Don’t Go to Hell for the Sake of Finishing Watching the Film,” in “Manifesto Marathon, Manifestos for the 21st Century,” Serpentine Gallery (my text was read by Hans Ulrich Obrist), October 18–19, 2008.
- “Untimely Collaboration,” co-taught with Walid Raad, in “Prognoses on Movement(s): Ten Future-Scenarios,” a project organized by the Zentrum für Bewegungsforschung at the Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies Department of the Berlin Free University, in cooperation with Hebbel Am Ufer (HAU) theatre, Hebbel Theater am UferBerlin, June 6–7, 2008.
- “The Withdrawal of Tradition Past a Surpassing Disaster,” Darat al Funun, Amman, Jordan, May 20, 2008.
- “Am I in a Film?” in “New Directions in Turkish Film Studies Conference IX: Cinema and Reality,” Kadir Has University, Turkey, May 2, 2008.
- “*You Said ‘Stay,’ So I Stayed*,” Akbank Art Center, Istanbul, March 31 and April 1, 2008.
- “Two or Three Things I’m Dying to Tell You about *The Thousand and One Nights*,” Piet Zwart Institute, Rotterdam, Netherlands, November 26, 2007.
- “*A Thousand and One Nights* After the Surpassing Disaster; or, An Arab Should Watch the Movie First (Pasolini’s *Arabian Nights*) then, One Day, Read the Book,” in “On Cultural Translation,” U-Turn Quadrennial for Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark, November 24, 2007.
- “The Withdrawal of Tradition Past a Surpassing Disaster,” Platform Garanti Contemporary Art Center, Istanbul, Turkey, September 8, 2007.
- “Saving the Living Human’s Face and Backing the Mortal,” United Nations Plaza, Berlin, Germany, February 12, 2007.
- “Untimely Collaborators,” in “Thinking the Future: Art, Design and Creativity,” the 2006 ACUADS (Australian Council of University Art and Design Schools) Conference, co-hosted by the Faculty of Art and Design at Monash University and the School of Art at the Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne, Australia, September 29, 2006

- “Saving the Living Human’s Face and Backing the Mortal,” School of Art History, Cinema, Classics & Archaeology (AHCCA), University of Melbourne, Australia, September 27, 2006.
- “The Withdrawal of Tradition Past a Surpassing Disaster,” inaugural lecture of “Pressure Points: Arabic Perspectives on Tradition and the City,” organized by the Writing and Society Research Group of the University of Western Sydney and Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Blacktown Arts Center, Australia, September 23, 2006.
- “Saving the Living Human’s Face and Backing the Mortal,” Artspace, Sydney, September 21, 2006.
- “Untimely Collaborators,” in “TransPractice and Collaborations,” Biennale of Sydney 2006, August 12, 2006 (the text was read by artist Mireille Astore since I could not leave Beirut as a result of the Israeli air, sea and land blockade of Lebanon during that country’s most recent war on Lebanon [July 12–August 14, 2006]).
- “Saving the Living Human’s Face and Backing the Mortal,” Modern Art Oxford, Oxford, England, May 16, 2006.
- Panelist in “Biennial as School at The Cooper Union,” organized by the School of Art at The Cooper Union in cooperation with the Department 2 of Manifesta 6 School, New York, April 28, 2006.
- “Saving the Living Human’s Face and Backing the Mortal,” Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel, Germany, April 12, 2006.
- “Saving the Living Human’s Face and Backing the Mortal,” School of the Art Institute of Chicago, March 15, 2006.
- Artist’s Talk with Anne Maier, Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel, Germany, April 11, 2006.
- Panelist in “The Art School in Context: at Home and Abroad,” part of “Manifesta Coffee Break: Art Education,” Nicosia, Cyprus, January 21, 2006.
- “‘Āshūrā’: A Condition of Possibility of an Unconditional Promise” and “Saving the Living Human’s Face and Backing the Mortal,” Insa Art Space of Arts Council Korea, Seoul, South Korea, December 12, 2005.
- “Saving the Living Human’s Face and Backing the Mortal,” Platform Garanti Contemporary Art Center, Istanbul, March 12, 2005.
- “Saving the Living Human’s Face and Backing the Mortal,” California College of the Arts, cosponsored by Small Press Traffic Literary Arts Center and the Visual Criticism Program at CCA, December 2, 2004.
- “Saving the Living Human’s Face and Backing the Mortal,” Brown University, cosponsored by the departments of Modern Culture and Media, Theatre, Speech and Dance, and Literary Arts, November 29, 2004.
- “Saving the Living Human’s Face and Backing the Mortal” and “The Withdrawal of Tradition Past a Surpassing Disaster,” inaugural lectures at “Flicker at Buffalo: Correspondences in New Media, Film, and Poetry,” State University of New York at Buffalo, November 17 and 18, 2004.
- “Saving the Living Human’s Face and Backing the Mortal,” Center for Behavioral Research, American University of Beirut, October 25, 2004.
- “Saving the Living Human’s Face and Backing the Mortal,” Akademie der Bildenden Künste (Academy of Fine Arts), Munich, June 24, 2004.
- “Backing Mortals’ Proper Names,” part of *Irruptions of the Real: 2 Videos and 1 Lecture by Jalal Toufic*, in “DisORIENTation: Contemporary Arab Artistic Practices from the Middle East,” House of World Cultures, Berlin, April 12, 2003.
- Panelist in “Politics and Aesthetics—the Political Context for Artists and Art Production,” part of the symposium “Creativity, Crisis and Critics—Art Production in the Arab World,” in “DisORIENTation: Contemporary Arab Artistic Practices from the Middle East,” House of World Cultures, Berlin, April 5, 2003.
- “Artist Talk: Jalal Toufic,” BüroFriedrich, Berlin, December 7, 2002.

- “Discussion between Paul Perry and Jalal Toufic,” Witte de With, Rotterdam, October 29, 2002.
- “‘Āshūrā’: A Condition of Possibility of an Unconditional Promise,” in “Home Works, A Forum on Cultural Practices with participants from Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria,” The Lebanese Association for Plastic Arts Ashkal Alwan, Madina Theatre, Beirut, Lebanon, April 3, 2002.
- “Backing Mortals’ Proper Names,” Klein Yalta 101, DasArts, the Netherlands, November 2, 2001.
- “Forthcoming,” in “Contemporary Arab Representations,” International University of Andalusia, Seville, Spain, October 24, 2001.
- Panelist in “Photography and Memory,” Musée Nicolas Sursock, Beirut, June 25, 2001.
- “Backing Mortals’ Proper Names,” Department of Architecture and Graphic Design, American University of Beirut, May 9, 2001.
- Panelist, “In Need of the Other Identity,” Malmö University, Sweden, September 21, 2000.
- “The Withdrawal of Tradition Past a Surpassing Disaster,” Department of Theatre and Film Studies, University of Canterbury, New Zealand, July 26, 2000.
- “Kneeling Angel with Mountainous Wings,” in “Kahlil Gibran: Horizons of the Painter,” Musée Nicolas Sursock, January 27, 2000.
- Visiting Artist, Film Department, California College of Arts and Crafts, March 25, 1999.
- Roundtable discussion with John Baldessari, Dick Hebdige, David Bunn, and Mary Ellen Solt, in conjunction with the exhibition “Text,” California Institute of the Arts, April 15, 1998.
- “Radical Closure,” Department of Theatre and Film Studies, University of Canterbury, New Zealand, April 2, 1998.
- Panelist (with Etel Adnan and Ibrahim Muhawi; moderator: Ammiel Alcalay), “From *al-Mashriq* to San Francisco: Arab Writers of the Bay Area,” 7th Annual San Francisco Bay Area Book Festival, November 2, 1996.
- “The Withdrawal of Tradition Past a Surpassing Disaster,” Critical Arts Forum, California Institute of the Arts, October 22, 1996.
- Guest Lecturer, “Immobilization in Undeath, Trance, and Dance: Landscapes of People,” Film Department, California College of Arts and Crafts, October 16, 1996.
- “Reality as Filmic in Vampire Films,” Art Department, University of California at Davis, January 20, 1996.
- Reading (with Lebanese writer and painter Etel Adnan), New Langton Arts, San Francisco, February 2, 1995.