

And in Breathing

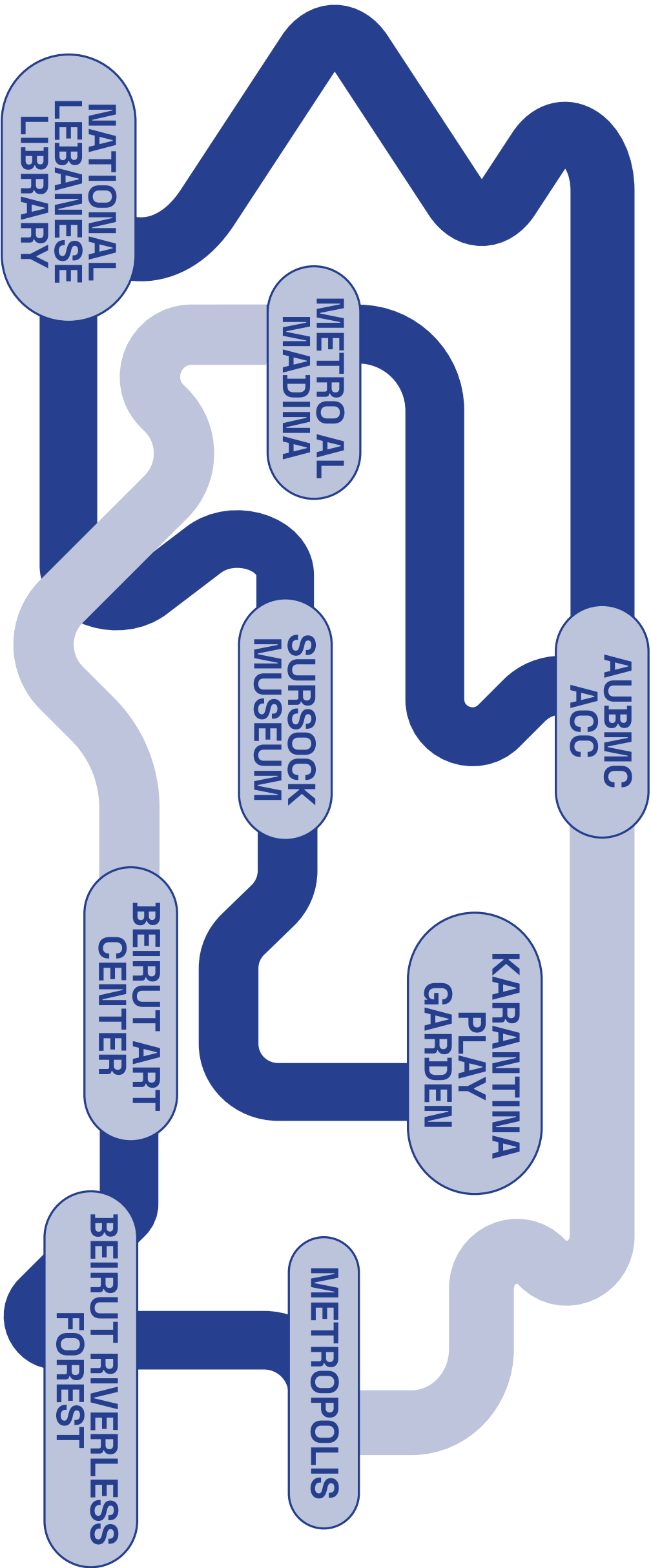
We Resist.

ART
EXPLORA
FESTIVAL

×



* excerpt from Birago Diop's poem *Breaths*



often to things rather than beings / hear the fire's voice / hear the voice of water / in the wind hear the sobbing of the trees / it is our forefathers breathing

* / the dead are not gone forever / they are in the pale shadows / and in the darkening shadows / the dead are not beneath the ground // listen more c

BREATH IS TIDE

BEIRUT
22 > 25 | 05 | 25

We Breathe,

Together,

FOREWORD

Breath is the starting point, the first and most universal phenomenon of the living. This theme emerges from the literal suffocations / asphyxiations of recent years, and the overlapping health, social, political, and environmental crises that have compromised our ability to breathe.

Breath is Tide is a declaration: we breathe, and in breathing together, we resist. It is a reminder to breathe in breathlessness. Through Genocide and Ecocide. We remember the burning in our throats, the thick white fog of tear gas during Thawra, our voices cracking, breathless, against riot shields. We remember the conscious rhythm of our breath behind sweating masks during COVID-19. **Breath**, that most intimate and instinctive act, is a battleground. Family members have lost their lives to lung cancer. The hum of generators has choked our nights. The nitrate, the bombs, the fumes, the rubble. The air is poisoned in a city that devours itself. Nitrate. We smuggled N95 masks, then Nasonex. The economic, financial, health, and emotional collapse. **We can’t breathe.** Yet we gather and in our gatherings we conspire. If we can’t breathe, we will sing. If we can’t sing, we will hum.

Fugitivity remains our context-responsive force. Sailing, like breath, has its own tide. We learned the sea is both a route and a grave. As we await the Art Explora Festival museum-boat, we emphasize the critical role of art and culture as vital breathing spaces and underscores the urgent need to bring them into the public realm, reclaiming the commons and affirming, as a first right, our right to breathe in the city.

A decade of reclaiming the commons. A decade of collective inhalations and exhalations. Of curating as care-taking.

Amanda Abi Khalil — TAP

Thursday 22/05/25

BEIRUT ART CENTER

12pm - 11pm — on loop

Ahmad Ghossein — *Service Servissen: One Ride, Two Ride. Perhaps Words Ease the Burden* (2025) - سرفيس، سرفيسين، عل الكلام يزيل التعب
Participatory durational performance
Live streamed online and at the Beirut Art Center (New Commission)

In Lebanon, a service taxi is where you feel the pulse and breath of the city. In this temporary space, people's stories unfold in full. These rides become fleeting yet profound exchanges between strangers. Conversations often begin with complaints about the state of the country, corruption, and nostalgia for the past—and end with deeply personal stories: financial struggles, health issues, or pride in children educated through years of hard labor behind the wheel. It's no surprise, then, that taxis have inspired so much literature, theatre, and film.

My father, a taxi driver, left the wheel worn out after the pandemic and the economic crisis. He retired in his village, despite having no social protection. For a long time, I was haunted by the idea of driving his car, of becoming the taxi driver myself, sitting behind the wheel for hours, picking up strangers, and listening to their passing stories. After the last war, I found that talking to others gave me strength. Sharing intense stories offered a strange comfort, a kind of healing through shared experience.

Ahmad Ghossein is a filmmaker and artist exploring personal and political narratives through film and performance based in Beirut.

 Showing also on 23-24/05 from 12-7pm
Scan to see the livestream on TAP's YouTube channel

Video Program — BAC Auditorium
Showing also on 23-24/05 from 12-7pm

Zeina Aboul Hosn — *Jezzine // Water* (2017), 30'54"

This film accompanied one of TAP's rural artist residencies in the town of Jezzine (South Lebanon), which took place in May 2017. It hosted six visual artists for a month-long immersion in the Jezzine community, experimenting with site-specific interventions, participatory workshops, and practices of "living together". Taking a breath outside the city, contemporary practices intertwined with water as a central theme.

Zeina Aboul Hosn is a documentary filmmaker, film editor and ceramist, based in Beirut.

Gian Spina — *On Bandits* (2024). 48'38"

"Bank robbery is an initiative of amateurs. True professionals establish a bank"—Bertolt Brecht

Through interviews with depositors Sally Hafiz, Bassam El-Sheikh, and Abdallah El-Saii, as well as critical theorist Nadia Bou Ali—combined with archival images and TV footage—the film attempts to make sense of the asphyxiating situation Lebanon faced in 2022, a year when the full-blown economic crisis pushed the country to the brink.

Gian Spina is a writer, researcher, and visual artist born in São Paulo, Brazil.

Chérine Yazbeck — *Our Mediterranean Sea* (2024). 8'33"

Riad, 55, is a fisherman who lives in north Lebanon, near the Syrian border. A passionate lover of the Mediterranean Sea, a nurturing sea that has always been generous to him and his family. For decades, the waves have shaped his daily life.

Chérine Yazbeck is a Lebanese filmmaker and photojournalist, based in Beirut.

4pm - 5pm 🌊

Breathless with Sally
Workout

A space to move together and breathe hard.

Sally Kassab is a trainer, a mother, and the owner of a gym that was destroyed in the last war.

5pm - 7pm

Annabel Daou — *I Will Worry For you (as the night falls)* |4th iteration
Participatory Durational Performance, silent

The artist invites people to give her a worry, which she focuses on during a ten-minute time slot. She reads each person's worry silently and holds it in focus until she feels it has been fully received. Her intention is not to analyze, solve, or even fully understand the concern. Instead, she offers presence—holding each worry in quiet solidarity.

My sense was that I didn't need to understand or empathize with the personal concerns shared by friends and strangers alike. I simply had to carry their burden with them for a moment, and invite them to unshoulder it—just for a little while.

Annabel Daou is a visual artist born and raised in Beirut and lives in New York.

7pm - 8:30pm

Where Breath Meets Resistance
Conversation

Conversation between Adib Dada (environmental activist, theOtherDada), Carolina Jiménez (curator, Hangar, Barcelona) and David Markus (interdisciplinary writer and educator, NYU)
Keynote by Amanda Abi Khalil (TAP founder)

How we create space to breathe, in cities, and thought. A conversation based on sharing stories and practices shaped by resistance, repair, and solidarity. Together, we hold space for collective presence in the face of exhaustion.

8:30pm

Annabel Daou —
Possibilities of repair
Book Signing / Launch

The book provides an overview of the artist's work from the last two decades of her practice, including seminal commissioned works by TAP.

9pm 🌊

Yara Boustany — *Plastispheres* (2024)
Dance Performance

Plastispheres opens spaces for raw existence, invoking ancestral dances to reconnect with the primal body. The term "plastisphere" refers to human-made ecosystems where life clings to and thrives on plastic debris. These floating remnants serve as unexpected vessels, carrying microorganisms to new, uninhabitable places. In this strange resilience, a poetic analogy emerges, drawing imaginary maps for humanity to explore uncharted territories.

Performed by Alexandre Habre, Aymeric Lorthiois and Fernando Nogueira.
Sound Design by Giorgos Gargalas.

Yara Boustany is a Lebanese multidisciplinary artist, choreographer, performer, and artistic researcher born in Gbелеh, Lebanon. She is the founder of Amalgam Studio Beirut.

The space features *The Interval Of Sleep And Unrest*, (2023) a billboard by artist Nathalie Harb which was commissioned by TAP as part of *In the Blink of An Eye*, a series of commissions on billboards in Beirut curated by Jad Karam and Nour Osseiran.

For its tenth anniversary, TAP invited Bloc Sfinj to design semi-permanent, modular seating that reflects the versatility of our sites and the collective gatherings at the core of our methodology.

Friday 23/05/25

NICOLAS SURSOCK MUSEUM

3pm - 6pm

Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige — *Index of Sighs*
Participatory contribution to the exhibition

As part of their ongoing artistic project, Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige invite the public to contribute to *Index of Sighs*, a sound-based installation that reflects on the expressive power of the sigh that will later culminate in a dedicated *Room of Sighs* and a live concert performance. When words fall short and dialogue reaches its limits, the sigh emerges—a fleeting yet profound

gesture that conveys what language cannot. Drawing inspiration from the song *al-Atfal* (The Ruins), famously performed by Umm Kulthum, the artists explore the sigh as a poetic and political act—a subtle yet resonant expression of loss, resistance, and presence.

Filmmakers and artists Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige work between photography, installations, video, and cinema, questioning storytelling, the fabrication of images and representations, the construction of imaginaries and the writing of history.

LEBANESE NATIONAL LIBRARY

6pm - 7pm

Raed Yassin — *Canary in a Coal Mine* (2025)
Participatory performance (New Commission)

Composed for multiple performers, *Canary in a Coal Mine* explores the notion of danger and instability in uncertain times. The work invites performers to find their sense of collectivity and togetherness through the processes of healing and closeness while acting together in a single space. The expression 'Canary in a coal mine' literally refers to the element of danger where one least expects it.

Raed Yassin is a Lebanese artist and musician.

METROPOLIS

8pm - 9pm

Breath Is Tide - Video Program
Screening

Check our Instagram for announcement

Places are limited - First come first seated

Saturday
24/05/25

AUBMC - ACC
(LOBBY)

10am

What can art do in hospitals?
Panel conversation

A conversation on the premises of this pioneering project—fostering collaborations between artists, medical practitioners, and patients within a healthcare space where breath is measured, monitored, and fought for—featuring the curators, participating artists, and Dr. Joelle Abi Rached.

Joelle Abi-Rached is Associate Professor of Medicine at the American University of Beirut. Founding Director of a Program on Medical History, Ethics & Politics. Her research focuses on the politics of life, health, and wealth.

10am - 1pm

Public Health
Opening reception

Unveiling of public art commissions by artists Tamara Al-Samerraei, Catherine Cattaruzza, Hatem Imam, Lara Tabet, and artist duos Rayya and Zeina Badran, and Nadim Mishlawi and Sharif Sehnaoui.

KARANTINA PLAY GARDEN

4pm - 5pm 🌊

Ghida Hachicho with LIGNA, Alejandro Ahmed and Eisa Jocson —
A Room Without Walls
Participatory Performance - For children aged 8-12, parents are welcome to join.

Where can children from all over the world come together—beyond borders and across distances?
This immersive radioballet was created by children from Frankfurt, São Paulo, Beirut, and La Union in the Philippines. Together, they imagine and build a shared space that anyone can enter—no matter where they are. Through voice messages, soundscapes, and choreography, the children invite the audience on a journey through headphones—from the places where the project was created, to hidden, adventurous passages that unfold through movement and sound.

Language: Lebanese Arabic
Places are limited - For registration: together@temporaryartplatform.com

Choreography: Ghida Hachicho (Lebanon), Alejandro Ahmed (Brazil), Eisa Jocson (Philippine), Sound design: Charlotte Simon (Frankfurt) Dramaturgy: Anna Wagner (Frankfurt), Production Management: Marijan Randak (Frankfurt), Production Management: Nassim Banna (Lebanon), Sound technician: Omar Itani (Lebanon), Translation: Sasseen Kawzali (Lebanon), Movement

facilitator: Nivine Kallas (Lebanon)

METRO AL MADINA

8:30pm - 9:30pm

Rehearsing with Shaharazade, Ahmad Ghossein (2022). 19'44"
Video

Commissioned by TAP for the 2022 exhibition project on hospitality and guest-host relations *A Casa é Sua* in Rio de Janeiro, this video by Ahmad Ghossein explores belly dance as a vehicle of cultural integration for the Arab community in Brazil. It traces its popularization by Shahrazad Shahid Sarqi and examines guest-host dynamics, gender, and class. The work follows a workshop led by Naima Yazbek in Complexo da Maré, capturing the physical and symbolic effort of adaptation.

Ahmad Ghossein is a Beirut-based filmmaker and artist working with personal and political narratives.

9:30pm

GHADR, Chamoun/Sahyoun/Atoui
Concert

Ghadr is the debut release by Chamoun/Sahyoun/Atoui, built on group improvisation. Layers of coruscating electronics and distortion blend with vocals rooted in classical Arabic singing, yet diverging from tradition. The album's title roughly translates to *Treachery*. The trio describes their process as tapping into the subconscious, beyond daily realities. "When we play, there's a rhythm between us—we feel each other sway."

Sandy Chamoun, Anthony Sahyoun and Jad Atoui (Chamoun/Sahyoun/Atoui) is a Beirut-based trio blending experimental electronics, distorted guitar, and vocals rooted in classical Arabic music.

10:30pm

Kaf Afrit, PRAED
Concert

The band explores Arabic popular music ("Shaabi") and its links to psychedelic and trance-inducing genres worldwide. Their research revealed deep connections between "Shaabi" and "Mouled" music from religious trance rituals. The hypnotic, psychedelic quality of these sounds also drew parallels with global genres like free jazz and psychedelic rock.

The band's core members are Raed Yassin (keyboards, laptop, electronics, vocals) and Paed Conca (clarinet, electric bass, electronics).

Later...

TAP X 10 Dance Party with junior

Sunday 25/05/25

BEIRUT RIVERLESS FOREST

4pm - 6pm 🌊

A Fresh Breath in the Open Air

An afternoon gathering in the forest we planted with our own hands in 2021 during TAP's *Art, Ecology and the Commons: Together in Agony We Persist!* A picnic shared in closeness with our native trees and the Beirut River, marking six years of the Beirut RiverLESS Forest, with live music.

All events are free and accessible to all!

Follow us

@temporaryartplatform
www.togetherwetap.art

@artexplorafestival
www.artexplora.org

What to Bring & Audience Info

Dress Code: Comfortable clothing suitable for stretching or sitting on the ground.
Outdoor Tips: Mosquito repellent and picnic for the forest and the parks!
Activities marked by 🌊 are children friendly — bring the small kids!

Breath is Tide is organized by

Amanda Abi Khalil (Artistic Director)
Nour Osseiran (Associate Curator)
Jad Karam (Associate Curator)
Sara Schaub (Program coordinator)
Camille Hajjar, Axelle Kurban, Christina Maalouf (Assistant curators)
Axelle Kurban (Visual Design)
Blanche de Lestrang, Justine Daquin, Capucine Borde, Alexis Bourély, Paule Mourani (Art Explora team)
MIRROS Communications (Media & PR Partner)
Hadi Abou Ayash (Videographer)
And our amazing volunteers!

With the support of the Art Explora Foundation, the French Institute of Beirut, the French Embassy, Instituto Cervantes, the Spanish Embassy, the Municipality of Beirut, and Nahnoo — and thanks to the generous contributions of Elmir Brewery, Ivy Plants, Eady's Street Food, Ohana Yoga Space, and Domaine des Tourelles.

