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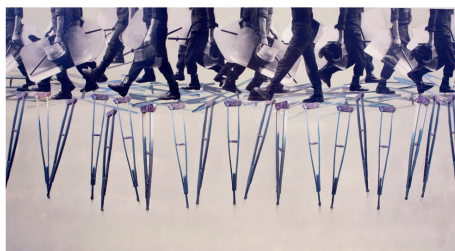
## PICTURE THAT: FOTOFEST BIENNIAL FOCUSES ON ARAB ART



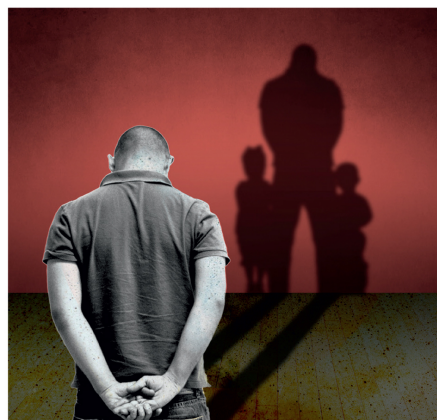
HASSAN HAJJAJ, JOE CASELY HAYFORD, 2011, FROM THE SERIES ROCK STARS VI, 2009-2012, COURTESY THE ARTIST AND THE THIRD LINE GALLERY



JOWAHARA ALSAUD, CLIP, 2010, FROM THE SERIES OUT OF LINE, COURTESY THE ARTIST AND ATRR GALLERY



HUDA LUTFI, MARCHING ON CRUTCHES (DETAIL), 2011, COURTESY THE ARTIST



TAMMAM AZZAM, THE SYRIAN, 2012, COURTESY THE ARTIST AND AYYAM GALLERY

The fifteenth edition of the international FotoFest biennial has a special flavor this year, as it presents contemporary photo and media-related art from the Middle East and North Africa, a program that is reportedly the largest of its kind in the United States in over a decade. Forty-eight artists living and working in 13 Arab countries were selected for principal exhibitions in the 2014 biennial, currently on view in Houston, Texas. The Arab program, "View From Inside", features the very best of contemporary work from the region, amassed after four years of research and viewing the individual works.

Using video, photography and mixed media art, the artists deal with the region's diverse and shifting identities. The biennial attempts to focus on the artists and what matters to them. Hence, the themes are multi-layered, addressing fundamental issues from an inside perspective. Memory and loss – of both place and person – play a large role in many of the works. Other themes include: questions of gender; religion; historical heritage; the legacy of colonialism; and political upheaval.

*The biennial runs through April 27.*

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