

# XABACA

International network against censorship on Arab women's art

## OPEN CALL



© Jana Traboulsi. Ya Helwa Ya mufataqa',  
Dar Asala, Beirut, 2009

Xabaca seeks to help empower female Arab artists as a source of social transformation and defense of Human Rights. This project is hosted by the following organizations: NOVACT (Barcelona), Fundación Al Fanar (Madrid) and Jiwat Creation and Society (Barcelona) and is supported economically by the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation.

To achieve this aim, the Xabaca will be structured into two different areas:

- 1 Artistic development:** to enhance art and creativity as means to combat gender discrimination, censorship and social injustice. This will be achieved by helping empower artistic process of four female Arab artists staying at Jiwat (Barcelona) for 1 month. Jiwat is an organization which offers stays for artists and has its own center.
- 2 Empowering activist aspects:** to strengthen the capacities of the four female Arab artists to increase their role in social change. This will be done by participation in workshops and in an international support network which will begin when they start their artistic residency and will continue when they go back to their home countries.

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Send your **application to [jiwar@jiwarbarcelona.com](mailto:jiwar@jiwarbarcelona.com) by January 15th.** Applications can be send in English, French and Arabic.

Organized by:

NOVACT



AL FANAR  
FUNDACIÓN

JIWAR

in collaboration with:

IEMed.  
European Institute of the Mediterranean



Casa Árabe  
البيت العربي

with the economical  
support of:



Agència Catalana  
de Cooperació  
al Desenvolupament

## TOPIC

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Xabaca was born from the collaboration of Novact, Al Fanar and Jivar. It wants to support female Arab creators for two reasons: their role in social transformation through art and for the double oppression they face for being artists and women. Very often, cultural creation is a tool to visualize and cross red lines of power structures and facilitates the questioning of the status quo. Precisely because of these capacities sometimes the authorities see many women artists as a threat, which often violate their basic Human Rights such as freedom of expression.

Female creators face a very specific type of repression. Patriarchy and the defiance towards the status quo generate a particular form of restraint which affects women in a different way than it affects men. On the other hand women may suffer stronger and harder consequences than male artists by their artistic expressions. The public and the political role of female creators is reduced, by minimizing the distribution, exposure and advocacy of their products.

Xabaca puts forward the realization of artistic works linked to this whole context, taking into account the importance of gender and repression as fundamental aspects of the defense of freedom of expression and free creation of female Arab artists.

## OPEN CALL DETAILS

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- \* Open call for Arab female artists living and working in Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon and Palestine. We have chosen these four countries for their importance in cultural and artistic aspects, and because they represent the two geographical areas of the Arab World: Magreb and Mashrek.
- \* Open to all the disciplines (visual arts, literature, music, performance, etc.)
- \* Residency from the 1st of March to the 31st of March 2017.
- \* 4 full scholarships covering 100% the cost of the residence (travel + accommodation), including 400 euros per diem and artist
- \* Artistic material covered
- \* Send your **application to [jivar@jivarbarcelona.com](mailto:jivar@jivarbarcelona.com) by January 15th**. Applications can be send in English, French and Arabic

## INCLUDED IN XABACA PROJECT

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### Artistic development

Support and counseling to the artist during their creative process  
Documentation of the project and digital publicity  
Novact, Al - Fanar and Jivar reserve the rights to publish or broadcast the results of the artists work through the website and/ or any other media that will be considered

### Activism empowerment

Participation in a capacity-building programme on social change  
Participation in an international conference for the creation of a support network organized in Barcelona.  
Being member of the international Xabaca network

## EXPECTED FORMAT FOR THE PROPOSAL

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- \* The artist has to present a digital format dossier with the following information:
  - Personal motivation letter to participate in Xabaca project (maximum 1,000 characters without spaces)
  - Statement/artist profile (Max. 1,000 characters without spaces)
  - Proposal for the project to be done during the residence (maximum 1,500 characters without spaces) including technical requirements and objectives
  - Updated CV
  - 3 Sample of your previous works (for video formats provide a link)

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

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- \* Positive value will be given to proposals that involve gender-issues
- \* Positive value will be given to artists linked to social movements, social change campaigns and artistic networks
- \* Artists that have been (or will likely be) suffered censorship by institutions or have felt any other form of censorship.
- \* Artists must be available to participate in all the phases of the project
- \* We will value the artists track record

