

FAMILY FRIENDLY: A PROJECT BY FAYÇAL BAGHRICHE

Fayçal Baghriche

26 July 2012



Fayçal Baghriche
Family Friendly series, 2012
Produced during a residency in A.i.R Dubai
Courtesy of the artist



The series *Family Friendly* consists of censored images taken from art magazines found in Dubai. In the UAE, as in many Muslim countries, images of nudity are prohibited in the public sphere. Images that include nudity are hidden beneath hand-made ink marks. Each image, in turn, becomes unique. For this project, Fayçal Baghriche has extracted an identical image from different copies of the same magazine to produce a diptych that shows the action of the hand on the magazine. Baghriche is interested here in the aesthetic value of these new objects, which are effectively artworks made by people who are not artists.

This work, we should note, is not therefore a critique of censorship per se. Baghriche shares a Muslim cultural education with the citizens of the UAE, but grew up in Europe where the relationship to the body is completely different. As an artist, but also as a collector, Baghriche is interested in the aesthetic and social value of these hybrid images. For him, they are documents that allow us to question how a society with its own specific set of values finds a way to be open to western culture in a way that is coherent with these values.

Alexandra MacGilp

About the artist

Fayçal Baghriche (b.1972) grew up between two cultures, navigating an Arab culture in the private sphere and western culture in the public realm. Baghriche has a diploma in Fine Arts from La Villa Arson, Nice and a BA in Dramatic Arts from Sophia Antipolis, Nice and an MA in Multimedia Creation from the National School of Fine Arts in Paris. He has exhibited widely both in France and internationally. He has participated in *Brooklyn Euphoria*, New York, and Dashanzi International Art Festival, Beijing. He has shown his work in Outpost for Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Bielefelder Kunstverein, Germany; Al Riwaq Art Space, Bahrain and The Museum of Modern Art of Algiers, Algeria. He was included in *La force de l'Art* in 2009, and took part in *Nuit Blanche*, Paris, and *Le Printemps de Septembre*, Toulouse. In 2010 he showed at The Museum of Modern Art Paris, Museum of Contemporary Art Bordeaux, and Fondation Vasarely in Aix-en-Provence. In 2011, he was part of *The Future of a Promise*, at the 54th Venice Biennale. In 2012, his work will be exhibited at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, the Gwangju Biennale, BrotKunsthalle, Vienna and Galerie Campagne Première, Berlin.