

Based in her hometown of London, Ontario, **Jamelie Hassan** is a prominent Canadian artist of Arabic background known for her engaging and highly political artistic practice. In 2001 Hassan received the *Governor General's Award* in recognition of her thirty years of work in the visual arts in Canada, which, in addition to her extensive international exhibition record, includes her active engagements as a lecturer, writer, activist and independent curator. As a founding member of two artist-run centres, Forest City Gallery (1973-present) and the former Embassy Cultural House (1983-1990), Hassan made significant contributions to the development of Canadian artistic culture, which she continues to enhance through her explicitly international engagements, having travelled and worked within North America, Cuba, Mexico, Europe, the Middle East, India and Asia. This strong commitment to Canadian art has won Hassan the "Canada 125" medal in 1993 for outstanding community service, the *Chalmers Art Fellowship* in 2006, and a long term grant from The Canada Council for the Arts in 2008. The first survey exhibition of her work *Jamelie Hassan: At the Far Edge of Words*, curated by Melanie Townsend (Museum London) and Scott Watson (Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery), received the 2009 *Ontario Association of Art Galleries Award* for exhibition of the year. Hassan's works are in numerous public collections in Canada and internationally.

Miriam Jordan is a First Nation artist, writer and curator. She curated with Julian Haladyn *The Carnavalesque: Videos of a World Turned Inside Out*, a collection of videos examining contemporary art in relation to Mikhail Bakhtin's theories of the carnival. As an artist Jordan's work has been exhibited internationally, including in the travelling exhibition *Oh, So Iroquois* curated by Ryan Rice; her work is in the collection of The Woodland Cultural Centre. As a writer she has contributed to such publications as *Topia*, *C Magazine*, *Parachute*, *On Site Review* and *Film-Philosophy*, as well as chapters in *Stanley Kubrick: Essays on His Films and Legacy* (McFarland and Company 2007) and *Critical Approaches to the Films of M. Night Shyamalan: Spoiler Warnings* (Palgrave 2010). Jordan is presently pursuing a PhD in Art and Visual Culture at The University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, where she teaches courses in Visual Arts.

Julian Jason Haladyn is a Canadian writer, artist and curator. With Miriam Jordan he curated *The Carnavalesque*, an international programme of video art. Haladyn's publication record includes articles and reviews in numerous journals and magazines, as well as chapters in *Stanley Kubrick: Essays on His Films and Legacy* and *Critical Approaches to the Films of M. Night Shyamalan: Spoiler Warnings*. He is the author of *Marcel Duchamp: Étant donnés* (Afterall Books 2010). As an artist his work has been exhibited internationally, including in the travelling exhibitions *Oh, So Iroquois* curated by Ryan Rice and *Titles* curated by Yam Lau. Haladyn is presently completing a PhD in Theory and Criticism at The University of Western Ontario, where he teaches courses in Visual Arts.

Laura U. Marks is a scholar and curator of independent and experimental media arts, with a focus on independent cinema in the Arab world. She is the author of *The Skin of the Film: Intercultural Cinema, Embodiment, and the Senses* (Duke University Press 2000), *Touch: Sensuous Theory and Multi-sensory Media* (Minnesota University Press 2002), *Enfoldment and Infinity: An Islamic Genealogy of New Media Art* (MIT 2010), and many essays. She has curated programs for numerous venues around the world. Dr. Marks is the Dena Wosk University Professor of Art and Culture Studies at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, British Columbia.