



**AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Clare Davies of the Metropolitan Museum of Art Presents Workshop and
Lecture at AUB**

Clare Davies, associate curator for modern and contemporary art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, visited the American University of Beirut (AUB) as a guest of the Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan Chair for Arabic and Islamic Studies at the university.

She held a luncheon workshop with the graduate students of AUB's Department of Fine Arts and Art History, during which she discussed her work as a curator at an encyclopedic museum, describing the challenges she faces as she seeks to put the museum's modern and ancient collections in dialogue, and outlining the acquisition process, particularly in relation to several pieces she has acquired by artists from the region.

Davies also gave a talk at the Department of Fine Arts and Art History at AUB, drawn from a book manuscript she has just finished, in which she critiqued what she calls the "additive" approach by which art history attempts to account for non-Western modernisms when what is needed is a rewriting of art history that addresses its constitutive exclusions, and that addresses its habit of decontextualizing objects from colonial historical circumstances. She modeled an alternative historiography by drawing on examples from her research on modern art in Egypt.

The lecture was attended by members of the AUB community and Beirut's art world, filling the Department of Fine Arts and Art History's famous room, "The Skeleton," on the top floor of Nicely Hall.

ENDS

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 790 full-time faculty members and a student body of over 9000 students. AUB currently offers more than 140 programs leading to bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full-service 365-bed hospital.

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