

# Artists' Film International: Karim Debbagh, Ben Hagari, Sefer Memişoğlu, Nguyễn Trinh Thi

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This season of artists' films explores collective memory and personal and political histories. These are woven together with an investigation of the mechanics of film-making by artists based in Israel, Morocco, Turkey and Vietnam as chosen by partner organisations around the world.

Selected by New Media Canter, Haifa, Israel, **Ben Hagari's** *Invert* (2010) is an homage to celluloid film in which we see one day in a man's life inverted in the highly-saturated colours of the photographic negative. While the selection from Istanbul Modern, Turkey, **Sefer Memişoğlu's** film *Breeze* (2011), interrogates the way that iconic images ranging from Marilyn Monroe to the Apollo moon landing and the Vietnam War are constructed through the medium of film and new digital media.

**Nguyễn Trinh Thi's** *Song to the Front* (2011–12) from *Vietnamese Classics Re-Cut*, selected by San Art, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam abstracts a feature-length Vietnamese 1970s propaganda film of the same title. The aesthetic and political elements of the original social-realist material are collapsed into a 5 minute vignette that focuses on the emotional and romantic aspects of the story. Also re-examining historical perspectives, **Karim Debbagh's** 2006 film *Creating a Legend*, focuses on ex-pat American writer Paul Bowles, known for his novel *The Sheltering Sky*, set in North Africa. Debbagh's work, which sketches a portrait of the writer through first hand accounts of his Moroccan companions, has been nominated by Cinemathèque de Tanger, Tangier, Morocco.

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Artists' Film International showcases international artists working with film, video and animation, selected by 12 partner organisations around the world: Ballroom Marfa, Texas, USA; Belgrade Cultural Centre, Serbia; Cinematheque de Tanger, Tangier, Morocco; City Gallery Wellington, New Zealand; Fundacion PROA, Buenos Aires, Argentina; GAMeC, Bergamo, Italy; Istanbul Modern, Turkey; Video Forum of Neuer Berliner Kunstverein (n.b.k) Berlin, Germany; New Media Centre, Haifa Museum of Art, Israel; Para/Site, Hong Kong and San Art, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. See a showreel of all the films at [whitechapelgallery.org](http://whitechapelgallery.org).