

MEPPI

Middle East Photograph Preservation Initiative
مبادرة الحفاظ على الصور الفوتوغرافية للشرق الأوسط

MIDDLE EAST PHOTOGRAPH PRESERVATION INITIATIVE MEPPI Amman 2014 – Course announcement

APPLICATIONS ARE CURRENTLY BEING ACCEPTED for MEPPI Amman 2014

Workshop date: 20-28 January 2014

Workshop venue: National Library of Jordan in Amman

Distance mentoring: February to September 2014

Follow-up meeting: Fall 2014

Please submit your applications to

applications@meppi.me by

19 August 2013

Marguerite, to the left
Jerusalem, Palestine, 1934
Anonymous photographer
Collection AIF / Alice Agazarian
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The MEPPI Initiative

The Arab Image Foundation, the Art Conservation Department at the University of Delaware, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Getty Conservation Institute are partners in the **Middle East Photograph Preservation Initiative (MEPPI)**, a strategic initiative to promote the preservation and awareness of photograph collections in the broad Middle East, from North Africa and the Arab Peninsula through Western Asia. Portions of this project are supported by a generous grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The initiative has three interconnected components.

- **The MEPPI Survey:** a collection survey to assess and identify significant photograph holdings across the Arab World, Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan
- **The MEPPI Courses:** a series of three courses that will train personnel responsible for the care of photographic collections in the region.
- **The MEPPI Symposium:** a symposium focusing on the photographic heritage of the broader Middle East for regional policy- and decision-makers.

A complete description of the initiative is available at <http://www.meppi.me>.

MEPPI Courses

MEPPI courses are designed to provide basic theoretical and practical training in the care of a broad range of photographic materials found in the collections of museums, libraries, archives and other repositories. The courses deliver learning and hands-on experience in both classroom and workplace settings. They carefully combine theoretical and practical training to inspire a deeper understanding of photographic materials and processes, their deterioration mechanisms, and appropriate strategies for their long-term preservation. International representation among course participants fosters the exchange of ideas, philosophies, and preservation techniques, and strengthens connections between professionals for continued future interactions. MEPPI has trained over 30 collections keepers to date through courses in Beirut (2011) and Abu Dhabi (2012). MEPPI Amman 2014 will be the final course in this series.

MEPPI Amman 2014

Course structure

MEPPI Amman 2014 is the last of three courses.

Participants in MEPPI Amman 2014 **must commit to taking part in all three phases of the course:**

- **An eight-day workshop** that will include lectures, demonstrations, hands-on projects, collection visits, and case studies. (20-28 January 2014, National Library of Jordan, Amman, Jordan)
- **An eight-month period of assigned practical work** that participants carry out in their own institutions while remaining in contact with an instructor. These assignments will allow participants to apply the concepts and information presented during the workshop to their own collections. Completed assignments will be submitted periodically to the instructor through the MEPPI website. The instructor will mentor participants by providing advice, guidance and additional information to assist them in their work with their collections. The MEPPI website will also allow participants to share information with one another and to take part in joint assignments and projects. Participants can expect to spend from five to ten hours each month on practical work and distance mentoring with an instructor. (February to September 2014, participants working at home institutions)
- **A final five-day meeting** where the participants and several of the instructors will share the results of their experiences and consider the potential next steps in advancing the preservation of their collections. Participation in the final meeting is contingent on the completion and submission of all course assignments. (Fall 2014 at a location to be determined).

Workshop Content

The workshop will provide an overview of the technical history of photographic processes with a particular emphasis on the characterization and identification of albumen, silver gelatin, and chromogenic color print materials, glass- and film-based negatives. Other more rare photographic processes, such as the daguerreotype, will be introduced. Lectures interwoven with hands-on *practica* will be conducted by conservators Debra Hess Norris, Nora Kennedy and Tram Vo, and scientist Bertrand Lavédrine. The importance of balancing preservation and access will be highlighted in discussions on establishing handling guidelines, improving storage and exhibition practices—including cold storage, environmental assessment and practical control measures, as well as mitigation from airborne contaminants and pollutants. Sessions on best practices for digitization and access will be led by photograph conservator Klaus Pollmeier. The importance of emergency preparedness, response and recovery will be emphasized. Methodology of collection surveys and prioritizing for preservation will be touched upon in the interest of creating practical strategies for long-term preservation of collections. Lectures and discussions on fundraising, contemporary art, and the history of photography and contemporary art will be provided by Zeina Arida, Director of the Arab Image Foundation, and other invited speakers.

The workshop will be held in English with simultaneous translation available into Arabic. Some written course materials may only be available in English and/or French.

Cost

There are no fees for attending the workshop or for participating in the mentoring and follow-up meeting. Travel, lodging, and per diem for the workshop and final meeting *may be subsidized based on demonstrated institutional financial need*. Funding requests will be reviewed individually.

Eligibility

MEPPI participants include staff whose duties involve the care of photographic collections in museums, libraries, archives or similar institutions. Such personnel may include archivists, collection managers, but also curators, photographers, and other collection custodians. Applications are welcome from countries of the Levant, the Arab Peninsula and North Africa. Participants from Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan are also invited to apply. Please note that the application process requires a signed statement from the director of the applicant's institution indicating their complete support for full participation in all phases of MEPPI. **Applicants requiring funding assistance will be asked to submit a letter stating their institution's budgetary constraints.**

To apply

Applications for MEPPI Amman 2014 must be submitted no later than 19 August 2013.

Application forms are available at <http://www.meppi.me/meppi-courses/meppi-amman-2014>.

To obtain more information, please contact info@meppi.me.



The Getty Conservation Institute

MEPPI is supported by the [Andrew W. Mellon Foundation](#)
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