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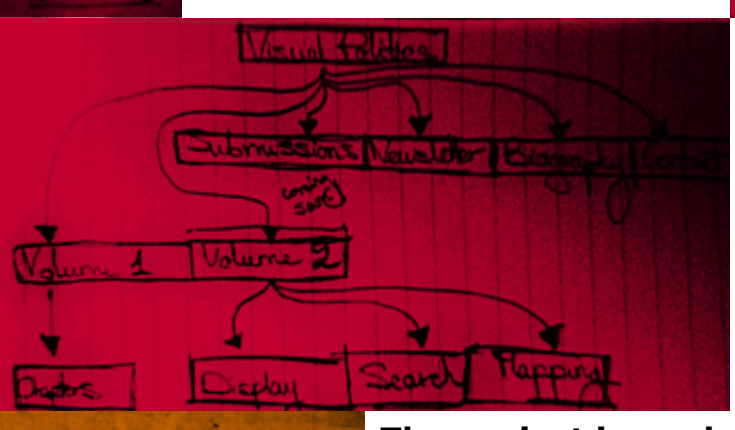
Visual Politics Online

////o/ and Joanna Choukeir collaborated on a new project: Visual Politics started in 2007 as Joanna Choukeir's Master of Arts thesis and project at the London College of Communication, University of the Arts London.





Joanna is a Communication Designer based in London. She is currently pursuing her PhD research on communication design methods for the social integration of youth from different social groups (religious and regional) in Lebanon. Joanna is also working as Lead Designer with Uscreates, a social design company in London, and as Assistant in the Learning Zone, a social learning space for students at the University of the Arts London.



What is Visual Politics?

Visual politics is a project addressed to academics and professionals in the fields of visual communication, visual sociology, and social and political science.



The project is made up of 2 volumes:

Volume 1: A thesis presenting a transferable methodology for analysing contemporary socio-political graphics in a specific society, over a specific period of time.

Volume 2: An archive documenting the collection of graphics used in the case study for the development of the methodology in Volume 1. This collection corresponds to socio-political graphics produced in Lebanon between January 2005 and September 2007. The archive can be browsed using three analytical tools: Display, Search and Mapping. Every tool is supported by clear user guidance instructions.



Volumes 1 and 2 go hand-in hand. Volume 1 presents the guidelines necessary for extracting information from the archive in Volume 2, and Volume 2 exemplifies the guidelines proposed in Volume 1.

A call for submissions of visuals will be relaunched on the 17th of July, to build upon the collection in Volume 2 and create an ongoing open archive of Lebanese socio-political graphics. Refer to the Visual Politics future section below for more information about the launch.

Why Visual Politics?

Visual Politics is the first initiative to document contemporary socio-political graphics in Lebanon, in real time.



This is very essential in a country such as Lebanon, where individuals do not need to be politicians or sociologists to have a socio-political statement, and do not need to be designers to produce visuals about these statements. This is the notion of personal politics. It highly influences the visual communications of designers, non-designers, politicians and sociologists, who in turn use the visual work to influence the personal politics of their receptive audiences.

What Visual Politics does is, on one hand, document this ongoing visual conversation, and on the other hand, offer an interactive platform of tools that help researchers understand the value and impact of graphics as a medium through which social and political life occurs.



In a wider context, Visual Politics proposes a transferable analytical methodology that can be adapted and adopted for archives of socio-political graphics from different societies.



Your feedback

Visual Politics is still in its teething stages, so please send your feedback, comments, suggestions and ideas. We rely on your intervention to collaboratively develop and refine Visual Politics and meet the aspirations of users.

Visual Politics future

Visual Politics was first presented, in its current form, on 3 June 2009 at the Whitechapel Gallery in London, as part of Goshka Macuga's installation space, The Nature of the Beast, Guernica. The audience was the Uncharted Stories group, bringing together artists, designers, curators, photographers and architects.

Friday 17 July 2009 will mark the official launch day of Visual Politics in Lebanon through two events:





Co-design workshop

The workshop will bring together a range of experts: Graphic designers, visual artists, socio-political scientists and activists, visual researchers, qualitative and quantitative analysts, archive curators, online developers, marketing professionals, etc. Together, we will collaboratively design new and innovative methods for projecting Visual Politics into the future.

Submissions re-launch event

Date: Friday 17 July 2009, 8:30 p.m.
Venue: ////o/ studio, Alley 507 (next to Gauche Caviar), off Gouraud Street, Gemayze, Beirut, Lebanon

The event is free but please RSVP.



The event celebrates the re-launch submissions phase of Visual Politics. It is open to anyone interested in Visual Politics across disciplines. The event will be full of attractions and interactive interventions:

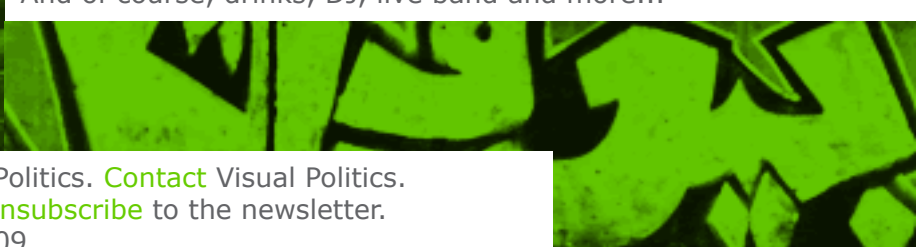
Visual Politics Submissions Platform: Bring socio-political graphics and submit them live.

Visual Politics Projection: Browse through large scale projections of visuals in the archive and see your work projected.

Visual Politics Studio: Bring your laptop, materials etc. and create socio-political graphics live in the studio to submit instantly.

Graffiti Feedback Wall: Live graffiti performance inviting feedback.

And of course, drinks, DJ, live band and more...



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