

Tribe: Contemporary Photography from the Arab World

Critics' Pick



World news coverage seems to be the extent of American knowledge about photography in the Arab world. *Tribe: Contemporary Photography from the Arab World* eschews that, focusing instead on art, much of it deeply personal, published in the Dubai-based magazine *Tribe*. Some images grapple with gender politics: Ibi Ibrahim offers a three-panel series depicting an awkward courtship between a man and woman in old-fashioned attire, seen only from the waist down. Some images elicit deep thought, like Amani Al Shaali's dreamlike image of a woman besieged by falling knives. But some are simply visually arresting, such as Arwa Abouon's paired images of a husband and wife kissing each other on the head as an apology—the artist superimposes abstract black-and-white designs on their all-white clothing and the background. *The exhibition is on view to Dec. 16 at the American University Museum, 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW. Free. (202) 885-1300. american.edu/cas/museum. (Louis Jacobson)*

