

# JEREMY DELLER: IT IS WHAT IT IS

## CONVERSATIONS ABOUT IRAQ

Week of November 2–8

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### Tuesday, November 3

#### 10:30 am–1:30 pm, Rick Rodrigues

In 2007, Retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel Rodrigues volunteered to serve a one-year tour in Iraq as a recalled retiree. From May 2007 to April 2008, he was assigned to the Multi-National Force-Iraq in the US Embassy in Baghdad, working on Future Operations in Iraq's Green Zone with General Petraeus as an advisor for policy in Iraq. Lieutenant Colonel Rodrigues began his 20-year military career at the US Military Academy at West Point and has served in Infantry and Foreign Area Officer positions throughout the United States and overseas in Brazil, Mozambique, Portugal, Angola, and Germany. Rodrigues is Senior Vice President of the First National Bank of Brookfield in Illinois. He is the coauthor of *Aircraft Markings of the Strategic Air Command, 1946-1953*.

#### 1:30–4:30 pm, Esam Pasha

Esam Pasha is an artist, journalist, and translator. Born in Iraq, he now lives in the United States. He has worked as an interpreter for the British Embassy in Baghdad and coalition forces in Iraq, including the 101st Airborne and the Florida National Guard as well as for the *Boston Globe* and *Christian Science Monitor*. He was also a freelance journalist for the United Nations Integrated Regional Information Network. A well-known artist in Iraq, Pasha has published articles in art journals and exhibited his artwork in the United States and Europe. In Baghdad in 2003, he completed the first public mural in post-Saddam Hussein Iraq by painting over the largest portrait of the deposed leader and replacing it with depictions of the history of Iraq.

#### 4:30–7:30 pm, Daniel Rothenberg

Daniel Rothenberg is Managing Director of International Projects at the International Human Rights Law Institute in DePaul University's College of Law, where he heads the university's testimony collection projects in Iraq, known as the Iraq History Project and the Current Violations in Iraq Project. These projects gather and analyze personal narratives from victims and their families as well as witnesses, perpetrators, and others regarding human rights violations committed during Saddam Hussein's regime and during the current occupation. Having collected testimonies of human rights abuses from almost 9,000 Iraqis, these projects represent one of the largest independent human rights data collection and analysis efforts in the world. Rothenberg is an anthropologist who has conducted extensive fieldwork in many parts of the world and works on transitional justice issues, particularly truth commissions, amnesty laws, tribunals, and reparations.

### Wednesday, November 4

#### 10:30 am–1:30 pm, Geoff Emberling

Geoff Emberling is Director of the Oriental Institute Museum at the University of Chicago and an archaeologist who has been excavating in the Middle East for almost 20 years. Since 2003 Emberling has been an educator in the Leader Development Education for Sustained Peace Program at the Naval Post-graduate School in Monterey, California. The program provides graduate-level educational seminars and distance learning programs for military and civilian leaders before being deployed to Iraq. Emberling regularly briefs US military units on Iraqi history and archeological monuments. He is the author of many articles and essays on topics in Near Eastern archaeology, including ancient ethnicity in Mesopotamia (present day Iraq and Syria), and co-curated the recent Oriental Institute exhibition *Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq's Past*.

#### 1:30–4:30 pm, Esam Pasha

See bio from Tuesday, November 3.

### Thursday, November 5

#### 10:30 am–1:30 pm, Cliff Kindy

Cliff Kindy has traveled extensively in Iraq since 2002 as part of Christian Peacemaker Teams, a nonprofit organization committed to reducing violence and war. He traveled to Iraq four times, each trip lasting between three and five months, training Muslim peacemaking teams and living with and aiding refugees. From 2002 to 2005 he was in Baghdad and many other major Iraqi cities, and in 2008 was stationed in the Kurdish north. He has a breadth of experience as a humanitarian aid worker and has worked in many conflict zones including Palestine; Colombia; and Chiapas, Mexico. Kindy is an organic market gardener from North Manchester, Indiana.

#### 1:30–4:30 pm, Esam Pasha

See bio from Tuesday, November 3.

## Friday, November 6

### 10:30 am–1:30 pm, Sergeant Sharon Allen

Sergeant Sharon Allen is a US Army Reserve soldier who served in Iraq. Her blog, *100 Things I Learned in Iraq*, discusses her service as a soldier-engineer. Some of her blog entries are published in the book *Operation Homecoming*, a compendium of stories, essays, and reflections on the Iraq War by US military personnel and their families. While serving, she had several columns published in Ohio newspapers that were reprinted in publications such as the *Washington Post*. Since returning to the United States, she has relocated to Chicago where she works as a mechanic in a beverage can plant.

### 1:30–4:30 pm, Stephanie Platz

Since 2004, Stephanie Platz has been the Director of The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TAARII). The institute promotes scholarly research on and in Iraq (ancient Mesopotamia) and intends to establish a multidisciplinary American scholarly research center in Iraq when conditions permit. TAARII raises funds for graduate and post-graduate fellowships for Americans to conduct research on Iraq in as broad a range of disciplines as possible. It also has a fellowship program for Iraqi academics to aid them in carrying out research in Iraq. TAARII initiates its own research projects and fosters joint projects between American and Iraqi academics.

## Saturday, November 7

### 10:30 am–1:30 pm, Major L. Tammy Duckworth

Major L. Tammy Duckworth is Assistant Secretary of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. While stationed in Iraq, Major Duckworth supervised training sessions of 60 aircrew members and the maintenance of \$50 million in equipment. As Battle Captain and Assistant Operations Officer, Major Duckworth planned and carried out combat missions of a 500-soldier aviation taskforce. She lost the lower part of both her legs when a rocket-propelled grenade exploded in the cockpit of the Black Hawk helicopter she was co-piloting. Upon her return, Major Duckworth coordinated the Center for Nursing Research at Northern Illinois University. In 2009 she was appointed Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs. She is a published author on the effects of environmental radon and lung cancer, and is in the process of attaining her PhD in Political Science from Northern Illinois University.

### 1:30–4:30 pm, Colonel Alicia Tate-Nadeau

Colonel Alicia A. Tate-Nadeau currently serves as the Director of Plans, Operations, and Training for the Illinois Army National Guard. An Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, her most recent duties include Acting Brigade Commander, 404th Chemical Brigade, and Deputy Brigade Commander. She coauthored *Defense Reform Initiative 25*, giving the Reserve Components the primary mission to train and respond to Weapons of Mass Destruction incidents and also evaluated National Guard Civil Support Teams (WMD). Colonel Tate-Nadeau is decorated with the Bronze Star; Army Meritorious Service Medal; and many other federal, state, and foreign ribbons and awards.

## Sunday, November 8

### 10:30 am–1:30 pm, Rand Al Rikabi

Rand Al Rikabi is an Iraqi physicist specializing in telecommunications. In 1998 she earned her bachelor of science degree in Applied Science from the University of Technology in Baghdad. As a physicist at the Iraqi Ministry of Communications/Iraqi Telecommunications Research and Development Department, Al Rikabi translated documents and manuals into both English and Arabic. During the US invasion of Iraq and its aftermath, Rand worked as a telecommunications physicist at the Iraqi Ministry of Communications. Before coming to the US, Al Rikabi was transferred to Jordan in September to work with Itisaluna, a leading CDMA and WiMAX operator in Iraq, which is based in Jordan.

### 1:30–4:30pm, Usama Alshaibi

Usama Alshaibi is an Iraqi American filmmaker. Born in Baghdad, he spent his formative years living in both the United States and the Middle East. In early 2004 he returned to Baghdad with his wife to shoot his first feature documentary, *Nice Bombs*, which won Best Documentary at the 2006 Chicago Underground Film Festival. Depicting Alshaibi's unique relationship to a contemporary Iraq that is very different from the country of his childhood, *Nice Bombs* also captures the conflicting reactions to the war in Iraq and current conditions in Baghdad. His numerous films and videos have been screened at international film festivals and venues across the globe. Currently, Alshaibi is in post-production on his second narrative feature titled *Profane* and a web-based projected titled *Baghdad, Iowa*.

*Jeremy Deller: It Is What It Is* is part of the Three M Project, a series organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; and the New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, to commission, organize, and copresent new works of art.

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