

Lena Irmgard Merhej	l.merhej@jacobs-university.de	- Art, Art History and Visual Studies, Duke University - Visual Communication and Expertise, (VisComX) Jacobs University Bremen	Jacobs University Bremen, Phd Area, Campus Ring 1 28725 Bremen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comics studies - Visual communication - Narratives of conflict
---------------------	--	--	--	--

Short bio:

Lena Merhej (1977) studied graphic design at the American University of Beirut and completed her MFA in Design and Technology at the Parsons School of Design. She is currently a junior fellow at the Research Center for Visual Expertise (ViscomX) at Jacobs University, working on her PhD: Narratives of Conflict in Lebanese Comics. She was a lecturer at the American University of Beirut and at the Lebanese American University and gave workshops in animation, illustration, and comic books. She is a co-founder and editor in Samandal Comics Magazine.

She illustrated over 20 Arabic children's books, and wrote several comic stories, and exhibited her work both locally and internationally. Her animation film, *Drawing the War* (2002) screened in major international festivals and has won the Jury Award of the 36th New York Exposition Festival. War is a recurrent theme in her work and the subject of her first comic book, *I Think We Will be Calmer in the Next War* (2006), rated the highest selling book in Lebanon in 2007. *Another Year* (2008), the story of the friendship between 7 Palestinians spread between Palestine and the Diaspora, won the price for best comic book in Arabic in the year 2009 at the FIBDA (Festival de La Bande Dessinée à Alger). Her most recent comic book, *Jam and Yogurt, or How my Mother Became Lebanese* was published in 2011.