

Kuwait in the Age of Petro-Modernity: Visual Culture and Urban Transformation since 1950

Laura Hindelang



Post-Doc researcher at the University of Bern,
Department of Art History

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What does the cover of government gazette *Al-Kuwait Al-Yawm* and historic postage stamps tell us about the oil period in Kuwait? In fact, petroleum not only played an important economic and political role in the Arabian Peninsula, but was also crucial in shaping visual culture, art and architecture, especially from the 1950s. Drawing on my book *Iridescent Kuwait*, this talk reflects on Kuwait's relationship with oil since the mid-twentieth century, and what role images have played in creating modernity, the nation and future imaginaries.

Laura Hindelang is a Post-Doc researcher at the University of Bern, Department of Art History. She is the author of *Iridescent Kuwait: Petro-Modernity and Urban Visual Culture since the Mid-Twentieth Century* (2022), a transdisciplinary study exploring the intersections of urban development, visual culture, contemporary art and petroleum industrialization in the Arab Gulf region. She recently co-edited the special issue "Urban Cultures in the Gulf from a Historical Media Perspective" in the *Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication* (Brill, 2022) and she has published articles on architecture, magazine culture and contemporary art of the Arabian Peninsula, especially Kuwait.

This conference will take place on Zoom

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