

The Human Writes Project presents:

BROOKLYN BEATS *to* BEIRUT STREETS



Performance Lecture: 45 min | Discussion: 15 min | Presenters: Omar Chakaki, Mark Gonzales, Nizar Wattad

Mexican-American poet Mark Gonzales and Arab-American hip-hop artists Omar Chakaki & Nizar Wattad (Syria & Palestine respectively) offer a unique examination of identity, pop culture, and growing up 'other' in the United States.

Sparked by 9/11 and the subsequent demonization of Arabs/Muslims, Chakaki and Wattad began performing across the USA in an attempt to counter widespread media bias. They met Mark Gonzales at a social justice concert, and the three realized that despite vast differences in their upbringings, they were united by a particular world-view informed by the rapidly evolving popular art form known as Hip-Hop. This street culture allowed them to transcend national identity and create community based upon lived experience.

An energetic, informative and often startling presentation in spoken-word and rhyme, 'Brooklyn Beats to Beirut Streets' traces the artists' development alongside the birth and growth of Hip-Hop. At close, the artists invite audience members to participate in an interactive discussion of (1) the growing influence of hip-hop on world youth culture (2) what this means to those hip-hoppers whose cultures remain on the margins; and (3) what problems and concerns face the rest of society in realizing, accepting and ultimately utilizing this shift.

contact:
humanwrites@gmail.com
www.humanwritesproject.org



Life. Language. Land.

