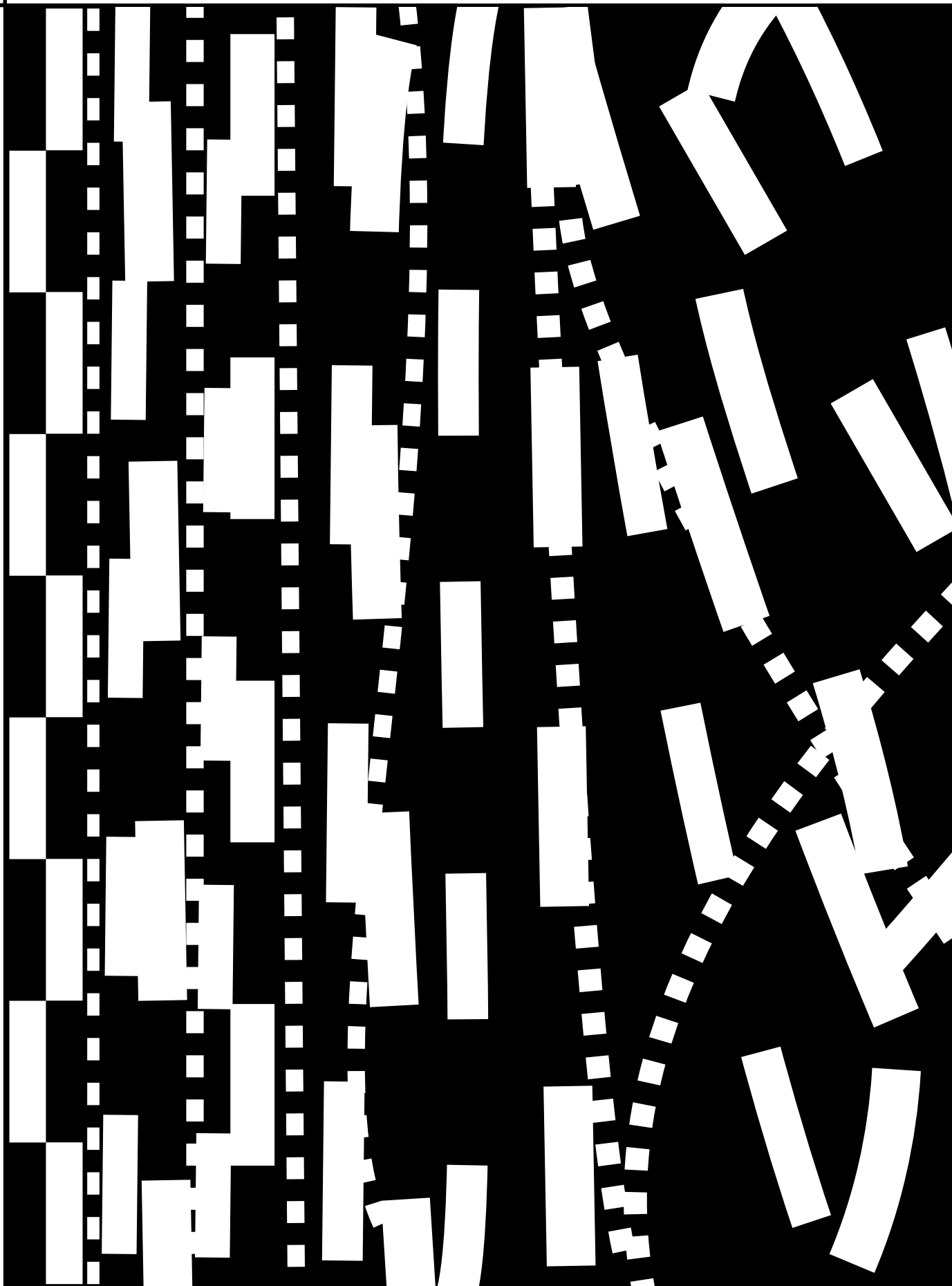


Swiss Touch Presents - Heritage in Peril

# Alternative Approaches to Preservation

October 22nd - Boston, Gardener Museum 6 - 9 pm



**How do we protect cultural heritage? How do we build future heritage in communities threatened by conflict? How can we meaningfully engage local populations in creative actions that are grounded in ethical practice?**

**Swiss Touch Presents:**

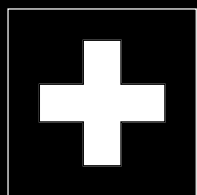
**Heritage in Peril - Alternative Approaches to Preservation**

The event will explore these questions with keynote presentations by Patrick Michel of the University of Lausanne (Unil) and Azra Akšamija of MIT, followed by a panel discussion moderated by journalist and author Rania Abouzeid.

The University of Lausanne is home to the Collart Collection, the world's most comprehensive archeological archive of the Temple of Baalshamin in Palmyra, Syria, which was destroyed by ISIS in 2015. Through an international collaboration which digitized the archives of the Collart Collection, researchers at the University of Lausanne were able to create a digital double of the Temple. This has laid the foundation for further research and for alternative approaches to preserving the cultural heritage related to the Temple.

This important archive now meets fertile ground at MIT, where the Future Heritage Lab (FHL) has been spearheading innovative approaches to preservation of cultural heritage through an artistic lens. FHL's work, such as the Memory Matrix project, a temporary monument that translates the images of the Palmyra Arch into an empathetic experience, utilizes participatory art to question the ethics of preservation at the time of war. Informed by critical artistic methods, the Lab's ongoing work with Syrian refugees advocates a performative approach to preservation of cultural heritage, modeling ways of supporting the continuation of the living social practices of threatened communities that underlie the creation of cultural monuments.

**Event registration:** <http://bit.ly/2oqpMno>



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