**Beirut & Beyond International Music Festival takes on Europe!**

*This is our first international tour and we are thrilled to be able to share our music with new audiences. We can’t thank Beirut & Beyond enough for this great opportunity that will expose the band to endless possibilities!*

- Kinematik

In line with Beirut & Beyond’s belief in regional talents and the importance of providing opportunities to present them to the largest audiences, this year’s BBIMF European tour kicks off on October 24 and until November 4 with ‘Kinematik’ & ‘The Great Departed’ who will take the stage in various venues across the Netherlands, France, Norway, Switzerland and the UK.

BBIMF’s developing international partnerships, starting with founding partner Oslo World Music Festival has extensively allowed such an endeavor, evolving into a blueprint for international collaborations. Every year, a Beirut & Beyond line up comprising two-three Arab acts tours Europe including a special appearance within the Oslo World in November. Previous editions have presented artists such as: Al Sarah & the Nubatones, Kamilya Jubran, Maurice Louca, Hello Psychaleppo and others. This year’s tour brings 2 bands of 11 artists to the encounter of 6 cities in 5 different countries, giving diverse audiences a taste of the independent music scene in the Arab region by introducing them to emerging and promising acts.

**BBIMF 2017 tour partners**

Oslo World Music Festival (Norway), Institut du Monde Arabe Paris (France), Théâtre de la Ville Paris (France), Art Link (Switzerland), Monto Pinto (Netherlands), Rich Mix (UK), Arts Canteen (UK), Shubbak Festival (UK).

**BBIMF Tour 2017 Line up**

Following BBIMF 2016 “Meet the artist” – a session within BBIMF professional programme allowing upcoming artists to meet with and present their work to local and international festival directors, producers, record label owners – two bands were selected to go on BBIMF 2017 tour.

**Kinematik (Lebanon)**

Composed of four musicians and a visual artist, Kinematik is an instrumental rock band from Lebanon, whose music blends elements of 70’s psychedelia, progressive rock and post-rock.

Kinematik’s rock sound is both diligent and intuitional, ranging from raucous improvisational psychedelic rock to steady and mechanical electronic grooves, with frequent post-rock climaxes. Immediate points of comparison include Godspeed You! Black Emperor and Loop, as well as Can (for the tendency towards Motorik beats) and Tortoise (for the intricacies of their layered compositions). Kinematik composes instrumental pieces that feature dynamic contrast, strong melodic lines, a heavy use of distortion and effects, and some reliance on electronics and synthesizers.

**The Great Departed (Lebanon)**

The Great Departed was founded in 2013 and it consists of the music composer Khaled Soubeih and Solo Singers Firas Andary and Sandy Chamoun, as well as the Oud player Imad Hashisho, the Buzuq player Abed Kobaissy and the percussionist Ali El Hout.

The Great Departed band tries to originate a new course differing from the members’ usual projects. And so, the band’s goal has become to explore new musical and lyrical paths, all while keeping their own personal oriental music repertoires as inspiration.

The band’s first album is titled “La Bombe”, also a title for the shows performed at Metro Al Madina which have received great feedback for over two years. This album’s most noticeable trait is the political and social satire present in almost every song.

**Tour schedule**

25.10 Bee Flat - Bern [CH]

26.10 Moods - Zurich [CH]

29.10 Institut du Monde Arabe - Paris [FR]

31.10 Club Smederij - Tilburg [NL]

01.11 Artist Talk – Tilburg [NL]

02.11 Sentralen / Oslo World - Oslo [NO]

04.11 Rich Mix - London [UK]

Facebook event [here.](https://www.facebook.com/events/922873197868649/?active_tab=discussion)  / Tickets [here](https://www.facebook.com/events/922873197868649/?active_tab=discussion) / High-resolution photos [here](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/b0siv5zn7djd4tc/AABlG5zLmbaLwt2Iyo7oYscqa?dl=0)

**About BBIMF**

Dedicated to promoting the Arab region’s independent music with emphasis on strong artistic merit, Beirut & Beyond was founded in 2013, in partnership with Oslo World Music Festival, and quickly succeeded in positioning itself as a key player on the map of regional festivals and showcases. As a platform for meetings, showcases and exchange, Beirut & Beyond encourages networking and collaboration. It furthermore aims to offer solutions to the urgent needs of the young Arab independent music scene, such as the necessity to provide outlets for its bustling artistic productions. Beirut & Beyond welcomes a different regional artist every year as guest curator of the festival. The 2017 edition will take place in Beirut from 7 to 10 December 2017, curated by Egyptian musician Maurice Louca.

<http://www.beirutandbeyond.net>

#BBIMF2017