

Press Release



Nadia Kaabi Linke : *The Future Rewound & The Cabinet of Souls*

10 October - 29 November 2014

Private View: Monday 13 October 6.30pm-8.30pm

Exhibition Open: Tues-Sat, 11am-6pm, FREE

The Mosaic Rooms, 226 Cromwell Road, London SW5 0SW



No (2012)



Tunisian Americans (2012)

The Mosaic Rooms, London, are pleased to present the first UK solo show by Nadia Kaabi-Linke. *The Future Rewound & The Cabinet of Souls* features three new specially commissioned site-specific installations, alongside previously unseen and recent work, in the artist's most extensive solo exhibition to date.

The exhibition is formed in two parts, both inspired by the history of the gallery's building. More than a century ago, the house served as the domicile for Imre Kiralfy, the man responsible for many of the grand exhibitions at Earls Court, White City and Olympia. Kiralfy brought 'curiosities' from across the global empire to England, where the Victorian public was eager to view foreign spectacles. In dynamic new work that directly responds to the space, Kaabi-Linke reflects upon these last hundred years and the structures of power that thread colonialism and capitalism, captivity and control, the observed and observing.

In the upper gallery, *The Future Rewound* explores enduring methods of control in contemporary life. *No* is a two-channel video installation which focuses on the rigorous visa process that people go through to enter the UK. *Modulor II* takes its name from an anthropocentric scale invented by architect Le Corbusier, whose harmonious balance of proportion is challenged in this installation, which recreates the minimum measurements of prison cells from across Europe. *All Along the Watchtower* uses shadow as architectural form to evoke undetectable surveillance structures, while *Perspectives (Bank Junction, London)* is a new work that addresses the recent financial crisis and omnipotent influence of capitalism. *A Colour of Time* is a new monochrome piece, which visualises the layers of time of the building's history, after architectural exploration revealed that layers of paint from Kiralfy's time still existed.

The Cabinet of Souls inverts the roles of spectators and objects. The works make visible the ghostly shadows that continue to influence social forces today. In a new commission, *Faces*, the artist

appropriates archival photographs of tribes people brought to London for the 'Savage South Africa' spectacle that formed part of Kiralfy's Greater Britain Exhibition in 1899. By re-portraying such figures in the manner of Victorian portraiture, the artist re-invests each person with individuality, while simultaneously invoking the camera as a tool of Western imperial control. In *Tunisian Americans*, vials of the soil that surrounds 400 US military graves in Tunisia are placed within old type cases and labelled with their corresponding social security numbers. Kaabi-Linke archives the very earth of her native soil, and through this act addresses the tension in recalling and ordering histories of conflict. *Impunities London Originals* similarly negotiates visibility, using forensic methodology to render discernable the scars of domestic violence, physical and psychological - trapped as traces on fragile paper.

Winner of the recent 2014 Art Basel Discoveries Prize, Nadia Kaabi-Linke's extraordinary practice relates to the way geography and politics inform the identity of both the individual and the collective. Nadia Kaabi-Linke is a Tunisian Russian artist who was born in 1978 in Tunis. She studied at the University of Fine Arts, Tunis (1999) before receiving a PhD from the Sorbonne, Paris (2008). Her last solo exhibitions were *In confinement my desolate mind desires* (2014) at Art Basel, Hong Kong; *Stranded* (2014) at Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal; *No One Harms Me* (2013) at Experimenter, Kolkata, India; *Black is the New White* (2012) at Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai, UAE; and *Tatort/Crime Scene* (2010) in Berlin, Germany. She has participated in group exhibitions at The Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA; the Nam June Paik Art Center at Seoul, Korea (2013); the Liverpool Biennial, UK; Herbert F Johnson Museum, Ithaca, NY, USA (2012); 54th Venice Biennial in Italy (2011); and 9th Sharjah Biennial in Sharjah, UAE. In 2011 she was commissioned by the City of Berlin, borough of Neukölln, to make an out door sculpture for the square Alfred Scholz. The public artwork "Meinstein" was inaugurated in 2014. Her works are part of several public and private collections including that of MOMA, New York.

To deliver an outstanding series of public events The Mosaic Rooms are collaborating with partner institutions including the ICA, Goethe Institut, Leighton House, Freeword Centre and Iniva. These will offer opportunities to hear from the artist herself, as well as critically discuss the multi-faceted questions raised by the dynamic work of the exhibition.

For further details, images and to arrange interviews contact Rosa Attwood at press@mosaicrooms.org or on + 44 207 370 9990.

Notes to Editors

- Nadia Kaabi Linke is available for interview.
- Images and biographies available on request.
- Entry to the exhibition is free. The Mosaic Rooms are open from 11am-6pm Tuesday to Saturday.
- The Mosaic Rooms, a leading independent cultural space in west London, deliver a high quality, contemporary and progressive cultural programme from the Arab world and internationally. They are managed by the A.M. Qattan Foundation, a UK charity dedicated to the support of culture and education in Palestine and the Arab world. The Mosaic Rooms' programme is run by Rachael Jarvis, Head Curator. The Mosaic Rooms are part of the Foundation's Culture and Arts Programme.
- The Mosaic Rooms are situated on the corner of the Cromwell Road and Earl's Court Road in Kensington, London, a short walk from Earl's Court Underground Station and Exhibition Centre. For further information about The Mosaic Rooms and the A.M. Qattan Foundation visit www.mosaicrooms.org.
- The exhibition has been supported by Goethe Institut, Nour Festival and Arts Council England.



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The Mosaic Rooms
A.M. Qattan Foundation
Tower House
226 Cromwell Road
London SW5 0SW

T. 020 7370 9990
www.mosaicrooms.org
info@mosaicrooms.org
facebook.com/mosaicrooms
twitter.com/TheMosaicRooms