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Press Release for immediate distribution

Lawrie Shabibi presents **Science Faction** a solo exhibition by Larissa Sansour
Opening Reception Monday 9 September, 2013, 7-9pm
Exhibition until 12 November, 2013

Lawrie Shabibi is excited to announce **Science Faction** a solo exhibition by Larissa Sansour that premieres the *Nation Estate* series in the Middle East. Originally developed for the Lacoste Elysée Prize 2011, *Nation Estate* became the subject of a censorship controversy when the project was deemed too “pro-Palestinian” and Sansour’s nomination for the prize was revoked – generating media storm culminating in the cancellation of the prize. Despite the setback, Sansour was soon able to galvanise support and eventually complete the project. Lawrie Shabibi is proud to be showing the full series, which features a high-production 9-minute sci-fi short film and set of seven photographic works. Alongside *Nation Estate*, **Science Faction** will also feature works from *A Space Exodus*, an earlier series by Sansour leading the way for the *Nation Estate* project.

In both *Nation Estate* and *A Space Exodus* Sansour appropriates pop cultural forms – science fiction and futurism – to approximate the reality and complexity of life in Palestine and explore a playfully dystopian solution for a Palestinian state. In *Nation Estate*, Sansour proposes a Palestinian state in the form of a skyscraper, with each floor accommodating a Palestinian city. The female lead, played by Sansour herself, travels upwards in an elevator from one city to the other passing by iconic symbols and landmarks that recreate a sense of history and belonging. In *A Space Exodus* (an adaptation of Stanley Kubrick’s *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1986)) Sansour offers a naively hopeful and optimistic vision for a Palestinian future in outer space. Projecting herself onto the moon as a Palestinian astronaut, we see Sansour heroically planting the Palestinian flag on the lunar surface.

Depicting fantastical scenarios inspired by facts on the ground, Sansour hints at the current political stalemate and sense of futility that surrounds the Palestinian predicament. Borrowing heavily from the language of film and pop culture, Sansour’s use of new media masks her cynicism in a humorous manner, offering different interpretations of the current socio-political situation. The result is an unconventional Palestinian narrative that succeeds in being both humorous and tragic.

For images please follow this link: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lbdo50mjoc7h86y/dNlJg4NWxG>

Larissa Sansour

Born in Jerusalem, Sansour is a multi-disciplinary artist whose practice is immersed in the current political dialogue. She studied Fine Art in Copenhagen, London and New York, and currently lives and works in London. Sansour has participated in a number of group exhibitions including the MuCEM, Marseille; the Bluecoat, Liverpool; Liverpool Biennale, 2010; Istanbul Biennale, 2009; Third Guangzhou Triennial in China, 2008 and LOOP, Seoul, 2010. She has exhibited in a variety of international museums and institutions most notably the Centre for Photography, Copenhagen, 2012; Cornerhouse, Manchester, 2012; Museum of Contemporary Art, Denmark, 2011; Hiroshima MOCA, Japan, 2011; Iniva, London, 2010; Al Ma'mal, Jerusalem, 2007; and Tate Modern, London, 2007. Her works are part of notable collections including the Louis Vuitton Collection, France; the Carlsberg Foundation, Denmark; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Denmark; Fonds National d’Art Contemporain, France; N.B.K., Germany; Nadour, Germany; Salsali Private Museum, UAE, and the Barjeel Foundation, UAE.

Earlier this year, *Nation Estate* made its film festival premiere at the Rotterdam International Film Festival and went on to win awards at the prestigious International Short Film Festival Oberhausen in Germany and First Meetings of Arabic Cinema in Marseille. The film was also nominated at MedFilm in Rome, Ismailia International Film Festival in Egypt and Guanajuato International Film Festival in Mexico – with multiple festival appearances and nominations already set up for Fall 2013.

Further information

For media enquiries please contact

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For information on Lawrie Shabibi please visit www.lawrieshabibi.com

Lawrie Shabibi is a contemporary gallery located in Dubai's Al-Quoz industrial district focusing on both established and emerging contemporary artists from the Arab world, Iran, North Africa, South Asia and Turkey. Founded in 2010 by William Lawrie and Asmaa Al-Shabibi, the gallery engages the public with art that imparts a cultural and political discourse together with a powerful aesthetic.

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Opening Hours: 10am to 6pm Sunday to Thursday, 11am to 6pm Saturday.