

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 recent work and specially commissioned site-specific installations.

The exhibition is formed in two parts, both inspired by the history of the gallery's building which, more than a century ago, 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 all parts of the global empire to England, where the Victorian public was eager to view such spectacles. The exhibition is conceived to reflect these last hundred years and the structures of power that thread colonialism and capitalism, captivity and control, the observed and observing.

The lower gallery, *The Cabinet of Souls*, inverts the roles of spectators and objects. The works make visible the ghostly shadows that influence social forces today and aims to release them from the confines of their representation. 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, visible here in endless bottles; a gesture in quiet contrast to the violent history inherent in such cemetery dust. *Impunities London Originals* similarly negotiates visibility, using forensic methodology to render discernable the scars of domestic violence, both physical and psychological - trapped as traces on fragile paper. This space will also feature a new commission, *Faces*, evoking a critical media history that obverts the politics of representation of tribes brought over for the "Savage South Africa" spectacle that formed part of Kiralfy's Greater Britain Exhibition in 1899.

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* 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 the world. *All Along the Watchtower* uses shadow as architectural form to evoke the undetectable surveillance structures that permeate contemporary life. *Perspective 1* is a new work that refers to the recent financial crisis in London and challenges the omnipotent influence of capitalism.

Kaabi-Linke's practice relates to the way geography and politics inform the identity of both the individual and the collective. Her work questions society's invisible mechanisms of control and unseen violences.

Nadia Kaabi-Linke 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. Her works are part of several public and private collections including that of MOMA, New York.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a series of events, which will shed further light on the subjects raised in 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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