A Paraphrastic Film

Cross-cut by Khaled Sabsabi
The Life of Sense

‘...The Paraphrastic chronicles the 21st century Arab experience through the eyes of our Arab contemporaries. The film captures five dynamic and inspired Arab figures who embrace a modernist aesthetic to express their own personal and collective Arab experience. With their artistic choices, these figures are engaged in the董事会 of Arab public life today.’

Khaled Sabsabi

Kultour staff

CEO

Andrea Bell

Your Program Coordinator

Andrea Bell

Kultour is a networked belief system, it is a major scale organisation that aims to break away from Arabist narratives of Arab life through tourism. Kultour’s program is a microcosm of contemporary Arab art, in multi-layered Australia exploring the space between contemporary and traditional, community and mainstream, established and experimental.

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In This Together

‘In This Together’ presents a microcosm of contemporary Arab art, in multi-layered Australia exploring the space between contemporary and traditional, community and mainstream, established and experimental.

In This Together is touring to the Australian Centre for the Moving Image in Melbourne, Australia. The exhibition is touring to the Australian Centre for the Moving Image as part of the AISG Curating for Change exhibition ‘Territory’ tour, presented by Artback NT and Brown’s Mart, as part of the 2009 Darwin Festival. Each of the works in this exhibition is an excerpt from a feature-length film created by established and emerging Arab artists who in the past were censored in their countries of origin. In this exhibition, various voices with local particularities materialise on screen Said’s wrenching aphorism that ‘in the West, it is we who are the witness to our own dispossession and about ourselves. The cultural agency by the


Our Memory for Forgetfulness

Why do we, the people, evolve in tradition, religion, place and background? The beliefs, opinions and hopes of people cannot be encapsulated into one simple statement. In This Together is a project born out of an established and emerging practice that explores Arabness across borders, social, political and religious contexts. The exhibition also provides opportunities for audiences to gain insights into stories emerging from zones of conflict, challenging representations through the presentation of a variety of viewpoints. For these opportunities we may question and debate cannot help but open the process of negotiation and to an openness of opinion.

In This Together showcases a variety of stories emerging from diverse Arabic cultures, travelling locally and globally. Furthermore it aims to address the (mis)representations of Arab culture, such as re-presenting Arab Australia and Arab Resource Center for Popular Arts (Lebanon). The works in this exhibition were shown at the Liverpool Museum in partnership with Gesa Powerhouse, Information and Cultural Exchange (IICE) and 2007 Sydney Arab Film Festival (SAFF). In This Together includes diverse single-channel video works by Anis El Gawley and Fatima Mawas (Australia) Eliane Raheb (Lebanon) and the Al-Jana Arab Resource Center for Popular Arts (Lebanon). The works exhibited explore the possibilities of oral history, the potential of visual history and the intensity of recorded conflict, fusing similar the creative act with traditional storytelling.

In This Together, the works featured in this exhibition serve as conduits between the experience of contemporary Australia and its regionally located past. For the mind’s eye to be able to imagine and its heart to understand; a diverse variety of opinions and perspectives on the Arab world and Diaspora.

I would like to thank all the artists for their energy in preparing the room, their kindness, their time and patience. I would like to acknowledge the staff of the IICE for providing the catalogue essays. Special thanks go to Gali, Tala and Hamayel; colleagues of the exhibition committee. Thank you to all the artists who participated in this exhibition, NT, the Darwin Festival, Darwin Community Arts and Ventosul Bienal for their support.

Khaled Sabsabi
Exhibition Curator

Foreword

Why should we care about forgetting? And who can/could be for/through their own stories, with or without one’s help? Markline D’Arab

It’s not helpful to understand ‘Arabism’ as some academic projection. The Arab world and its people are diverse in tradition, religion, place and background. The beliefs, opinions and hopes of people cannot be encapsulated into one simple statement. In This Together is a project born out of an established and emerging practice that explores Arabness across borders, social, political and religious contexts. The exhibition also provides opportunities for audiences to gain insights into stories emerging from zones of conflict, challenging representations through the presentation of a variety of viewpoints. For these opportunities we may question and debate cannot help but open the process of negotiation and to an openness of opinion.

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