

CONTEMPORARY CULTURE FROM THE ARAB WORLD  
VISUAL ART / LITERATURE / FILM / MUSIC / FOOD

the  
mosaic  
rooms



## Press Release

**MAHMOUD KHALED**

*Fantasies on a Found Phone, Dedicated to the Man Who Lost it*

22 June - 25 September 2022

Preview: 21 June, 6pm-8.30pm

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

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



Installation by Mahmoud Khaled at KUK Trondheim, Norway. Courtesy of the artist and KUK Trondheim

The Mosaic Rooms presents *Fantasies on a Found Phone, Dedicated to the Man Who Lost it*, the first UK solo exhibition by Mahmoud Khaled. Through a series of unfolding installations and interventions Khaled builds an immersive environment. He ambitiously transforms The Mosaic Rooms period, domestic architecture into the imagined dwellings of the owner of a lost phone. The work continues Khaled's interest in historic house museums and the nostalgia and memorialising of individual perspectives found in them. In this new commission the artist repositions this museological form in a contemporary queer lens to explore male identity and intimacy. The artist notes:

"the exhibition is a spatial portrait of an absent person revealed through the (quite strange) contents of the phone he left behind in a public bathroom. A mysterious portrait of a man with a passion for 'décor' and beauty, a highly eroticised man, afflicted with anxiety, insomnia, and melancholy at the same time."

The narrative structuring of the space and title is inspired by 19th Century artist Max Klinger's etching series *Paraphrase on the Finding of a Glove*. In this sequence of images Klinger finds a glove of a woman who he becomes obsessed with. Throughout the etchings, this intimate object triggers visions of longing and loss, conveyed through dreamlike distortions and jarring juxtapositions.

Khaled looks at this tension between desire and anxiety, dream and reality. He focuses on sleeplessness as a metaphor for political states of being, of not belonging, of being displaced. This sense of disquiet is experienced in the installation as we are aware of both the intimacy and artifice of the spaces. The visitor, as a voyeur, simultaneously feels at home and unsettled, and this state of sleeplessness permeates the space.

*Calm* sees the main room covered in draped velvet and voile curtains, with a daybed in the middle of the room. This piece of furniture conjures references to Freud, and his work 'The interpretation of dreams'. However, the proportions of this piece are disproportionately long, lying on it one would immediately feel discomfort and apprehension. A sound piece also plays which subverts the form of popular sleep apps, mimicking their tones and auditory patterns but disrupting their intent by provoking emotions which prevent sleep.

The basement room presents *For Those Who Can Not Sleep*, featuring a rotating leather bed in perpetual motion. The object is a reference to Hugh Hefner's iconic 1960s office-bed which became a pervading image of heterosexual masculinity in a domestic space. This round bed also became an appropriated design depicted in Egyptian TV and cinema, which the artist grew up watching. The circular surround framing the bed features one of the etchings from Klinger's series, and there is a looping soundtrack of discordant melodies.

While the phone or indeed its owner are never seen in the exhibition, the location of its loss is known, and photographs from it are presented in an accompanying publication. The compulsive mass of images references the cognitive dissonance and voyeurism experienced with constant scrolling through social media and swiping in dating apps. The bedroom, a space of comfort and safety, becomes infiltrated by contemporary hyper-capitalist forces of productivity and technology.

This exhibition is generously supported by Arts Council England, Henry Moore Foundation and The Elephant Trust.



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



## NOTES TO EDITORS

### About Mahmoud Khaled

Khaled was born in Alexandria, Egypt, and currently works in Berlin. His practice is both process-oriented and multidisciplinary, can be regarded as formal and philosophical ruminations on art as a form of political activism, and a space for critical reflection. He has presented in international solo shows and group shows such as Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn (2019), Witte de With, Rotterdam (2018), Istanbul Biennale (2017), Sharjah Biennale (2017), Whitechapel Gallery, London (2016).

### About The Mosaic Rooms

The Mosaic Rooms are situated on the corner of the Cromwell Road and Earl's Court Road in Kensington, London, a short walk from the V&A and Design Museum. The Mosaic Rooms are open 11am-6pm Tuesday to Sunday, entry is free.

The Mosaic Rooms are a non-profit art gallery and bookshop dedicated to supporting and promoting contemporary culture from the Arab world and beyond. We do this through contemporary art exhibitions, multidisciplinary events (including film screenings, current affairs, talks, book launches and more) artist residencies and learning and engagement programme. We work in partnership with local, national and international organisations to disseminate our arts programme to a wide and diverse audience. Previous collaborations include partnerships with Chisenhale Gallery, Delfina Foundation, ICA, Shubbak Festival, London Design Festival, among others. They are a project of the A. M. Qattan Foundation.

### About the A. M. Qattan Foundation

The A. M. Qattan Foundation (AMQF) is an independent, not-for-profit developmental organisation working in the fields of culture and education, with a particular focus on children, teachers and young artists. Founded and registered in 1993 in the UK as a charity (no 1029450) and as a charitable company limited by guarantee (no 2171893), it has had a registered branch in Palestine as a nonprofit organisation (no QR-0035-F) since 1998. The Foundation's operations are mainly in Palestine, with interventions in Lebanon through Selat: Links Through the Arts, and in the United Kingdom through The Mosaic Rooms.

### PRESS CONTACT

[press@mosaicrooms.org](mailto:press@mosaicrooms.org)

+44 2073 709990

Matthew Brown

[Matthew@sam-talbot.com](mailto:Matthew@sam-talbot.com)

+44 7989 446557

### LISTINGS INFORMATION

The Mosaic Rooms

226 Cromwell Road

London SW5 0SW

+44 (0) 207 370 9990

[www.mosaicrooms.org](http://www.mosaicrooms.org)

@themosicrooms

Open 11am - 6pm | Tuesday - Sunday | Free Entry