

Press Release

MARWA ARSANIOS

Reverse Shot

12 October 2022- 22 January 2023

Preview Night: 11 October 2022, 6-8.30pm

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

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



Film Still: *Who Is Afraid of Ideology? Part IV Reverse Shot*. Marwa Arsanios, 2022.

The Mosaic Rooms presents the first public UK solo exhibition by **Marwa Arsanios** surveying her interdisciplinary practice. The exhibition reflects on colonial and ecological violence and the alternative possibilities in grassroots community resistance and a more harmonious relationships with the land.

The exhibition opens with a presentation of the artists sci-fi ecofeminist reading room. Visitors will be invited to sit in the reading room and engage with texts together, as part of the artists longstanding interest in language, politics and collaborative processes. Here, Arsanios has curated a selection of books to initiate discussion on alternative visions to mainstream patriarchal ideologies.

The works featured in the main room reflect on systems of capitalism, and the lasting effects of the neo-liberal boom on both environmental and socio-political factors. *Falling is not collapsing, falling is extending*, draws on two instances to critically reflect on the rapid capitalisation and urbanisation in

Beirut since the 1990s. Arsanios examines the real estate drive and reconstruction of Beirut's city centre following the civil war. In parallel the film looks at the rubbish crisis of 2015, where thousands of tons of garbage filled the streets. Overflowing and closed landfills and accumulations of waste continue to threaten Beirut's environment and population. The work also consists of *Resilient Weeds*, a botanic archive of drawings of plants and animals that can survive the toxic levels of these sites.

Amateurs, Stars and Extras or Labor Of Love uses the blur between stage and backstage to reflect on the labour of underpaid or unpaid domestic workers. Mainly performed by women who are often the fundamental actors in domestic economy, the film looks at the invisible work of care as experienced by domestic workers in different sites and geographies. Moving between a domestic workers syndicate in Mexico, to TV sets, casting, a group of friends in Beirut the film interrogates the role of extras in film as silent actors in relation to underpaid domestic work. It also highlights the radical potential of collective political projects to affect change through the voices of syndicalists from the domestic workers' syndicate in Mexico City.

In the final room of the exhibition is the fourth chapter of *Who is Afraid of Ideology IV: Reverse Shot*. The film departs from a collaborative project that is attempting to shift the status of a private land in the North of Lebanon to a common or a social waqf. The aim would be to advance the right of usership over ownership. The land would only be used by people who do not own a land for agricultural purposes. The film follows this process and adds to it a reflection on the way land as a living object inherently resists property. The project is a collaboration between the artist, Soils Permaculture Association, Lawyer Maya Dghaidi and researcher Wissam Saade.

The exhibition brings together a selection of works by the artist that explore visibility and invisibility, space and temporality and the relationship between gender, ecology and colonial legacies. Importantly, many of these works seek to reveal an opening for alternative and radical ways to collectively resist and reclaim knowledge.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Marwa Arsanios

Marwa Arsanios is an artist, filmmaker and researcher who reconsiders politics of the mid-twentieth century from a contemporary perspective, with a particular focus on gender relations, urbanism and industrialisation. She approaches research collaboratively and seeks to work across disciplines.

Solo shows include: Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati (2021); Skuc Gallery, Ljubljana (2018); Beirut Art Center (2017); Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2016); Kunstinstituut Melly FKA Witte de With, Rotterdam (2016) and Kunsthal Lissabon, Lisbon (2015). Her work has also been featured in numerous group exhibitions including: Documenta 15 (2022), Sharjah Biennale (2019) and Home Works Forum, Ashkal Alwan, Beirut (2010, 2013, 2015).

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

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LISTINGS INFORMATION

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