



Garden State
Corinne Silva

14/05/15—20/06/15

**the
mosaic
rooms**



Born in 1976, Corinne Silva uses video and photographic wall installation to explore the intersection between landscape and mobility, borders and art histories. Her meditative visual language investigates these evolving relationships.

Silva holds a PhD from the University of the Arts London and is a Research Fellow at the Photography and the Archive Research Centre (PARC). In 2014 she was recipient of the Triangle International Fellowship, and artist-in-residence at A.M. Qattan Foundation, Palestine, and Kaunas Photography Gallery, Lithuania.

Recent exhibitions include Ffotogallery, Cardiff (2015), The Mosaic Rooms, London (2014); Makan Art Space, Amman (2014); Kunstbezirk, Stuttgart (2013); Brighton Photo Biennial, UK (2012); Manifesta 8, Murcia (2010); Noorderlicht Photofestival, Netherlands (2010); Leeds Art Gallery, UK (2009).

Pop-Up Garden

Smallworld Urbanism has been commissioned to create a pop-up 'guerrilla' garden employing permaculture principles and engaging the local community throughout its development as part of this exhibition. It aims to highlight the power of gardening as a positive force for social activism. It includes a layered modular garden, featuring vegetables and fruits, and integrated upcycled seating arrangements made using materials commonly discarded.

Smallworld Urbanism is a collective of award winning planners, urban designers, architects and permaculturists. It will be open throughout the exhibition and workshops will be hosted in it.



Exhibition dates

14 May—20 June 2015

Tues-Sat 11am-6pm, FREE

Private view: Wednesday 13 May, 6.30-8.30pm



The Mosaic Rooms are pleased to present *Garden State*, a solo exhibition by British artist Corinne Silva. Offering an unexpected view on gardening, the show comprises photographic and sound installations exploring Israel's suburban gardens, parks and public places. Silva encourages visitors to view gardening not simply as the act of nurturing a plot of land, but as something potentially far more sinister: a tool used in aggressive state expansion, territory marking and occupation.

Throughout history, occupying forces have sought to exert control over their territories through re-shaping and re-naming landscapes, landmarks, cities and even countries. New governments have embarked on large-scale landscaping projects and public park building, creating sites of national pride. Settlers have introduced the native plants of their homelands, re-creating the familiar, displacing the indigenous, and stamping their own identities on the land. In this exhibition, Silva explores what gardening might represent in the context of Israel's contemporary colonisation of Palestine.

Garden State comprises two ambitious installations, created during a series of trips to sites between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River from 2010 and 2013. *Wounded* (2013) is a series of nine photographs, taken shortly after a devastating fire in the Carmel Forest in Northern Israel, accompanied by sound recordings made by the artist as she pushed her way through the waist-high foliage

that had grown in its place three years later. Only a small percentage of Israel's forests are natural, when the Aleppo pine forest was first planted, other indigenous flora was pushed out. This immersive audio-visual installation presents the destruction of this national park as a reversal of the Israeli state's re-creation and occupation of this landscape.

Gardening the Suburbs (2014), is a large-scale undulating wall installation made up of clusters of photographs of Israeli suburban gardens. It loosely maps the way these settlements have wound their way across the Occupied Territories, cutting off Palestinian villages from one another and hugging the major roads and freeways. In this work Silva sculpts her own landscapes to show how the Israeli state progressively expands and marks out its land, encouraging people to settle, make roots and grass over particular historical narratives.

As a metaphor for human connection to place, plants speak of rootedness, and like mapping, planting is a place-making activity. People plant gardens where they intend to stay. Seen in the context of the Israeli occupation of Palestine and the continuing state-driven program of illegal settlement building, plants and gardens take on significant representational qualities. The practice of gardening and landscaping: planting and transplanting, seeding and reshaping, accessing and re-routing, is linked to the construction of power, used to reinforce political, social and cultural ideologies.



Cover Untitled from *Wounded*, 2013

Above Untitled from *Gardening the Suburbs*, 2014

Summer Highlights at The Mosaic Rooms

TALKS

Photography, Colonialism and the Politics of Gardening **Thursday 28 May, 7pm**

Panel discussion situating the politics of gardening and landscaping within broader debates around colonialism, geopolitics, indigeneity, land rights, dispossession and visual cultures.

FREE

Permaculture in Palestine **Saturday 13 June, 12pm**

Alice Gray will discuss the role of trees in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: both as a tool for colonisation and displacement, and as a land-based resistance strategy used by Palestinians.

FREE

Artist Talk

Wednesday 17 June, 7pm

Artist Corinne Silva discusses her work and the exhibition with Prof Julian Stallabrass, lecturer, writer, curator and photographer.

FREE

LITERATURE

Return, A Palestinian Memoir **Wednesday 20 May, 7pm**

International best-selling author Ghada Karmi discusses her latest book.

FREE

LIVE

Gardens of Illusion **Thursday 11 June, 7-8pm**

Special live performance by sound artist and composer Toby Wiltshire, who will be creating a unique audio piece.

FREE

FILM

Wanted 18 **Wednesday 3 June, 7.30pm**

Animated documentary which looks at

the Israeli army's pursuit of 18 cows, whose independent milk production on a Palestinian collective farm was declared "a threat to the national security..."

Tickets £6.50 online

SUPPER CLUB

With Tatreez café **Thursday 18 June, 7-10pm**

A special Palestinian supper club at The Mosaic Rooms, with a delicious traditional three-course meal and discussion on the difficulties of cultivation under occupation.

Tickets £35

WORKSHOPS

Permaculture & Ecosystem Architecture Workshop / Upcycling Workshop **Saturday 30 May / Saturday 6 June**

Join Smallworld Urbanism in the pop-up garden to gain practical experience and understanding of the principles of creative and sustainable planting and building.

Tickets £10

TRIP

Cambridge University Herbarium **Monday 15 June, 9am**

A special guided tour of this acclaimed collection, focusing specifically on displays illustrating the position of gardeners and plant hunters in colonial history.

Tickets £25 including return transport

LECTURE

2015 Edward W.Said London Lecture **Music in Life and Life in Music** **Southbank Centre, Tuesday 26 May, 7.30pm**

Daniel Barenboim asks what is the role of music in life in this year's lecture in memory of Edward Said.

Tickets £15

Free events: email rsvp@mosaicrooms.org
Full programme: www.mosaicrooms.org

The Mosaic Rooms — Contemporary Culture from the Arab World

VISIT

The Mosaic Rooms
226 Cromwell Road
London SW5 0SW
www.mosaicrooms.org

Nearest Underground station: Earl's Court, Earl's Court Road exit
Buses: 74, 328, C1, C3
Parking: One disabled parking space is available by prior arrangement; parking meters are available in Lexham Gardens behind the building.

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Follow the exhibition on Twitter: #GardenState

THE MOSAIC ROOMS BOOKSHOP

Our bookshop provides a fantastic resource, stocking celebrated and new writers from the Arab World, art books, and films, in both English and Arabic. Open Tuesday—Saturday, 11am–6pm.

Garden State is co-produced by Ffotogallery, Cardiff, The Mosaic Rooms, London, and UAL Photography and the Archive Research Centre (PARC), London College of Communication, and supported by the Arts Council of Wales and University of the Arts London.

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