

Press Release

JUDY PRICE

Still

7 April - 17 June

Private View: 6 April, 6.30pm-8.30pm

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

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



White Oil, film still. Judy Price.

In this exhibition, UK based artist **Judy Price** presents a unique and complex body of work focused on Palestine. Two multi-screen installations and a photographic piece reflect in very different ways on Palestine's colonial past and present and the current lived experience of occupation. This exhibition's subject is timely; 2017 marks 100 years since the Balfour declaration, the British colonial policy between 1917-1948 which resulted in the mass displacement of the Palestinian nation and people.

Within This Narrow Strip Of Land is a multi screen audio-visual installation. The work is a diverse collection of short films, ranging in style, source and technique; some curious, some unsettling, some with accidental moments of beauty. Two are drawn from archives in London's Imperial War Museum which document the British Mandate period in Palestine (1917-1948). In *Assemblage* white men in pith helmets, assisted by local people, launch an observation balloon. As it rises, we become party to the process of mapping land which will be used to administrate future occupation. In *Reel*, off-cuts and discarded frames are edited together and set to a contemporary soundtrack. What was left out is re-viewed, evoking the deliberate blind spots in recorded history. In *Light Drinks the Dark* we move to present day Palestine; watching a boisterous stag party on a Dead Sea beach from afar. The disparate pieces of the installation create a refracted portrait which refuse a single perspective.

Quarries of Wandering Form explores the stone quarrying industry in Palestine's West Bank. Composed of film and photographic work, the film *White Oil* is installed here as a double screen installation for the first time. The

film, made over a three year period, is a subtle examination of the impact and workings of the occupation, where much of the material quarried is expropriated by Israeli authorities, used to build settlements and exported as Israeli stone. Moving from day to night Price documents the industrial process of the material extraction and moments in the personal lives of quarry owners, workers and security guards working there. The film is contrasted with a still photograph of an olive tree, damaged by the pollution from the quarries. It makes visible the effects of quarrying on the landscape and symbolises a region which is suffocated by the Occupation yet also resists and endures the violence against it.

Creating a link between this London exhibition and Palestine, *White Oil* will be screened in Gaza and Ramallah as part of a series of events leading up to the opening of the new A.M. Qattan Foundation building later this year. The Foundation's Public Programme Director Yazid Anani says: 'The scenic imageries of *White Oil*, unravel the tragedy of social and environmental hazards forcibly inflicted on Palestinian villages and the olive landscape by the quarrying economy.'

Taken together the works in this exhibition at once inform the viewer and challenge what we see. Price draws back from defining the stories she reveals and through this leaves space for new perspectives to be suggested.

Judy Price works across photography, moving image, sound and installation. She experiments with different techniques and ways of collecting material to address collective struggles and create new perceptions of the experiences of individuals and social groups. Price is also a Course Director in Photography (MA) at Kingston University and a Senior Lecturer in Moving Image (BA) at the University of Brighton. Her work has been exhibited and screened internationally including; UK (Imperial War Museum and Barbican, London and Tent Gallery, Edinburgh), Norway (Stiftelsen 3,14 and USF Centre Bergen), Canada (Galerie Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery, Montreal), Germany (Kunshaus Cinema) and Palestine (Khalil Sakakini Cultural Centre, Ramallah and Al-Ma'mal Foundation for Contemporary Art, Jerusalem).

For further details and interviews contact press@mosaicrooms.org or + 44 207 370 9990.

Notes to Editors

- Judy Price is available for interview. Images and more details available on request.
- *Quarries of Wandering Form* is also showing as a solo exhibition at Stiftelsen 3,14 (Foundation 3,14), Bergen, Norway from the 25th March- 4th June.
- Entry to the exhibition is free. The Mosaic Rooms are open 11am-6pm, Tuesday-Saturday.
- The exhibition will be accompanied by a public programme of talks and events.
- The Mosaic Rooms are a leading London-based non-profit cultural organisation dedicated to supporting and promoting contemporary culture from and about the Arab world. They provide an international platform for the arts, particularly new work, and create opportunities for collaboration and professional development between artists, collectives and organisations from the Arab world and the UK. They do this through free contemporary art exhibitions, multidisciplinary events, artist residencies and their engagement programme. They work in partnership with national and international organisations to disseminate their programme to the widest possible audience. The Mosaic Rooms is run by Rachael Jarvis, Director. The Mosaic Rooms form part of the A.M. Qattan Foundation.
- The Mosaic Rooms are situated on the corner of the Cromwell and Earl's Court Road in Kensington, London.
- Visit www.mosaicrooms.org