



I REMEMBER 1948

Arab Artists from Australia and beyond come together for Al Nakba*

Inspired by stories of the Palestinian Diaspora, *I Remember 1948* is a unique exhibition voicing the survival of Palestinian cultural identity. Showing at Performance Space 15 May — 7 June, works by contemporary Australian and international Arab artists explore stories told by Palestinian elders about their homeland and process of exile from it.

I Remember 1948 features material by Arab artists from as far afield as Palestine, Canada and the United States, working in a diverse range of media including sound, time-based work and sculpture. The exhibition will be launched on 15 May 2003 — the 55th anniversary of Al Nakba.

The exhibition has been developed by the I Remember 1948 Committee — Sydney-based collective of Arab artists and activists — and includes works such as *[zaitouna 48 – 03]* by Patrick Abboud and *RememberOnce* by Alexandra Handal.

Abboud is a local Sydney artist whose work uses the cultural icon of the olive tree or 'zaitouna' as a metaphor to share the stories of 1948 refugees living across a global Diaspora. His work is a hybrid of soundscape, video projection and light sculpture exploring the past [prosperity], present [solidarity] and future [growth] of Palestine.

Alexandra Handal is a Santo Domingo-NYC based Palestinian artist whose installations, drawings and digital media works focus upon issues of transnationality, cultural migration/displacement, movement, representation and memory. *RememberOnce* is an ongoing installation of that interweaves images taken from current Israeli tourist guides with personal Palestinian stories, political recollections and testimonials.

I Remember 1948 also includes a digital reproduction of an art work from the Gaza Strip — a large mural-scale painting resulting from a collaboration between Palestinian artists living under occupation. These artists have no freedom of movement out of the Gaza Strip.

www.iremember1948.org

ARTISTS INCLUDE Fatima Killeen, Beessan Semaan, Khaled Sabsabi & Maissa Alameddine, Jayce Salloum (Canada), Marian Abboud, Nicole Barakat, Michael Beydoun, Patrick Abboud, Soraya Asmar, Alexandra Handal (USA), Mohammed J. Abu Sall & Sohail S. Salem, Raed A. Issa, Mohammed A.Hawajri (Palestine), Mohamad Khaled

OPENING Thurs 15 May 5:30pm - 7:30pm
EXHIBITING 16 May -7 June
Wed - Sat 12 - 6pm

Performance Space
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*Al Nakba ("The Catastrophe")

Many Palestinians still carry with them the key to their homes in Palestine. In the hope of return, they hold on to these old keys, even when the houses are most likely already demolished or occupied by others. Al Nakba is the name Palestinians give to 15th May, 1948 when the State of Israel established itself on the lands, homes and lives of the Palestinian people. It was the moment when the Palestinian people became a nation of refugees. 750,000 Palestinians left their homes many who were unable to flee were killed. Al Nakba remains in the Palestinian consciousness as the time when freedom was stolen: freedom that is to this day yet to be returned. *I Remember 1948* explores the stories of Al Nakba.