
FORMS OF CENSORSHIP

With artists: Nicole Barakat, Simon Blau, Alissar Chidiac & Karin Vesk (Archives of Treasures of Palestine), Lux Eterna, Alex Gawronski, Narelle Jubelin, Ali Kazak Poster Collection (various artists), Chips Mackinolty, Mparntwe for Falastin, James Nguyen, NO-PHOTO 2024, Sofia Sabbagh, Mahmoud Salameh.

Opening: Saturday 11 May, 2 pm

With talk: *Living Art Archives and Censorship* with speakers Alissar Chidiac & Karin Vesk (co-curators) and participating artists Nicole Barakat and Alex Gawronski

Public Conversation: Sunday 19 May, 2 pm

'Censorship and Dissent: Human rights law in public arts institutions—does it exist?' with speakers Dr Randa Abdel Fattah (Palestinian Australian sociologist and author), Paula Abood (writer, educator, community cultural organiser), Andrea Durbach (Emeritus Professor and former director of the Australian Human Rights Centre (now Institute) UNSW Law + member of the advisory committee of the Australian Human Rights Institute + Jewish Council of Australia), Lux Eterna (Palestinian Australian interdisciplinary artist and educator) in conversation with Alissar Chidiac (creative producer, community arts worker).

Exhibition Runs 11 May — 8 June 2024
The Cross Art Projects

Forms of Censorship queries an unhealthy culture of self-censorship developing in the arts. Artists witness genocide in Gaza and Israel's intensified occupation of the West Bank and use art's analytic insight and affective power to respond to events as they unfold. Some artists have found themselves criticised, threatened or even silenced for showing support for the Palestinian people or for simply being Palestinian. *Forms of Censorship* asks whether there is a historical and increasingly pathological pattern in play.

For centuries art has raised its voice in terrible times. Censorship aiming to silence dissent and manipulate public opinion has no place in our public institutions, and artists and audiences stand firm with the resolutions of the International Court of Justice. Palestinian voices, the most powerless, living in bleakest circumstances, must be heard and their human rights endorsed. It is time for Australia to recognise Palestine as a nation. We welcome you to this exhibition and associated conversations, imagined as an open dialogue that centres human rights and dignity.

List of Works

WINDOW

1. Lux Eterna, *Motherland: Here On In*, 2018, auto-portrait: archival print on paper, 53 x 78 cm (framed)

GALLERY CLOCKWISE

2. Narelle Jubelin, *As yet without title (Absent Object) Floor, Gaza Strip*, 2014, 2022, from the *Nalgures* series, 2019–2023, knitted textile using stone-colored mohair wool, size variable. Based on satellite images that documented the results of the Israeli offensive deployed over fifty days during the summer of 2014. Represented by The Commercial, Sydney.
 3. Nicole Barakat, *Palestinian Life is Sacred*, 2024, three applique cloth protest banners made with linen, applique cotton, lamé and polyester cloth. Palestinian tatreez from off-cuts of a thob made in Bethlehem by an unknown maker. As used in the *Sydney Sunday Rally*, Week 29, 28 April, 2024.
 4. *NO-PHOTO 2024 poster series*, 2024, digital prints on Epson enhanced matte paper, 10 sets selected from full series, 420 x 594 mm (each). Originally exhibited on the streets of Melbourne CBD in response to censorship of Palestinian photographers from the PHOTO-2024 festival. Featured photographers in displayed works (L to R): Youssef Abu Saeed, Suhail Nassar, Hamza Al Dahdooh, Momen Sameer, Fatima Shbair, Mohammed Zaanoun, Mohamed Al-Masri, Hamza Al Dahdooh.
 5. Mahmoud Salameh, various inkjet prints on Ilford smooth cotton rag 310 gsm, 21 x 29.7, framed. (L to R from top): *Gaza*, 2018. *Free Press*, 2019. *Shireen Abu Akleh. Free Press*, 2019. *Untitled*, 2019.
 6. James Nguyễn, *White Cube*, 2024, 0:54 minutes (looped), no audio.
 7. Alex Gawronski, *State of Palestine Placard*, 2024, acrylic on foamcore, 42 x 59.4 cm
 8. Alex Gawronski, *Various Placards*, 2023—2024, digital print on cotton rag, 118.9 x 84.1 x cm
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The Cross Art Projects

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We recognise the unceded land of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation within which we live and create. We pay respects to the traditional custodians, promising to listen and learn.

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9. Chips Mackinolty, *All We Are Saying ... Is Give Peace a Chance*, 2023, digital print on canvas, 48 x 150 cm
10. Mparntwe for Falastin, *Stop the Genocide, Free Palestine, Close Pine Gap*, 2024, inkjet print on matte paper, 115 x 48 cm
11. Sofia Sabbagh, *Weekly Protests*, 2024, inkjet print (of digital collage of homemade tree inks and text on paper) onto Ilford Fine Art Texture 220gsm, 29.7 x 42 cm, framed
12. *Free Palestine*, unknown artist and date, original poster, 60 x 42 cm. Courtesy: Sydney Trades Hall.
13. Simon Blau, *Peace Flag*, 2023, acrylic on board, 41 x 51 cm. Courtesy of Gallery 9, Sydney.
14. Simon Blau, *Flag of Resignation*, 2023, acrylic on board, 41 x 51 cm. Courtesy of Gallery 9, Sydney.
- Archival poster reproductions from the Ali Kazak Collection:** All sourced from *The Palestinian Museum Digital Archive*, accessible via: www.palarchive.org. All works measure 42 x 29.7 cm.
15. *Palestinian Right to Self-Determination*, Palestinian Activists in Australia in support of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Australian universities, date unknown. Cat no: 0001.01.0007
16. *Palestine*, issued in 1981 by the Plastic Arts Section at the Unified Information of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) depicting the painting of Palestinian artist Sliman Mansour (original dated 1977). Cat no: 0001.01.0122
17. *The Struggle for Justice is Still Young*, issued by the General Union of Palestinian Students (GUPS) in 1970. Cat. no: 0001.01.0032
18. *1000 Days of Intifada*, issued by the Unified Information of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO, 1990. Cat. no: 0001.01.0076
19. *Palestine: A Homeland Denied*, issued by the Baghdad International Exhibition, 1979. Cat. no: 0001.01.0196
20. *They've Returned*, issued by the Unified Information of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) this poster contains verses from Mahmoud Darwish's poem 'The Tragedy of Narcissus, the Comedy of Silver', 1990. Cat. no: 0001.01.0079
21. *United, Democratic, and Non-Sectarian Palestine*, Ali Kazak, this poster was issued by Fateh and shows a combination of the symbols of the three Abrahamic religions, 1980. Cat. no: 0001.01.0051
22. Original poster by artist Nelly Istanbuli, made for the *Down with the Occupation* exhibition which included posters by Palestinian and Israeli artists, issued by Artists for Freedom of Expression, and exhibited in Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem, 1987.
23. Original poster by artist Yair Garbuz, made for the *Down with the Occupation* exhibition which included posters by Palestinian and Israeli artists, issued by Artists for Freedom of Expression, and exhibited in Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem, 1987. Cat no: 0001.01.0142
24. *Free the Detainees*, issued by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) on Palestinian Prisoner's Day in 1991. Inscription reads: "April 17 is Palestinian Prisoner's Day, freedom for detainees, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine". Cat no. 0001.01.0357
25. *Solidarity*, issued by the General Union of Palestinian Students (GUPS) in Lebanon in 1969, with artwork by the Palestinian artist Kamal Boullata. Cat no. 0001.01.0121
26. *War Flares Up in Palestine and Yet it is in Palestine that Peace Will be Born*, issued by the Unified Information of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), 1982. Cat. no: 0001.01.0164
27. *The First Anniversary of the Intifada*, issued by the Unified Information of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), 1989. Cat. no: 0001.01.0177
28. *From the Revolution to the Intifada, a Long Way of Innovation*, a Poster by the Roots Foundation, 1988. Cat. no: 0001.01.0342
29. *A Just Peace for Palestinians*, Issued by the Lebanese Association for Information on Palestine, this poster shows a photograph of an article published in the Washington Post and New York Time newspapers, 1974. Cat. no: 0001.01.0239
30. *30 March, the Day of the Land*, issued by the Unified Information of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1983 and designed by Palestinian artist Ismail Shammout based on a drawing by David Roberts dating back to 1875. Cat. no: 0001.01.0013
31. *Stones Against Guns*, issued by the Unified Information of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), 1989. Cat. no: 0001.01.0251
32. *Exiled, Massacred, Bombed, Burnt and Silenced for Being Palestinian*, issued by an unknown party, date unknown. Cat. no: 0001.01.0006
33. *Rock of Palestine*, issued by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Foreign Information Department, 1982. Cat. no: 0001.01.0120
34. Original poster by artist Micha Olman, made for the *Down with the Occupation* exhibition which included posters by Palestinian and Israeli artists, issued by Artists for Freedom of Expression, and exhibited in Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem, 1987. Cat no: 0001.01.0217
35. *United Nations Decade for Women*, issued by the General Union of Palestinian Women (GUPW) in support of the United Nations Decade for Women, 1980. Cat. no: 0001.01.0023
36. Original poster by artist Bilu Blitch, made for the *Down with the Occupation* exhibition which included posters by Palestinian and Israeli artists, issued by Artists for Freedom of Expression, and exhibited in Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem, 1987. Cat no: 0001.01.0154
37. *Land Day*, issued by the Unified Information of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) on Land Day, 30 March, 1990. Cat. no: 0001.01.0070
38. A Poster by Artist Avner Katz, made for the *Down with the Occupation* exhibition which included posters by Palestinian and Israeli artists, issued by Artists for Freedom of Expression, and exhibited in Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem, 1987. Cat no: 0001.01.0332
39. Alissar Chidiac & Karin Vesik, *Archives of Treasures of Palestine (2003)*, 2024, installation. At Sydney's Powerhouse Museum in 2003, senior management removed an entire section of the *Treasures of Palestine* exhibition curated by Ali Kazak. Removed items included posters, maps, 45 photos from UNRWA archives and 2 documentary films. They sealed from public view almost half the planned exhibition area (see plan drawing). This archive includes media statements, protest letters from the public to the museum director, postcards handed out by Arab Australian Arts Action Alliance (designed by Nicole Barakat), and exhibition collateral including censored introductory text.
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