

## **Media Alert - Diary Date**

### **What?**

- *NWGallery* offsite exhibition on feminism and art

### **Where?**

- Menier Gallery in 51 Southwalk Street, SE1 1RU, London

### **When?**

- Opening night, 6.00 pm, Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016
- The exhibition will remain open to the public until Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

*NWGallery* based in Cambridge in association with ARTUM, an internationally focused platform on Art and Cultural Heritage, within Cambridge Academy of Global Affairs presents a temporary exhibition entitled **SEEDS + SOUL**.

The exhibition features works of nine international female artists from the Middle East, the Balkans, Turkey, United States of America, and the United Kingdom. The concept behind the exhibited work transcends a strong connection on feminism and art.

Participants include ***Inaya Fanis Hodeib*** (Lebanon), ***Marya Mohd AlQassimi*** (Sharjah), ***Zake Prelvukaj*** (Kosovo), ***Summer Yates*** (USA), ***Ayca Koseogullari*** (Turkey), ***Lala-Meredith Vula*** (UK/Kosovo), ***Fatima Mortada*** (Lebanon), ***Annie Kurkdjian*** (Lebanon), ***Jessa Leff*** (United Kingdom).

All the works on display will be available to purchase at the exhibition.

## MEDIA RELEASE



Inaya Fanis Hodeib



Annie Kurkdjian



Fatima Mortada



Zake Prelvukaj

**NWGallery offsite:** in association with ARTUM, an internationally focused platform on Art and Cultural Heritage, within Cambridge Academy of Global Affairs presents a temporary exhibition entitled **SEEDS + SOUL**.

**Public opening:** 6.00 pm Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

- A talk on feminism and art will take part on Friday 23 September 2016, 6.30pm.

NWGallery is a virtual art space that supports artists from conflict affected parts of the world. In association with ARTUM, an internationally focused platform on Art and Cultural Heritage, within Cambridge Academy of Global Affairs presents a temporary exhibition entitled **SEEDS + SOUL**.

The exhibition will feature works of nine international female artists from the Middle East, the Balkans, Turkey, United States of America, and the United Kingdom. The exhibition questions current forms of social agitation, and ways in which cultural perceptions and differences are transforming, through today's feminist art. The artists use different forms of media, including their own bodies and personifications to serve as artistic statements transcending a strong connection on feminism and art.

Participants include **Inaya Fanis Hodeib** (Lebanon), **Marya Mohd AlQassimi** (Sharjah), **Zake Prelvukaj** (Kosovo), **Summer Yates** (USA), **Ayca Koseogullari** (Turkey), **Lala-Meredith Vula** (Kosovo), **Fatima Mortada** (Lebanon), **Annie Kurkdjian** (Lebanon), **Jessa Leff** (United Kingdom).

*Inaya Fanis Hodeib's* work reflects her early childhood observations in Lebanon. She resists the political hardships and focuses more on her personal attitudes towards the world she's in. She wants politics out, but she seeks to create a dialogue between the viewer and the artwork through the inclusion of women's perspective throughout history. Her work will be presented on large-scale canvases depicting portraits of women in agitated states, where love, fear and hope are all in one.

Zake Prelvukaj, a highly accomplished artist based in Kosovo often described as a "veteran" and pioneer on feminist art in the Balkans. Her attitude towards artistic creations, the technique she uses, and her subjects are forevermore unique and raw in substance. In SEEDS+SOUL Zake comes with a series of work exploring the social fascination with the

female sex and the female persona which is on the one hand exposed and perceived as the devil, and on the other hand the crucified social angel. Zake masterfully depicts the woman through her work, as a human being with capability to inflict pain but also to provide and receive pleasure. For Zake, women are to be celebrated as they are, what seems to be impossible in some social perceptions.

*Lala-Meredith Vula* is a photographer who has worked with the likes of Damien Hirst and was a prominent member of the Young British Artists group in the 90s. Her work has been exhibited widely internationally. She famously photographed women in Turkish baths over a two-year period, explaining "Women and Water" is about the beauty and imperfection of the free body underwater. Many women feel themselves deformed by social influences particularly in the West. In the water they are free to dissolve and re-appear as a part of nature both classical and expressive."

*Fatima Mortada's* work focuses on issues of female identity and conflict that refer to her social background: The Middle East. Her work portrays the female and the male body in boldly expressive ways, often taking active part in self-exploration and sexual pleasures. Fatima's work is considered a taboo and provocative in her surroundings for which she was often received threats and social isolation. Her commitment and persistence to create art that talks to one's soul is clear and gets very close to one's self.

*Annie Kurkdjian* admits, "I get my inspiration from everything sincere around me". The current work that Annie is presenting at SEEDS+SOUL provokes thought in both women and men, and in this series she refers specifically to the Middle Eastern women and men. She questions the pretence and passivity and calls for reaction, and if need be also a rebellious act. For Annie, anything that provokes the so longed change in how womanhood is perceived becomes the air of her work.

This NWGallery offsite *temporary exhibition* will be located in Menier Gallery in London. All the works on display will be available to purchase.

#### **Notes to editors:**

*About NWGallery.* NWGallery promotes, exhibits and represents contemporary artists emerging from societies affected by conflict and other societal transitions. The gallery provides a platform for artists to communicate the circumstances that influence and motivate their work. NWGallery is present in the social media, it organizes solo and group exhibitions, scholarly catalogues and symposiums that mirror the artistic creations vis a vis current global issues.

#### **Listings information:**

NWGallery offsite exhibition on feminism and art  
Menier Gallery in 51 Southwalk Street, SE1 1RU, London  
6:00 pm, Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September / Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

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