

# GALLERY4A

181-187 Hay Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000  
info@4a.com.au  
www.4a.com.au

## MEDIA RELEASE

### EXHIBITION: KHALED SABSABI *INTEGRATION, ASSIMILATION AND A FAIR GO FOR ALL*

Exhibition dates: 13 June - 25 July 2009  
Opening: Friday 12 June, 6-8pm  
Panel Discussion: Saturday 20 June, 2pm



In Winter 2009 Gallery 4A's focus shifts towards West Asia and the Arab world, shedding light on the ways in which international issues of migration, integration, assimilation are interpreted and influence the work of contemporary artists.

Gallery 4A presents a solo exhibition by Khaled Sabsabi, a Western-Sydney-based artist, who over the last 10 years has developed an impressive exhibition profile, working with important curators and museums in Berlin, Poland, Shanghai, Auckland and Western-Sydney. *Integration, Assimilation and a fair go for All*, is a multi-channel video installation that will occupy both levels of Gallery 4A. Aaron Seeto, Director of Gallery 4A says "This is the latest in Khaled Sabsabi's ongoing body of work that addresses contact and conflict. Sabsabi is the kind of artist who is not only engaged politically, but an artist who offers us different ways of thinking through our relationships and our place in the world. Sabsabi presents a complex project which poetically and intelligently unravels some of the big issues of our time."

The exhibition presents work made over the last three years which invert our expectations and question the level of engagement of the viewer. In the 3-channel video installation titled *Left-Centre-Right*, an ominous storm sequence over the suburbs near Newcastle. This natural event was documented by the artist in 1997. When presented in the gallery, there is an eerie similarity to news imagery of war offensives in other countries. In *Fuck off we're full*, a large black vinyl text is presented on a black painted wall - the unpleasant directness of the text melds into the physical surroundings - Sabsabi critiques our institutions, asking whether the conflict of land ownership and occupation are inscribed silently all around us. On the groundfloor galleries, the video installation *Australian* is visible 24 hours a day. This work is a 12-channel video installation of oscillating human faces, fragments of noses, eyes, mouths, collaged from various faces across many different cultures.

Born in Lebanon, Khaled Sabsabi migrated to Sydney in the 1970's. He has worked across sound, music production and the visual arts in Australia for the past 16 years. From 2002-2004, he completed an Australia Council fellowship in Beirut. Internationally he has participated in exhibitions in Beirut, Te Tuhi Centre for the Arts, Auckland; Zendai MoMA Shanghai and recently at Kunstverein Tiergarten, Berlin. Working across Western Sydney he has exhibited at the Campbelltown Arts Centre, Casula Powerhouse and Blacktown Arts Centre.

*Integration Assimilation and a fair go for All* will be officially opened on Friday 12 June at 6pm by Lisa Havilah, Director of Campbelltown Arts Centre.

#### Panel Discussion- 20 June 2009 Saturday 2pm

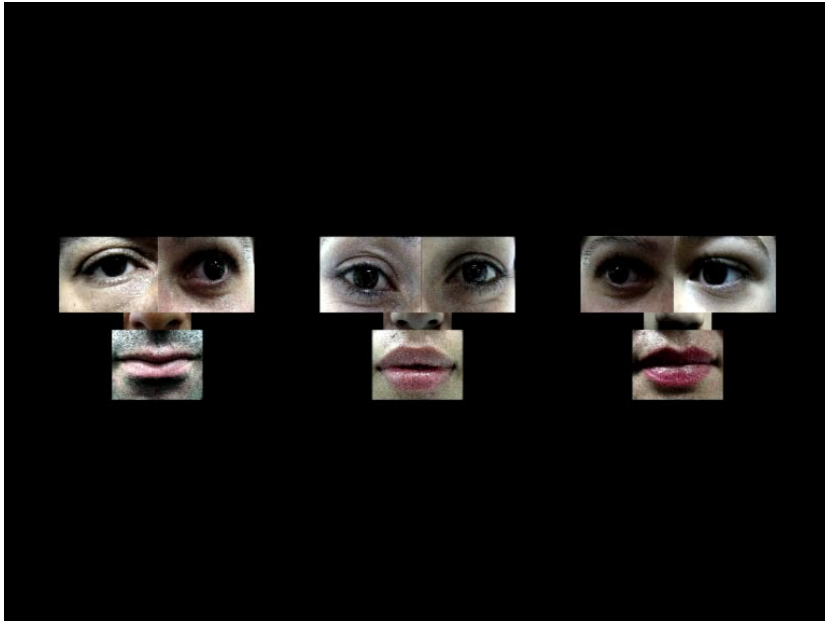
Gallery 4A will present a panel discussion to explore some of the key ideas within Khaled Sabsabi's exhibition. In this exhibition Gallery 4A's focus shifts towards West Asia and the Arab World through an artist whose ongoing body of work addresses contact and conflict and the role of the artist. As issues of migration, contact, conflict, traditional land ownership and occupation affect much contemporary art production in this country, what is the changing role of the artist, and what strategies are employed that bridge the creative and the political. The informal afternoon session will include speakers curator Alissar Chidiac, academic and poet Farid Farid, Indigenous art curator Djon Mundine and Khaled Sabsabi, chaired by Aaron Seeto.

Contact Aaron Seeto (02) 9212 0380 or email [info@4a.com.au](mailto:info@4a.com.au) for more program information, hi res images or media interviews.

**AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Contact Aaron Seeto (02) 9212 0380 or email [info@4a.com.au](mailto:info@4a.com.au) for more program information, hi res images or media interviews. Installation images will be available three days before the exhibition opening.

THIS MEDIA RELEASE IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN CHINESE.



Top: Australians (2006/2009), still from digital video

Bottom: Left-Centre-Right (2007/2009), video still from digital video

## MEDIA CONTACT

Contact Aaron Seeto (02) 9212 0380 or email [info@4a.com.au](mailto:info@4a.com.au) for more program information, hi res images or media interviews. There will be a closed performance of Huseyin Sami's Painting Machine #5 prior to the public opening, please contact the gallery if you are interested in photography opportunities for this event.

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## EXHIBITION DETAILS

KOJI RYUI - MOAI

HUSEYIN SAMI - PAINTER I AM WHY NOT

Exhibition dates: 30 April - 6 June 2009

Opening: FRIDAY 8 May 2009, 6-8PM (please note this event falls after the exhibition is open to the public)

Related Events ARTISTS FLOORTALK, Saturday 16 May at 2pm

**Gallery 4A** Asia-Australia Arts Centre

181-187 Hay St

Sydney 2000

ph: 02 9212 0380

[info@4a.com.au](mailto:info@4a.com.au)

[www.4a.com.au](http://www.4a.com.au)

Tuesday - Saturday, 11am - 6pm.

Closed public holidays

FREE ADMISSION

## ABOUT GALLERY 4A

Gallery 4A was founded in 1997 as an initiative of the Asian Australian Artists Association Inc. (4A, a non-profit organization established to present and promote the work of Asian-Australian artists and a greater understanding of diverse cultures through the arts.

Our exhibition program focuses on contemporary art practice. Our exhibition program is culturally diverse, and many of the projects and artists who exhibit here reflect this diversity. The exhibition program has played a significant role in the cultural development of this region. We also run regular public programs including video art screenings and artist talks.

GALLERY 4A provides a vital cross-cultural dialogue through an innovative and comprehensive program of exhibitions, conferences, seminars and workshops. Over the past 10 years we have exhibited over 300 artists from around Australia as well as from India, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, China, the USA, the UK and New Zealand.

The Asian Australian Artists Association is supported by



Gallery 4A is an initiative of the Asian Australian Artists Association Inc (4A). We gratefully acknowledge our Principal Patrons Geoff and Vicki Ainsworth; Daniel and Lyndell Droga and Dr Dick Quan; Patrons Richard Funston, John Lam-Po-Tang, Kerr and Judith Neilson; Benefactors Peter Talbot and Dr Gene and Brian Sherman AM and Friends Ari and Lisa Droga, Phillip Haw, David Droga, Richard and Margie Holden, VisAsia, Annika Droga-Susskind, Isabella and Sam Droga, Ann Lewis, Peter Fay, Yeehwan Yeoh and Matt Cox, Lianne Rossler, Brooke Aitken, Claire Armstrong and John Sharpe. The assistance of the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its funding and advisory body, the NSW Government through Arts NSW and the City of Sydney.

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