

GALLERY4A

ROOMSHEET

KHALED SABSABI

INTEGRATION, ASSIMILATION AND A FAIR GO FOR ALL

13 JUNE - 25 JULY 2009

Ground floor

Khaled Sabsabi

Australians, 2006/2009

12-channel video installation

First floor

Khaled Sabsabi

Left-Centre-Right, 2007/2009

3-channel video installation

Khaled Sabsabi

Fuck off we're full, 2009

black vinyl on wall

Both floors

Khaled Sabsabi

Accent, 2009

white vinyl on wall

Integration, Assimilation and a fair go for All is a multi-channel video installation that will occupy both levels of Gallery 4A. It is the latest in Khaled Sabsabi's ongoing body of work that addresses contact and conflict. Sabsabi is not only engaged politically, but offers us different ways of thinking through our relationships and our place in the world.

The exhibition presents work made over the last three years which invert our expectations and question the level of engagement of the viewer. The 3-channel video installation Left-Centre-Right presents an ominous storm sequence over the suburbs near Newcastle. This natural event was documented by the artist in 2007. When viewed 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 ground floor gallery, the video installation Australians 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.

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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 Campbelltown Arts Centre, Casula Powerhouse and Blacktown Arts Centre.

Panel Discussion on Saturday 20 June 2009 at 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. 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? 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 Curator - Contemporary Art, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Djon Mundine and Khaled Sabsabi, chaired by Aaron Seeto.

Khaled Sabsabi

Integration, Assimilation and a fair go for All.

For Winter 2009, Gallery 4A is proud to present an interactive experience in *Integration, Assimilation and a fair go for All* experience with several multichannel video installations by Khaled Sabsabi, a Western Sydney artist. His works span across multimedia, installation and sound and has in the past couple of years attracted widespread overseas interest.

On the ground floor gallery, Khaled Sabsabi's the video installation, displays oscillations of human faces. A fragmented a nose, two separate eyes and a mouth join to form three collaged faces in a reflection of identity across many different cultures.

This exhibition is the latest in Khaled Sabsabi's ongoing body of work that addresses the sensitive issues which arise from zones of contact and conflict. Simultaneously powerful and beautiful, a luminous flow of crimson colour projected on the ground floor gallery becomes a poetic reminder of regional unrest in the Middle East. Alongside video installation, text based wall script and sound installation have been designed to provide a mystically dark and atmospheric immersion into contemplating these highly charged issues away from mainstream coverage of Middle Eastern conflict.

In this exhibition Gallery 4A's focus shifts towards West Asia shedding light on the ways in which issues of migration, integration, assimilation hold true both internationally and locally, remaining central to the context of many communities within Australia.

Born in Lebanon, Khaled Sabsabi migrated to Sydney in the 1970's. He has worked across in sound and music production and in the arts in Australia for the past 16 years. From 2002-2004, he has completed a two year Australia Council fellowship in the Middle East. Internationally he has participated in exhibitions in Beirut, Auckland, Shanghai. Working across Western Sydney he is interested in the development of community art projects and works with at risk communities. Across Western Sydney he has exhibited widely participating in exhibitions at the Campbelltown Arts Centre, Casula Powerhouse and Blacktown Arts Centre.