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Khaled Sabsabi, Integration, Assimilation and a fair go for ALL, Gallery 4A Asia-Australia Arts Centre, Sydney, until 25 July

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.



Khaled Sabsabi
Left-Centre-Right, 2007/2009
Video still
Courtesy of the artist

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. 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 1997. 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 galleries, the video installation Australians is visible 24 hours a day. This work is 8/9/09 12:15 PM