

**Nottingham
Contemporary**

**Basel Abbas & Ruanne
Abou-Rahme**

***Prisoners of Love: Until
the Sun of Freedom***

Easy Read Guide



How to use this Guide



In this guide, hard to understand words are underlined. We explain what these words mean after they have been used.

The guide starts with an introduction about the exhibition.

After the introduction, there is a section of the guide telling you about different themes in the exhibition.

You can use the contents page to find out which page of the guide information on each theme is found at.

The contents page is on the next page and tells you what page number to turn to for each section.

The page numbers are written at the bottom of each page.

Contents

Page

Introduction	4
Basel and Ruanne's Work	5
The Exhibition in Nottingham	8
For More Information	12
Image Credits	13

Introduction



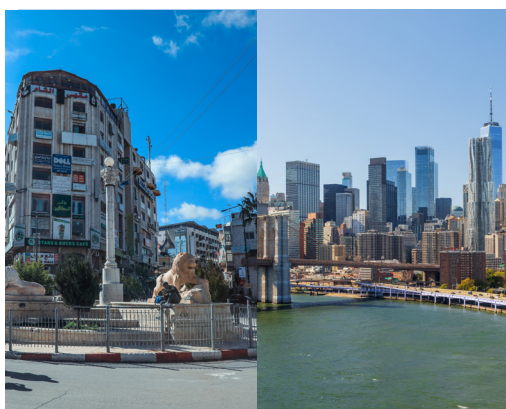
This exhibition is a display of artworks by two artists called Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme. Basel and Ruanne work together to make art.



We are showing works by Basel and Ruanne at Nottingham Contemporary from 27 September 2025 to 11 January 2026.



Basel and Ruanne are from Palestine.



Basel and Ruanne sometimes live in New York which is a city in the USA and they sometimes live in Ramallah which is a city in Palestine.

Basel and Ruanne's Work



Basel and Ruanne have been making art together since 2007.



Their art uses new technologies like smartphones, live streaming, blogs, videos, and social media.



They collect these videos, pictures and words together to build what they call a counter-archive. A counter-archive is a way of saving and sharing information about things that have happened that are hidden or aren't talked about much.



Basel and Ruanne see their counter-archive as a way to make sure people all over the world hear what people from Palestine have to say.



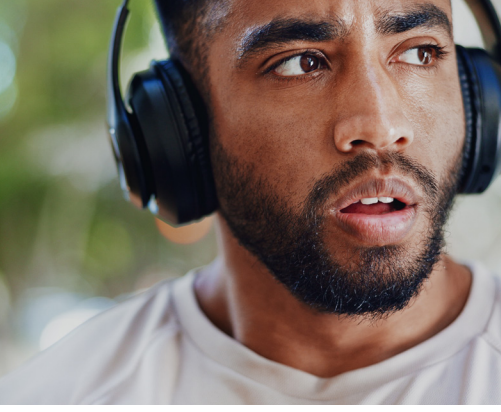
In 1948 there was an event in Palestine called the Nakba. This means catastrophe in English. A catastrophe is a bad event which makes people suffer.



After the Nakba, lots of people in Palestine had to leave their homes.



Lots of Basel and Ruanne's artworks tell stories about life in Palestine.



They want people who listen to these stories to think about what life is like now and what could be different in the future.

The Exhibition in Nottingham



Basel and Ruanne's exhibition in Nottingham is called *Prisoners of Love: Until the Sun of Freedom*



The exhibition is a big multimedia installation. This means the artwork is made up of lots of different things that fill the gallery.



The exhibition includes videos, sound artworks and things printed onto fabric and paper.



To make the work in this exhibition, Basel and Ruanne collected stories and memories from Palestinian people who have been in prison.



Basel and Ruanne mixed these stories and memories with poems and texts from Palestinian writers. Some of these writers have also been in prison.



In the gallery, Basel and Ruanne have displayed the stories and texts so that they overlap. This means they are not all separate and instead we see them as connected and together.



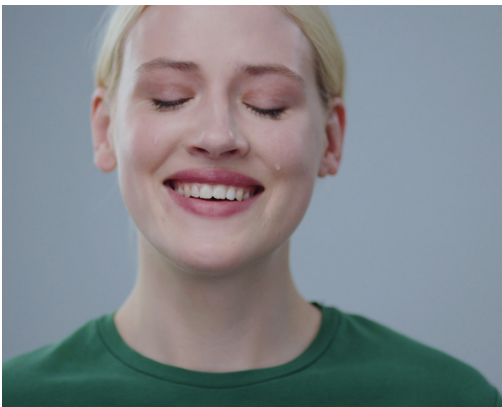
Being put in prison in Palestine is the first time that some Palestinians have been able to live in Palestine. This is because lots of Palestinians have been forced to leave their homes since the Nakba which happened in 1948. We talked about this on page 6 of this guide.



Because being in prison means being able to return to their homeland, there is sometimes an odd feeling about imprisonment.



Being in prison is not always fair. Some people are put in prison without a proper trial. A trial is when people in charge try to find out if someone has done something wrong which means they should be in prison.



For Palestinian people who have been forced to leave their land, being in prison can connect them back to their land. This is not a happy thing, this is bittersweet. Bittersweet means something that is sad but might bring some happiness too.



Palestinian prisoners might think about their happy memories of their land, but they are sad because they are in prison.



Some of the prisoners in the video talk about sharing songs and stories with each other as a way of staying positive and keeping their Palestinian culture alive.



Some of the images in the exhibition show things surviving in difficult conditions. The film shows images of sunlight managing to shine through tiny cracks in walls. There are also images of plants growing through tiny cracks. The sun and plants manage to find a way to shine and grow even when it's hard. This is like how the Palestinian prisoners survive in difficult conditions.

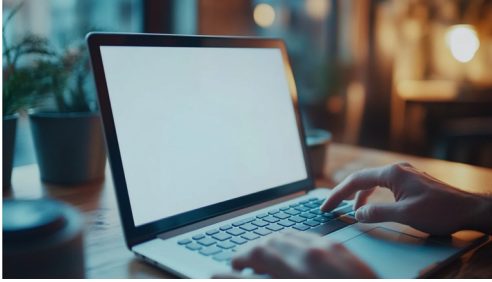


Basel and Ruanne wanted to show how strong the Palestinian prisoners are and to share their respect for these people who survive in very bad conditions.



Basel and Ruanne want to show the power of imagination, dreams, songs, and stories. People's dreams and stories help to keep hope and freedom alive.

For More Information



You can find out more about what we do by looking at our website here:

nottinghamcontemporary.org



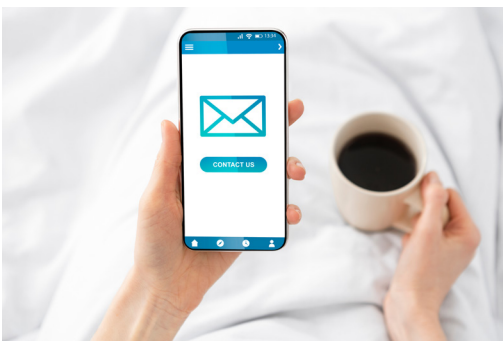
If you would like to help us show more artworks in the future, please think about giving us some money.

We suggest £5 as a good amount.



If you need more information please contact us by:

**Post : Nottingham Contemporary
Weekday Cross Nottingham
NG1 2GB**



Phone: 0115 948 9750

**Email:
info@nottinghamcontemporary.org**

Image Credits

Image credits tell us who took a photograph. The image credits for the photographs you have seen in this easy read guide are shown below.

We have to write these in the way they are written below because of special rules. You don't need to read this part of the guide unless you want to. This part of the guide doesn't tell you anything more about the artworks in the exhibition.

Page 1

1. Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme, Still from *Prisoners of Love*, 2025. Courtesy of the artists.

Page 2

1. 679576960 shutterstock.com

Page 4

1. Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme, *Prisoners of Love: Until the Sun of Freedom*, installation view. Photo: Rae Dowling

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Page 5

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4. 597317402 shutterstock.com

Page 7

1. 2505607863 shutterstock.com

Page 8

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2. Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme, *Prisoners of Love: Until the Sun of Freedom*, installation view. Photo: Jules Lister

3. Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme, *Prisoners of Love: Until the Sun of Freedom*, installation view. Photo: Jules Lister

Page 9

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Page 10

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Page 11

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Page 12

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