

**Basel Abbas & Ruanne Abou-Rahme at Nottingham Contemporary**

**Sat 27 Sep 2025 – Sun 11 Jan 2026**

**Private View: Fri 26 September**



Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme, Still from *Prisoners of Love* (working title), 2025. Courtesy of the artists.

Nottingham Contemporary is proud to present a major new commission by the Palestinian artist duo Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme. This exhibition will feature the artists' largest multi-media installation to date, celebrating their significant contribution to the field of research driven audio-visual art.

Since 2007 Abbas and Abou-Rahme have worked together across a range of sound, image, text, installation and performance practices. They excavate, activate and invent incidental narratives, figures, gestures and sites as material for re-imagining the possibilities of the present, ultimately questioning what is, and what could be. Applying fugitive tactics of presentation, through collecting, sampling, layering and recasting found and documented materials from both online and offline worlds, the artists consider a non-linear approach to storytelling. They draw on notions of amnesia and déjà vu to create slippages and junctures in our everyday realities and carve out a language that speaks to positions of forced statelessness. By layering and sampling audio-visual materials that are both existing and self-authored, the artists create what they refer to as 'new scripts' or 'poetics of resistance' investigating the political, visceral and material possibilities of sound, image, text and site.

For their solo exhibition at Nottingham Contemporary, a major new work will present an activation of one such script, exploring songs, poems and daily acts of resistance of prisoners,

from love songs to songs of resistance, songs dedicated to land and songs to gain freedom. Firsthand recordings, testimonies and stories of former prisoners recorded across the occupied West Bank build upon the artists' expansive archive and are layered with poems and prose penned by the artists, poets and scholars examining detention and freedom, resilience, and the fight for justice within regimes of occupation and oppression. Through song, sound and music alongside writing, the artists ask, 'how is it that the very form of sound allows it to seep, to transgress, to move in and beyond an enclosed space, whether in the small or the big prison?' By investigating sound and writing as a tool to dissolve repressive structures and permeate borders, the artists highlight how communities can mobilise hope and collectively imagine alternative futures, so that one day the prison walls may be turned to dust.

For more information about Basel Abbas & Ruanne Abou-Rahme and other exhibitions at Nottingham Contemporary, please visit [our website](#).

This exhibition is co-commissioned by Nottingham Contemporary, Kunstinstituut Melly, and MACBA.

This exhibition is curated by Salma Tuqan and Niall Ó Faircheallaigh.

**Headline Supporter:** Diane and Tariq Al-Ghussein

**Exhibition Circle:** Fadi Kassis, Louisa Macmillan, Lorenzo Legarda Leviste and Fahad Mayet, Rafic Said, Maria Sukkar, The Abu-Suud Family in memory of Ghazwa Abu-Suud, Sara Tayeb, Yafa Foundation, Marwan Shehadeh, Selim & Houda Bouafsoun and those who wish to remain anonymous.

**Commissioning Circle:** Nissreen Darawish, Gabriela Galcerán, Hamza Serafi, Carlo Solari and Paula del Sol, and those who wish to remain anonymous.

## Notes to Editors:

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## About Nottingham Contemporary

Nottingham Contemporary is one of the leading centres of contemporary art in Europe. Since opening in 2009, we have welcomed over 2 million visitors – with free admission for all – to our highly ambitious programme that has featured hundreds of artists and cultural practitioners from across the globe.

Our programme champions international art and artists who invite us to imagine the world in new ways, and empower different perspectives into the most pressing cultural, social, and political questions of today. We support artists at different stages of their careers – from first-time solo shows in the UK to surveys of renowned or overlooked figures – and regularly present significant thematic exhibitions and major artist-curated projects. Nottingham Contemporary was shortlisted for Art Fund Museum of the Year 2019. Nottingham Contemporary is supported using public funding by Arts Council England and regularly funded through our partnerships with the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University.

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