

**Basel Abbas & Ruanne Abou-
Rahme**

*Prisoners of Love: Until the Sun of
Freedom*

Dyslexia Friendly Exhibition Notes

Basel Abbas & Ruanne Abou-
Rahme

27 Sep 2025–11 Jan 2026

'It is Ulysses

Returning home

From the sea of loss

It is the return of the sun, Of
my exiled ones

And for her sake, and his

I swear I shall not compromise

And to the last pulse in my
veins I shall resist,

Resist—and resist.'

Samih Al Qasim "Enemy of the
Sun", 1970

Since 1948, thousands of
Palestinians have been displaced
from their native homeland, during
what is referred to as the 'Nakba'
(Arabic for catastrophe), unable to
return. Within this context of
occupation, prisons exist as sites

of conflict — at once detaining and
confining those already oppressed,
whilst simultaneously reuniting
them to lands from which they
are otherwise denied. Occupation
therefore becomes not just of the
land but also the body, the
imaginary and the mind. Basel
Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme
take this as the point of
departure for their new multi-
channel, audiovisual installation
*Prisoners of Love: Until the Sun of
Freedom.*

Based between Ramallah and New York, Abbas and Abou-Rahme have worked collaboratively since 2007.

The artists' practice has developed alongside the rise and proliferation of new technologies such as handheld online devices, live streaming and user-generated material like blog posts, videos or social media posts. Through these technologies, Abbas and Abou-Rahme collect, sample, layer and recast found and documented materials from both online and

offline worlds, creating what they refer to as a 'vast counter-archive to document Palestinian life'; an act intended to prevent the erasure of Palestinian voices. In their wider practice, Abbas and Abou-Rahme invent, excavate and activate chanced-upon stories, figures, gestures and sites as material for re-imagining the possibilities of the present, ultimately questioning what is, and what could be.

Prisoners of Love: Until the Sun of Freedom is a major new moving image work, sound composition and constellation of printed works on fabric and paper. The installation weaves in first-hand testimonies and memories of former Palestinian prisoners recorded and gathered by the artists across Palestine, interspersed with poems and prose from scholars and revolutionary thinkers, some of whom were imprisoned themselves.

Utilising their acclaimed digital tactics of layering, splicing and overspilling projected imagery and sound, Abbas and Abou-Rahme work with light and rhythm to illuminate the wider emotional and psychological conditions of detention and imprisonment. These presentational devices might themselves be defined as 'fugitive', resisting captivity by seeping into and escaping the rigid structure of a frame or a screen.

Just as the small glimmers of
sunlight between bricks in a prison
cell or the upward stretch of a
weed growing between cracks in a
concrete floor become symbols of
resistance to enclosure, *Prisoners of
Love: Until the Sun of Freedom*
honours the communities who
survive and persist within
impossible conditions. The non-
linear narrative that traverses the
work speaks to the power of inner
strength, the dignity and resilience
of those incarcerated and the

power of holding onto one's
freedom through imagining and
dreaming, singing and storytelling.

In this work, the artists create a
space where a new collective
consciousness can exist – one that
is grounded in resistance to
oppression, liberation and self-
determination. *Prisoners of Love:*

Until the Sun of Freedom invites us
all to collectively strive for and
imagine alternative futures, so that
one day the prison walls may be

turned to dust, and the sun can
return once again.

RELATED EVENTS

ARTIST TALK

Sat 27 Sep, 2pm

Basel Abbas & Ruanne Abou-
Rahme in conversation with Hazem
Jamjoum.

WALKTHROUGHS

Wed 1 Oct, 12pm

Welcome Walkthrough

Explore the exhibition with our
team and community partners,

Manjit Sahota, Poets Against

Racism and Anna Ball, HEAL

**(Hostile Environment, Art-fuelled
Living)** followed by refreshments
and conversation in the café.

Wed 22 Oct, 1pm

Curators' Walkthrough

Join Nottingham Contemporary's
curators for a tour of our autumn
exhibitions.

Wed 19 Nov, 1pm

With Victor Kattan, Assistant
Professor in Public International
Law, University of Nottingham.

Wed 17 Dec, 1pm

BSL Exhibition Tour

With Jason Tennant, BSL tour
guide for the Turner Contemporary

**& British Museum, BSL teacher &
presenter.**

Wed 7 Jan, 1pm

**With Bint Mbareh, sound and
water researcher.**

12.30 Talks

**12.30pm every Tue, Thu and Sat,
starting Tue 7 Oct**

**Join one of our friendly Gallery
Assistants for a short exploration**

Basel Abbas & Ruanne Abou-Rahme Dyslexia Friendly Exhibition Notes

of one of our current exhibitions.

For more details visit our website.

Thu 2 Oct, 4.30pm

Teacher CPD Session

An art-making and practice-sharing session in our galleries. For educators of all stages.

FREE FAMILY ACTIVITIES

October Half-Term: 21 Oct - 30

Oct, Tue, Wed & Thu

Explore the themes in the
exhibitions through making and
play.

Mon 6 **O**ct, 10 **N**ov, 15 **D**ec

Early Years **S**ensory **W**orkshops:

We **A**re **W**onderlings

Explore the world through sensory
free play in a safe and
stimulating environment.

OTHER EVENTS

Thu 2 **O**ct, 7pm

111

Three live performances rooted in the expression of Louis Carnell's collaborative record. Featuring Louis Carnell, Wu-Lu, Li Yilei, Juliana Day & Tom Harris.

Wed 8 Oct, 6:30pm

Tender Stones by Lucy Suggate
with Cool Company

Live performance exploring the transferable properties of stone, petrification, heaviness and

tenderness, presented as part of
Nottdance 2025. Suitable for all.

Fri 10 - Sun 12 Oct

Print Fair Contemporary

Over 35 stalls showcasing a wide
range of printmakers, illustrators
and artists.

Wed 15 Oct, 7:30pm

Mōnad by Alexandra 'Spicey'

Lande with MC Jai Nitai Lotus

A contemporary dance performance
exploring how we approach
different incarnations of the same
life, presented as part of
Nottdance 2025. Suitable for ages
18 and over.

Sat 25 - Sun 26 Oct

Festival of Resistance

Join us for a special weekend of
community celebration and
solidarity. **Meet community groups**
and activists, take part in talks

and creative workshops and be part of the action.

Sat 1 Nov, 10:20am & 1:30pm

**The Show for Young Men by
GuestHouse Projects**

A funny and tender contemporary dance performance that considers the complexities of modern-day masculinity, presented as part of Nottdance 2025. Suitable for ages 8 and over.

Tue 4 Nov, 6.30 p m

Jarman Award 2025

**Jarman Award Touring Programme
2025, followed by an in-conversation
with Morgan Quaintance.**

Fri 21 Nov, 7p m

Morphic Resonance by Beth Kettel

**An immersive performance that
blends sound, costume and
movement to explore perception,
consciousness, communication and
interrelationships, followed by an**

after-party with collaborators and
sound artists.

Fri 5 - Sun 7 Dec

Craft Fair Contemporary

40 stalls from independent
designers and makers showcasing a
variety of specialisms.

For more information about the
exhibition, related events and
learning programmes, visit
nottinghamcontemporary.org or scan
here:



COLOPHON

We are grateful to all those
whose generosity made this
exhibition possible.

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Leviste and Fahad Mayet, Rafic
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remain anonymous.

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by Nottingham Contemporary,
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The exhibition is curated by
Salma Tuqan and Niall Ó
Faircheallaigh.

Exhibition graphics by Waste
Studio.

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If you would like a calm space to reflect during your visit, please feel free to use Gallery 0 (room adjacent to Gallery 1), where you can also find support resources and tools. Please speak to a member of staff for more information.

If you would like to use any
alternative forms of interpretation,
we have a range of accessible
versions on our Access Wall beside
Reception or alongside the wall
text in the exhibition.