

**Nottingham
Contemporary**

Dala Nasser

Cemetery of Martyrs

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.

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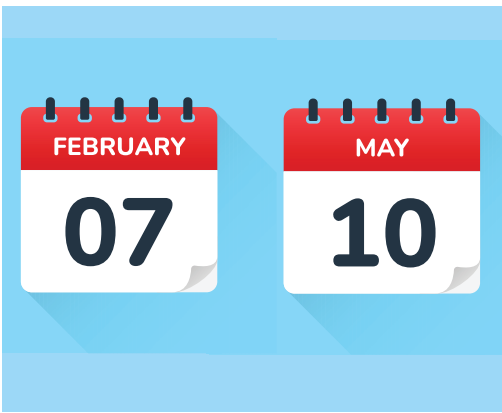
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Introduction



This exhibition is a display of artworks by an artist called Dala Nasser.



We are showing works by Dala at Nottingham Contemporary from 7 February to 10 May 2026.



Dala is an artist from Lebanon.

Remembering Important People



Dala's exhibition at Nottingham Contemporary is called Cemetery of Martyrs. A cemetery is a place where people's bodies are buried when they die. Martyrs are people who died and suffered because of their ideas.



Dala has made an artwork which makes our gallery feel a bit like a cemetery.



Dala has made a space for people to think about the past and to remember important people.

Dala's artwork remembers lots of people including:



Artists.



Writers who wrote books and poems, or wrote things for newspapers.



Film-makers.



The people Dala has remembered through her artwork lived in lots of different places like Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, Jordan, and England.



Some of the people Dala has remembered in her artwork were living over 150 years ago, and some of them were alive until very recently.



All of these people believed freedom was very important. They used their art and writing to speak out against people that were stopping other people from being free.



Lots of the people Dala has remembered in her artwork were forced to be silent by being put in prison or being killed. Some of the people have been forgotten today. Dala wants us to remember them.



Even though the people are from different times and places, Dala's artwork brings them together in one shared space for people to remember them.

Dala's exhibition is a place to:



Remember people who died.



Learn from the past.



Find hope to create new ideas for the future.

The Nahda



Some of the people Dala has remembered in her artwork were part of The Nahda. This is an Arabic word for the time over 150 years ago when lots of things changed in countries like Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Tunisia.



These countries had been ruled by the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman Empire was when a group of people called the Ottomans fought in wars and took over lots of countries across the world. The people who lived in these countries had no control over this and had to follow the rules of the Ottomans.



The Nahda was a time when there was new thinking about freedom in some of these countries. New ideas were shared by some of the people who Dala has remembered in her exhibition.



These ideas were things like:

All people should be treated fairly and treated the same. People should have some choice in what they do, and not just be told what to do by one person in charge.



Countries should be able to make their own rules and look after the people who live there themselves. Countries shouldn't be told what to do by the people in charge in other countries.

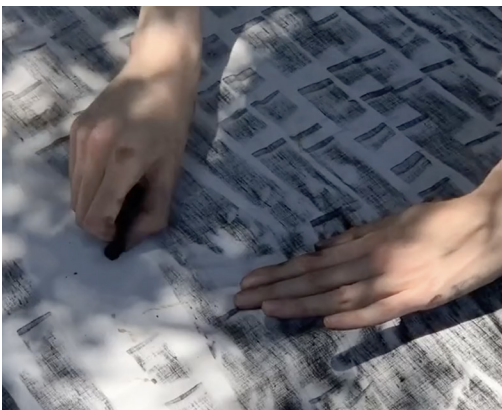


The printing press was a new invention at this time. The printing press was a machine that printed words onto paper. It meant newspapers and books could be made quickly without costing lots of money so more people could have them. This helped to spread the new ideas to more people.

How Dala Made the Artworks



Dala made rubbings of the real gravestones of people she was remembering. Rubbings are when you put a piece of paper or fabric on top of something and rub a crayon or piece of charcoal over it. This leaves behind a copy of the shapes of the object underneath.



Dala rubbed charcoal onto big pieces of fabric on top of the gravestones. The shapes of the letters on the gravestones were copied onto the fabric.



Dala dyed all of the fabric herself before she made the rubbings. Dyeing is when you change the colour of fabric by putting it in a special mixture of coloured water.



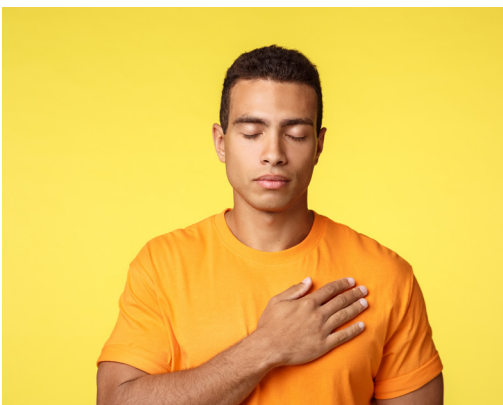
Dala made the dyes from lots of things she found in nature. These things include rocks, shells, ash and seeds.



This made the fabric different colours like black and green.



Dala couldn't find the graves of some of the people she wanted to remember. This is because their graves have been lost or destroyed, or because it's not safe or possible to go to the places where they were buried.



Dala still wanted to include these people in her artworks. She made special works on fabric for these people in a different way.



Dala wrote their names in sand in the Arabic language. She did this on top of special fabric which turns blue in the light of the sun. She left the fabric with the sand names out in the sun and after some time, she washed the sand off. This left behind marks where the sand had been so that the fabric now had the names on it.



Dala has hung the fabric pieces on wooden structures in the gallery. She wants it to feel like you're walking through a cemetery and the fabric pieces are gravestones.



Dala has also made a sound artwork in the exhibition. In the sound artwork we can hear sounds Dala recorded in some of the cemeteries she visited.



Dala has also made a booklet of obituaries of all of the people she has remembered in her artwork. Obituaries are texts about someone's life that are written after they die.

For More Information



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

nottinghamcontemporary.org



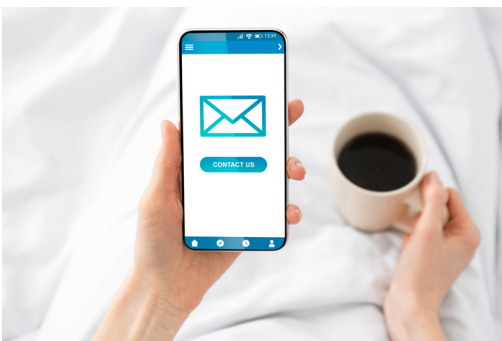
If you would like to help us show more artworks in the future, please think about giving us some money.

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.

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