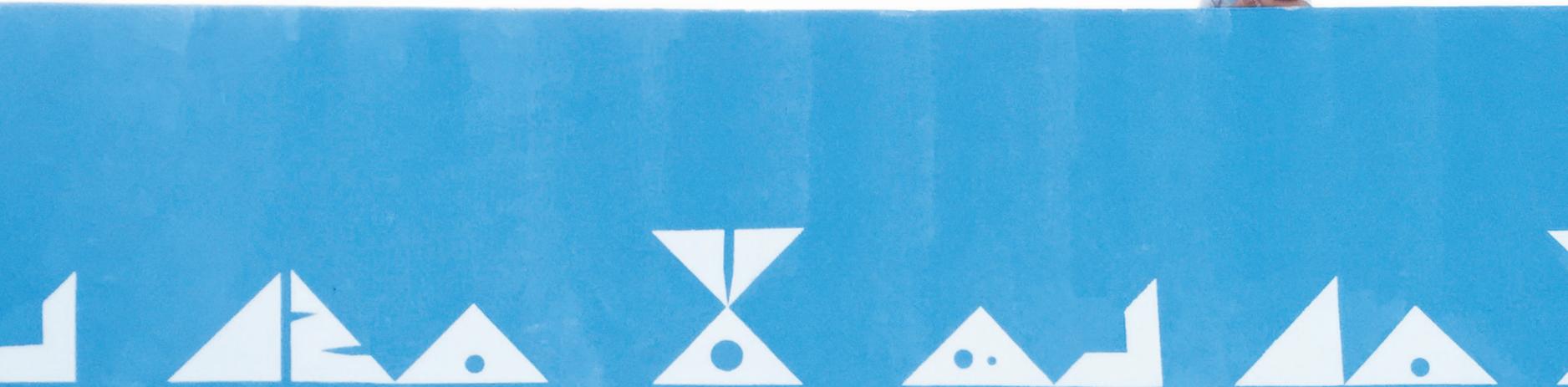


Those who have No Land, have No Sea,
Island of Cephalonia, 2016,
© Bahia Shehab



AGA KHAN CENTRE GALLERY



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY
(International) in the United Kingdom
Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations

For further information on the gallery programme,
please contact **Esen Kaya**, gallery curator on email:
enquiries@agakhancentre.org.uk

Aga Khan Centre Gallery
10 Handyside St, Kings Cross, London N1C 4DN

The gallery is open everyday from 10am–6pm
Free Entry



The Aga Khan University Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations (AKU-ISMC) is working with renowned Lebanese-Egyptian artist, activist and academic Bahia Shehab on the inaugural exhibition at the new Aga Khan Centre Gallery, showcasing her latest street art.

When revolution swept through Egypt in 2011, Bahia Shehab began spray-painting the Arabic script for 'no' in the streets of Cairo saying no to dictators, no to military rule and no to violence: a thousand times no. Her artwork is concerned with identity and preserving cultural heritage and has been on display internationally. Through investigating Islamic art history she reinterprets contemporary Arab politics, feminist discourse and social issues. Our exhibition highlights her most recent works, which have taken her powerful message of resistance to walls around the world, providing an insightful, powerful and immersive experience into her thought provoking practice.

This exhibition accompanies the book of the same title published by Gingko in association with AKU-ISMC. The book is a compilation of walls painted by Bahia during the post-Egyptian revolution using the poetry of Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish. The exhibition consists of a series of short films created in five urban spaces where Bahia has painted walls. The films are presented within a circular chamber reminiscent of a disused industrial building – its outer walls marked with graffiti. The cities as depicted in the book are Cairo, New York, Beirut and Marrakesh, as well as the Greek island of Cephalonia. The narrative arc in each film highlights the contrast between freedom and human suffering. They remind us of the preciousness and fragility of life, in particular since something as apparent as freedom is questionable in some parts of the world. The exhibition also includes a collection of personal items, used, found and collected from the cities where walls have been painted. Also included are a series of framed stencils that have played a significant part in Shehab's practice as well as extracts from Darwish's poetry, written as markers of words with significance to the artist.

The Aga Khan Centre Gallery

Located at the heart of King's Cross' Knowledge Quarter, the Aga Khan Centre is a place of education, insight and cultural exchange. The Aga Khan Centre Gallery is home to a changing programme of exhibitions which aims to create a better understanding of Islam and Muslim cultures, past and present. The gallery programme will connect with the work of the three main institutes within the centre; Aga Khan Foundation, Aga Khan University - Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations and Institute of Ismaili Studies. It will also connect with the wider Aga Khan Development Network, Aga Khan Trust for Culture and Aga Khan Museum in Toronto. The Aga Khan Centre Gallery will significantly contribute to the cultural offer across London as well as nationally and internationally.

Exhibition Events

Join us for a series of talks and performances exploring themes of poetry, resistance, social change, and female artists inspired by Bahia Shehab's work.

Artist Talk

26 September 2019, 6:30-8pm

Atrium Conference Room, Aga Khan Centre
Bahia Shehab talks about the creative inspiration for her new exhibition and book "At the Corner of a Dream, A Journey of Resistance and Revolution: The Street Art of Bahia Shehab"

Speaker: Bahia Shehab is Professor of Design and founder of the graphic design program at The American University in Cairo. She has been awarded the BBC 100 Women list (2013), TED Senior fellowship (2016), and a Prince Claus Award (2016). Her publications include "A Thousand Times NO: The Visual History of Lam-Alif." She is the first Arab woman to receive the UNESCO-Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture (2016).

Women Musicians, Resistance and Social Change in Zanzibar

15 October 2019, 6-7:30pm

Atrium Conference Room, Aga Khan Centre
Join us for a talk about the famous Zanzibari singer Siti binti Saad, the first sub-Saharan artist to be recorded by a western record label, whose lyrics included social critique encouraging social change, and her lasting legacy in the popular taarab music scene of East Africa.

Speakers: Farouk Topan, Associate Professor, AKU-ISMC | Annette Kirkegaard, Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen | Chair: Jonas Otterbeck, Professor, AKU-ISMC

Art and Activism through Poetry

26 November 2019, 6-7:30pm

Atrium Conference Room, Aga Khan Centre
In a culture of censorship, whose voices are allowed to be heard? How do everyday resistances become revolutionary? Join us for an evening exploring art and activism through poetry, performance and discussion.

Curated by: Poet in the City Producers, a group of talented 16-25 year olds producing live events, discussions and campaigns to ensure young people have a stake in the future of poetry.

Middle Eastern Women's (Street)Art in Context

3 December 2019, 6-7:30pm

Atrium Conference Room, Aga Khan Centre
Join us for reflections on the aesthetic, conceptual and socio-political concerns of artists in the Arab world over the past four decades and the new shape of women's street art, the challenges they face and the legacy of feminist revolutionary art.

Speakers: Rose Issa, Curator, Writer and Producer | Lucia Sorbera, Associate Professor, University of Sydney | Chair: Kathryn Spellman Poots, Associate Professor, AKU-ISMC and Visiting Associate Professor, Columbia University

At the Corner of a Dream

The Street Art of Bahia Shehab

27 September 2019 – 5 January 2020