

Mounira Al Solh: *A Day Is As Long As A Year* 9 April – 2 October 2022



Opening BALTIC's 20th anniversary programme, Lebanese artist Mounira Al Solh explores migration, memory, trauma and loss through paintings, works on paper, embroideries, films and performances.

Drawing from the artist's personal conversations and encounters with those who have been affected by conflict in Syria, Lebanon and the Middle East region, Al Solh's works tell stories of displacement and uncertainty, often reflecting on the struggles of women in the Arab world. Moving, intimate, and sometimes humorous, they consider the continued impact of war and oppression on people living in the Middle East and the importance of oral history as a record of lived experience.

The exhibition at BALTIC will include a large-scale embroidered tent developed collaboratively with groups of women in Lebanon, the Netherlands and Gateshead. This major new work, which takes its inspiration from a royal ceremonial Iranian tent dating from the Qajar era, will feature a sound element comprising women's stories of exile, loss and resilience, and provide a space for performances and events.

Al Solh lives between Lebanon and the Netherlands. She has had solo exhibitions at Musée national Pablo Picasso, Vallauris, France (2020); Mori Art Museum, Tokyo (2020); Art Institute Chicago (2018); KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin (2014). Al Solh participated in Documenta 14, Athens & Kassel (2017) and *All the World's Futures*, 56th Venice Biennale (2015).

Notes to Editors

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About Mounira Al Solh

Mounira Al Solh (b.1978, Lebanon) studied painting at the Lebanese University, Beirut from 1997 to 2001, and Fine Arts at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy, Amsterdam from 2003 to 2006. Al Solh lives between Lebanon and the Netherlands. She has had solo exhibitions at Musée national Pablo Picasso, Vallauris, France (2020); Mori Art Museum, Tokyo (2020); Art Institute Chicago (2018); KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin (2014). Recent group exhibitions include: *Risquons-Tout*, WIELS, Brussels (2020); *Our world is burning*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2020); *Positions #5*, Van Abbe Museum, Eindhoven (2019); *Gohyang: Home*, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul (2019); *Close: Drawn Portraits*, The Drawing Room, London, UK (2018); *Strange Days: Memories of the Future*, The Store X, London (2018). Al Solh participated in Documenta 14, Athens & Kassel (2017) and *All the World's Futures*, 56th Venice Biennale (2015).

About BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art

BALTIC is a major international centre for contemporary art situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England and has welcomed over eight million visitors since opening to the public in July 2002. BALTIC presents a distinctive and ambitious programme of exhibitions and events, and is a world leader in the presentation and commissioning of contemporary visual art.

Housed in a landmark ex-industrial building, BALTIC consists of 2,600 square metres of art space, making it the UK's largest dedicated contemporary art institution. BALTIC has gained an international reputation for its commissioning of cutting-edge temporary exhibitions. It has presented the work of over 460 artists of 60 nationalities in 220 exhibitions to date.

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