



University Art Gallery
712 Arts Plaza
Claire Trevor School of the Arts
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA 92697-2775
(949) 824 9854
gallery@uci.edu
uag.arts.uci.edu

Tuesday – Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 pm

PRESS PREVIEW KIT

ON THIS ISLAND

Solo exhibition by Rosalind Nashashibi

Curated by Allyson Unzicker

On View: October 1 - December 10, 2016

Opening Reception: October 1, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm



IRVINE, Calif. (August 24, 2016) – The University Art Galleries (UAG) at UC Irvine’s Claire Trevor School of the Arts is proud to present *On This Island*, a solo exhibition by Rosalind Nashashibi, curated by UAG Associate Director Allyson Unzicker. The exhibition will open in the Contemporary Arts Center Gallery on Saturday, October 1 with a reception open to the public from 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm and will exhibit through Saturday, December 10, 2016.

Rosalind Nashashibi’s films challenge perceptions that form around closed communities and the parallel realities that form within them. The exhibition consists of two films including her most recent *Electrical Gaza*, presented on the west coast for the first time. Originally commissioned by the Imperial War Museum, *Electrical Gaza* was filmed during the artist’s trip in 2014, directly before Israel’s military operation against Hamas-ruled Gaza. The film portrays footage of everyday life, which cuts intermittently between live action animation. As a result of the siege from both Israel and Egypt, Gaza exists as an island unto itself defined by extremely tight border controls and restrictions creating severe living conditions. This nearly global isolation is its enchantment - a land whose people are bewitched by perpetual war.

Electrical Gaza is featured alongside Nashashibi’s early 16mm film *Eyeballing* (2005). The film consists of still shots of inanimate objects and landscapes throughout New York City, which subliminally portray a face. This anthropomorphic view of the city is coupled with footage taken directly outside the NYC Police Department located in Tribeca. The role of inspection is reversed as the viewer takes the vantage point of surveilling the police officers who enter and depart the station. With tensions constantly rising in the Middle East and with recent issues of police brutality and violence in the U.S., authority and control create an unconscious anxiety at the heart of these two “islands” – the metaphoric island of Gaza and Manhattan.

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About the Artist

Rosalind Nashashibi (b. 1973, Croydon; lives in London) is an artist working in film, sculpture, print and photography. Her best known films combine close observation of everyday life with constructed scenes, inhabiting the same place or time to capture the friction that occurs at the border between the real and everyday and the fantastical or mythological. These works often explore issues of control, internalized into citizens or exerted by the state.

Nashashibi received a MFA at the Glasgow School of Art in 2000. Recent solo exhibitions include *Two Tribes* at the Murray Guy Gallery, New York. *Electrical Gaza* at the Imperial War Museum, London, and *The Painter and the Deliveryman*, Objectif Exhibitions in Antwerp. In 2014, she received the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award for Artists. Nashashibi has had numerous solo shows including those at Tate Britain; Chisenhale Gallery, London; Presentation House Gallery, Vancouver; ICA London; Bergen Kunsthall; Berkeley Art Museum. She represented Scotland at the 52nd Venice Biennale, and has participated in Manifesta 7, Sharjah 10 and the 5th Berlin Biennial with Lucy Skaer in their collaboration as Nashashibi/Skaer. In 2017, Nashashibi/Skaer will have a solo exhibition at Galleries Lafayette, Paris.

About the Curator

Allyson Unzicker received her MFA from the University of California, Irvine in Critical and Curatorial Studies with an emphasis in both Critical Theory and Visual Studies. Currently, she is Associate Director of the University Art Galleries (UAG). Previously she was a curatorial assistant for both Getty initiatives *Pacific Standard Time: Art in LA 1945-1980 on L.A. Xicano* (2011) and *Civic Virtue: The Impact of the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery and the Watts Towers Arts Center* (2011) and *Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA on Home—So Different, So Appealing* (2017). She was also the curatorial assistant at the Vincent Price Art Museum where she curated *Corporeal Impulse: Works in Clay* (2014). She has curated numerous exhibitions at the UAG including *If Memory Serves* (2013), *A Twice Lived Fragment of Time* (2013), *Paradox in Language: What I look at is never what I wish to see* (2015) and *MIXTAPE: Goodbye street, Goodbye home* (2015). Her writing has been published in *The Brooklyn Rail* and MCA Australia.



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On This Island Fact Sheet

Exhibition:

Exhibit Dates: October 1 - December 10, 2016

Solo exhibition by Rosalind Nashashibi

Curated by Allyson Unzicker

Events:

Opening Reception: October 1, 2016, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Artist Lecture: Tuesday, October 4, 2016, 1pm

Contemporary Arts Center Colloquium Room (CAC 3201)

Location:

Contemporary Arts Center Gallery

712 Arts Plaza, Claire Trevor School of the Arts

Description:

The UAG is pleased to present a solo exhibition by Rosalind Nashashibi. The exhibition includes Nashashibi's latest film *Electrical Gaza* presented on the west coast for the first time. Filmed in Gaza in 2014, the film's nonlinear narrative investigates the dualities of life in Gaza through live footage and animation exploring the tension between reality and fiction.

Gallery Hours:

Tuesday - Saturday from 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Free Admission. Public is Welcome

Parking:

UC Irvine [Mesa Parking Structure](#), 4000 Mesa Rd., Irvine, CA 92617

More Info:

www.arts.uci.edu

<http://www.arts.uci.edu/event/island-rosalind-nashashibi>

Note to editors:

Selected high-resolution images for publicity use only may be downloaded from

[Google Drive](#)

(Key to images attached)



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On This Island by Rosalind Nashashibi

Curated by Allyson Unzicker

Press Images:



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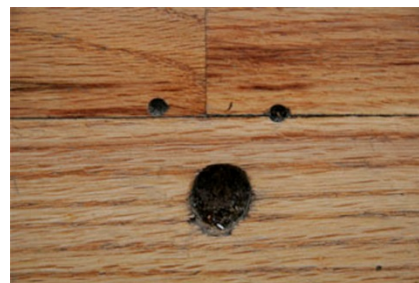
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1. Rosalind Nashashibi, *Electrical Gaza*, 2015, video still, courtesy of Rosalind Nashashibi, LUX, London and Murraby Guy, New York.
2. Rosalind Nashashibi, *Electrical Gaza*, 2015, video still, courtesy of Rosalind Nashashibi, LUX, London and Murraby Guy, New York.
3. Rosalind Nashashibi, *Electrical Gaza*, 2015, video still, courtesy of Rosalind Nashashibi, LUX, London and Murraby Guy, New York.
4. Rosalind Nashashibi, *Eyeballing*, 2005, film still, courtesy of Rosalind Nashashibi, LUX, London and Murraby Guy, New York.
5. Rosalind Nashashibi, *Eyeballing*, 2005, film still, courtesy of Rosalind Nashashibi, LUX, London and Murraby Guy, New York.

The images are approved only for publication in conjunction with promotion of the exhibition *On This Island*. Reproductions must include the full caption information, and images may not be cropped or altered in any way or superimposed with any printing.



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About the UAG

The University Art Galleries are committed to promoting an inter-generational dialogue between 60s/70s neo-avant-garde art and contemporary visual culture. Accordingly, the curatorial mission is to keep an eye on the modernist past while promoting the most innovative aesthetic and political debates of the post-modern present. From this vantage, the projects commissioned provoke intelligent debate on the subject of art in its most expansive poetic definition. What distinguishes the program is its unwavering commitment to publishing scholarly texts in catalogue/book form in order to disseminate research-based information into the community, providing a venue for the promotion of innovative discourse surrounding mixed media production today. The UAG program provides several exhibition platforms for inter-generational and interdisciplinary dialogue. The Major Works of Art Series commissions original projects by canonical artists working today. The Emerging Artist Series features solo projects by a set of younger artists informed by the legacies showcased in the Major Works series. The Critical Aesthetics Program commissions new work by internationally renowned mid-career artists. Augmenting this inter-generational dialogue, UAG also produces larger thematic group exhibitions alternately showcasing historical and contemporary art and film projects. UAG further promotes an active dialogue between UCI residents and the local and international art communities through colloquia, conferences, visiting artist lectures and theme-based films series, all of which are open to the public. As the galleries continue to mature, they stand committed to being an experimental exhibition space different from the current - but largely traditional - art biennial and film festival platforms.

About UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts

As UCI's creative laboratory, the Claire Trevor School of the Arts explores and presents the arts as the essence of human experience and expression, through art forms ranging from the most traditional to the radically new. The international faculty works across a wide variety of disciplines, partnering with others across the campus. National-ranked programs in art, dance, drama, and music begin with training but end in original invention. Students come to UCI to learn to be citizen-artists, to sharpen their skills and talents, and to become the molders and leaders of world culture. For more information, please visit www.arts.uci.edu.