



**SUMAC SPACE AN INITIATIVE DEVOTED TO
CONTEMPORARY ART OF THE MIDDLE EAST, SHOWS ITS
THIRD DIGITAL EXHIBITION *PRESENT IMPERFECT***

THE EXHIBITION IS ON-VIEW AT WWW.SUMAC.SPACE FROM
FEBRUARY 2ND TO MARCH 23RD, 2021

We aim to activate imagination against the perils of the attention economy within the avalanche of digital representation. Now more than ever we need to rethink the use of the World Wide Web, as well as experimenting with new/old forms, new ways to meet by (re)using current channels of communication and their potential. Recognizing this, the web can be useful both as an alternative vehicle and as a reinvention of how to do things, how to create new dimensions for public spaces.

From February 2nd, the new platform Sumac Space will show its third digital exhibition, *Present Imperfect*. This is the third of a three-part project that brings together artists from the Middle East.

With particular emphasis on the experiences of women in the Middle East, *Present Imperfect* seeks to regard identity and place through the lens of bodily experiences and socio-political norms and restrictions. The exhibition features five artists (Jafra Abu Zoulouf, Joana Kohen, Azita Moradkhani, Ruth Patir and Maya Perry) who provide various perspectives on present-day womanhood. The exhibition considers the conception of identity in the present moment as intrinsically related both to the constraints of the past and the promises of the future. Simultaneously, it reflects upon the stratified, conflicting and imperfect result of this process.



FEATURED ARTISTS

Jafra Abu Zoulouf, b. 1987, Daliat El Carmel, Palestine. Lives and works in Haifa. In her works the artist deals with and discusses her complex identity: an atheist woman within a religious society, and a Palestinian working in Israel. Through this, she negotiates the questions: How am I influenced by the culture and society in which I exist and how can I influence it to ensure my continued existence?

Joana Kohen, b.1988, Istanbul, Turkey. Lives and works between London and Istanbul. Kohen's early works deal with issues such as gender, identity, psychology, existentialism and different manifestations of alienation.

Azita Moradkhani, b.1985, Tehran, Iran. Lives and works in New York, USA. Her drawings on paper and body casts represent a perception of beauty from a non-Western perspective in an international context. As a post-colonial woman artist, she presents a feminist contrast to Edward Said's "Orientalism"; womanhood in the post-revolution generation in Iran intertwines with conflicts between borders of tradition and (post-) modernity.

Ruth Patir, b.1984, New York, USA. Lives and works in Tel Aviv. The works of the multimedia artist and filmmaker deal with gender paradigms and power relations, often mixing historical

and national narratives with the artist's own autobiography. In her work, Patir expands the boundaries of representation in the digital age working against the gender and racial biases that populate the field of animation, 3D simulations and artificial intelligence.

Maya Perry, b.1994, New York, USA. Lives and works in Tel Aviv. Working with drawing, experimental animation, sound, performance and installation techniques, she focuses on post-trauma as the foundation of her artistic practice. Her goal is to translate her personal traumas into universal expressions encouraging the viewer to raise crucial questions about themselves from the perspective of a non-judgmental, hypersensitive, heart-beating animal. By highlighting how moments of intimacy and vulnerability intersect with memories of violence and manipulation, she explores how embedded trauma affects us as individuals and as a society.

CURATOR

Darya Aloufy (b.1992) is an art historian and curator. She holds a BA in History of Art from Tel Aviv University and an MA in History of Art from University College London. Her research focuses on ambivalent narratives of identity and counter-narratives, with special interest in photographic archives as well as women's image. She is currently the Assistant Curator at TAU Gallery.

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