

V.O Curations

Dala Nasser

Time spent without its flow

01.04 - 05.05.2022

Press Release



Dala Nasser, 'Time spent without its flow', Installation view.

V.O Curations proudly presents *Time spent without its flow*, the first solo exhibition in the UK by Dala Nasser. The exhibition presents new works which extend Dala's lines of inquiry into the histories of ecology in South Lebanon. Made on the land of her family's home, the works focus on her material-based practice and the history of territory in the region. Decades of war and occupation has led to the intense militarisation and surveillance of a place which sits at the edge of a country that cannot contain it and the tip of a frontier it cannot cross. Under conditions of protracted and slow violence, Dala's artistic process is embedded in time that seems, in Lisa Baraitser's words, 'unbearable in its refusal to move'¹. In this temporal mode, maintaining ongoing relations with others involves 'arduous temporal practices' of care. These acts are durational, repetitious, but ultimately allow for 'the renewal of everyday life'².

Made over several months, Dala pieces together her canvases using discarded fabrics – curtains, bedsheets and pillowcases sourced from her great grandparents' home. She creates charcoal etchings over flintstone terrace walls and olive trees planted two hundred years ago. Left outside, her canvases are formed by rain and wind which wash away her rubbings. By returning to create her etchings once more, Dala gestures to the ways in which her process is involved in temporal practices

¹ Lisa Baraitser, *Enduring Time*, 2017

² *ibid*

of caring, tending, staying, and enduring. The materials of her works appear thin, almost fragile, their many folds bearing witness to the repetitive and durational way they were shaped, through time passed. Their pink and red hues owe their colour to the dyes she makes from drying wildflowers that grow on the land. These soft and sharp tints signal the life, both human and non-human, which these temporal practices sustain.

In continually returning to her works, of repeating, remaking, undoing, and putting back together, Dala speaks to her refusal of settling on a defined form. By producing works in suspended states of unmaking, she reflects her own ambivalent and diasporic attachment to South Lebanon. Situating herself in a position of unknowing, she echoes Jamaica Kincaid's relationship to her garden. Working in, with, and through the earth thus becomes an 'exercise in memory', a way of coming to know her own past and the history of the land as it is indirectly related to her³. In doing so, Dala tells us that her practice is not about being inside or outside but about working in immanence, of inhabiting, tending, and caring for these materials and this territory.

Odessa Warren & Dala Nasser

¹Jamaica Kincaid, *My Garden*, 2001

As a material based artist working through abstraction and alternative forms of image making, **Dala Nasser** applies an interdisciplinary approach to her works ranging from painting, to performance, and films. She examines the human and non-human entanglement in the perpetually deteriorating environmental, historical and political conditions resulting from practices of extraction and generations of colonial erasure. Dala uses a range of materials to examine histories, ecologies, and toxicity in her works producing context-specific installations.

Dala Nasser (b. 1990, Lebanon, lives and works in Lebanon) graduated from Slade School of Fine Arts, London (2016) and Yale School of Art, graduating in 2021 with focus on Painting/Printmaking. Her work has been shown internationally, including Centre Pompidou, Paris (2022); Villa Emplain, Brussels (2021); Beirut Art Center, Beirut (2017 and 2019); Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah (2019); Ghebaly Gallery, Los Angeles (2018); Victoria Miro, London (2018).

Exhibition: Time spent without its flow by Dala Nasser

Dates: 01 April - 05 May 2022

Location: V.O Curations (1st Floor), 56 Conduit Street, W1S 2YZ

PV: Thursday 31 March, 6-8pm

V.O Curations

Located in central London, V.O Curations is an arts organisation dedicated to supporting emerging and lesser represented artists, curators and researchers through an innovative and critically-engaged programme. Founded in 2018 by Zina Vieille and Nnamdi Obiekwe, V.O Curations believes that to curate is to approach all aspects of our programme - residencies, exhibitions, events, publications and studio spaces - with care. V.O Curations promotes diverse voices and narratives across all of our activities and projects. Our programme aims to facilitate artistic exchange, socially-focused discourse, knowledge production and experimentation. We are focused on cultivating a sense of community, promoting collaboration and encouraging active learning rather than passive viewing.

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www.vocurations.com

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