أبريل / APRIL 2021

MAPPING

An art exhibition exploring the impact of British colonialism on Palestinians

الخرائط

معرض فني لاستكشاف الوطن والهوية والاستعمار البريطاني على فلسطينين

ORGANISED BY

Rosie Richards & Francesca Vawdrey
from The Balfour Project

من تنظيم:
روزي ريتشاردز
وفرانسيسكا
ڤاودري من مشروع
بالفور

We are delighted to invite you to submit artwork to the Balfour Project's first virtual art exhibition on the theme of "mapping" in Mandatory Palestine.

This is an opportunity for Palestinians to showcase their work in an international setting.

If you are a Palestinian artist and would like your work to be featured in an exhibition in May 2021, then please read the following proposal.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch and we look forward to receiving your submissions.

PROJECT PROPOSAL

OVERVIEW

We are hosting a virtual art exhibition centred around homeland, identity and British colonialism in Mandaroty Palestine. The online exhibition will comprise art submitted by Palestinian artists focusing around the theme of “mapping”. The audience will be able to virtually walk around the exhibition, click on the art to view it in more detail and purchase the art if they desire. We will have a launch night with guest speakers, including academics, activists and artists.

WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT?

The majority of Britons today are ignorant of Britain's colonial role in Palestine and its impact on the current reality. We believe that this is one of the key reasons why people choose not to engage with this issue. We want to raise awareness of the ongoing occupation in order to pressure the British Government to take responsibility for their historic role. We are using art to articulate the struggle for human rights because it is an accessible format through which the British public can engage.

1.OUR AIMS

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POPULAR EDUCATION

We want to educate the British public about the impact of British colonialism on Palestinians. This is fundamental in order to influence a change in British governmental policy.

.2

RAISE AWARENESS

We want to facilitate a connection between Britain’s colonial role in Palestine and the current reality. This is crucial in acknowledging Britain’s historic and continuing responsibilities.

.3

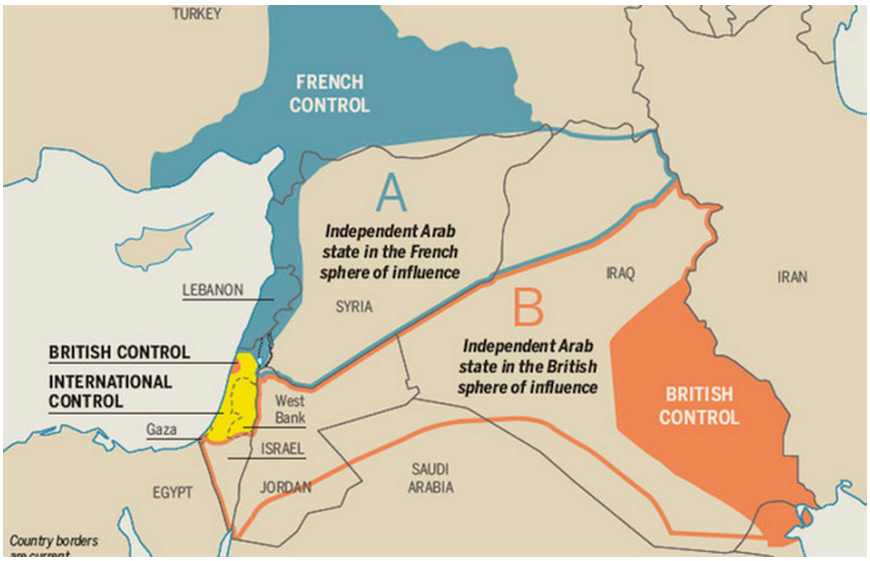
PROMOTE EQUALTY IN ART

We want to provide a voice to Palestinians that creates a safe space for their artistic expression. At the Balfour Project we are committed to upholding equal rights in the region and to do this we have a duty to provide a platform to those whose voices have been silenced.

2. THEME

MAPPING

We would like our artists to submit work around the theme of mapping. This theme has an **explicit link to British colonialism** and the way in which Palestinian territory has been contested and divided. In the Sykes-Picot Agreement 1916 Britain and France secretly agreed to carve up the Ottoman Empire without the consent of its indigenous peoples which delineated arbitrary borders with no regard to ethnic & religious groups. **Maps define and concretise territory and are inherently political and contested.** They create worlds and shape reality, legitimise and delegitimize populations. The fact that there is **no appearance of Palestine on the hegemonic world map** equates to denial of Palestinian existence & results in lack of awareness around the world of Palestine, its traditions and its history.



Left: Sykes-Picot Agreement (Source: Financial Times)
Right: 1947 UN Partition plan for Palestine (Source: Centre for Online Judaic Studies)

We encourage artists to consider the following issues relating to maps:

- How do maps reflect and shape identity?
- What is the connection between colonialism and cartography?
- How might the self be remapped in the absence of official global recognition of Palestine?
- What is the potential of maps to reshape the current reality?

Please note that these questions are not prescriptive and you may interpret the theme in whichever way you choose.

3. LOGISTICS

.1

SUBMISSIONS

Please submit an image/images of your artwork as a JPEG file and email it to mapping.balfour.project@gmail.com by the **1st May 2021**. Please include a short biography of yourself (100-200 words) and an explanation of how you have chosen to interpret the theme and where possible its relevance to British colonial history. If you would like to submit a video then please make sure it is not larger than 2MB.

PLATFORM

.2

We will use Art Steps, an interactive platform which allows the viewer to walk around the gallery. Artwork will be priced if you wish to sell your work, and people can contact you personally if they wish to purchase the art. Please indicate whether the artwork is for sale in your submission and include prices and/or contact information.

TICKETS

.3

We will not be charging for tickets as we want this event to be as inclusive and well attended as possible in order to raise maximum awareness. However we will be asking for a suggested minimal donation of £3 per person and 100% of the proceeds will go to the artists who have contributed.

SUMMARY

- Email **mapping.balfour.project@gmail.com** with a JPEG image or video file of no more than 2MB of your artwork by **1st May 2021**. Please ensure that the images and/or videos are the highest possible quality.
- Include your name, a brief biography, and an explanation of your artwork. **This can be written in English or Arabic.**
- Indicate whether the artwork is up for sale and include prices and contact information
- You may submit as many pieces of artwork as you wish but please be aware that we many not be able to include all of them in the exhibition. If you choose to submit more than one piece then please indicate your order of preference for exhibiting.
- Please feel free to pass this document onto any artists which you think may be interested in contributing.
- Please note that we cannot pay for contributions however we will be dividing 100% of the donations between all of the artists.

ABOUT THE BALFOUR PROJECT

The Balfour Project is committed to acknowledging Britain's historic and continuing responsibilities, through popular education and advocacy to uphold equal rights for the Israeli and Palestinian peoples and to persuade the British Government to recognise Palestine. The Balfour Project invites the government and people of the United Kingdom to understand the impact of the Balfour Declaration on '48 Palestine and acknowledge that whilst a homeland for the Jewish people has been achieved, the promise to protect the rights of the Palestinian people has not been fulfilled. We urge the people and elected representatives of the UK to take effective action to promote justice, security and peace for both peoples, as they historically promised.

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

FRANCESCA VAWDREY

Having specialised in Palestinian history during her undergraduate degree, Francesca is now a postgraduate in Modern Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Oxford. She is committed to striving for peace and equality in Israel and Palestine, and has a specific interest in the rights of Palestinian women, an interest she developed throughout her internship with the Palestinian women's rights charity Kayan, in Haifa.

ROSIE RICHARDS

During her Undergraduate at the University of Oxford where she specialised in classical and modern Islam with Quranic Arabic Rosie became fascinated by the MENA region and travelled to Israel and Palestine to learn more about the history of the conflict. This compelled her to undertake a MA in Near and Middle Eastern Studies with Intensive Arabic at SOAS where she is specialising in gendered experiences of diaspora and the political and psychological implications of embodying the fragmented, hyphenated identity of the Arab-Jew.