

THE DOUGLAS HYDE GALLERY

Jumana Manna

Wild Relatives

Gallery 1

7 December 2018–23 February 2019

Continuing her exploration of archives, and in particular their complex relationship with both preservation and erasure, Palestinian artist Jumana Manna's *Wild Relatives* at the DHG brings together the artist's 2018 feature-length film of the same name, and newly commissioned sculptural work produced this year in Dublin.

From the frozen wastes of Svalbard, an island in the Arctic Ocean, to the semi-arid landscape of the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon, the film *Wild Relatives* (2018) traverses disparate geographies, political contexts and personal lives to create a series of loose links around its main protagonist: seeds. As the film unfolds, these tiny living archives become the focus of an exploration into how global power structures play out in the agricultural, as much as in the political, field.

Connecting the distant landscapes in the Arctic and Lebanon is a transaction of seeds between the Svalbard Global Seed Vault and a recently relocated seedbank in the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon, forced to move because of the Syrian civil war. With a focus on the personal lives that are enmeshed in this international transaction of seeds, including those of farmers, young migrant women from Syria, a lorry driver, a priest and a scientist, the film sifts through the layers of power and personal agency that underpin global, Syrian and Lebanese agricultural policies. Through this sifting, Manna locates an unlikely connection between two revolutions: the 2011 Syrian Revolution and the Green Revolution, a worldwide move towards industrialised farming in the mid-twentieth century. Considering the ethos of 'optimisation' that drove this latter global movement, *Wild Relatives* highlights a will to master the natural world that has had far-reaching consequences for all living things on the planet.

Manna's interest in the impact of power on bodies is expanded in this solo exhibition at The Douglas Hyde Gallery through a series of new, commissioned sculptural works, developed this year. Suggestive of both drainage systems and human limbs, these clay forms propose bodies as infrastructure in a global network – conduits for, and casualties of, power and labour flows.

List of works

Upstairs (from entrance to main staircase)

Untitled, 2018, ceramic sculptures, fireproof plasterboard, filler, metal fencing, dimensions variable

Downstairs, main gallery

Untitled, 2018, ceramic sculptures, metal fencing, scrap metal, clay pipes, rubber-lined pipe clips, dimensions variable

Wild Relatives, 2018, HD video, colour, sound, 66 minutes

Downstairs, lower gallery

Untitled, 2018, ceramic sculptures, metal fencing, fireproof plasterboard, filler, bricks, dimensions variable

Screening times

Wild Relatives (2018) is 66 minutes. The film will be screened at: 11am, 12.10pm, 1.20pm, 2.30pm, 3.40pm and 4.50pm each day, with an additional screening at 6pm during our late opening hours every Thursday.

Artist Biography

Palestinian artist **Jumana Manna** (b. 1987) makes films and sculptures that explore the ways in which social, political and interpersonal forms of power interact with the human body. Her films weave together fact and fiction, biographical and archival materials, to investigate constructions of national and historical narratives. Her sculptures, more abstract by comparison, take interest in the calcifications of memory, as represented by the artefact real or forged. In recent projects, Manna has used film and sculpture to recompose various materials that pertain to historical narratives of the Levant and northern Europe as separate and relational geographies. These works have explored the ways in which economic, political and interpersonal forms of power condition architectural sites as well as human and plant life. Manna has a particular interest in the erasures that accompany various modern scientific preservation practices; her projects challenge the binary constructions of pure and unchanging heritage on the one hand, and the embrace of innovation on the other. Recent solo exhibitions include: Henie Onstad Kunstsenter, Oslo, 2018; Mercer Union, Toronto, 2017; Malmo Konsthall, SE, 2016. Manna lives and works in Berlin.

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