



**Immediate Release**

## **IWM Contemporary: *Rosalind Nashashibi***

### **ELECTRICAL GAZA**

*Supported by The Henry Moore Foundation*

**1 October 2015 – 3 January 2016**

#### **IWM London**

Free Admission

Private View 1 October 7-9pm

**IWM London launches its autumn season with the premiere of a new film by artist Rosalind Nashashibi, *ELECTRICAL GAZA*, as part of the IWM Contemporary programme.**

Rosalind Nashashibi is an award-winning artist whose work explores the rhythms and rituals of everyday life but often incorporates unexpected or fictional elements that challenge expectations. Born in Britain to a Palestinian father and an Irish mother Nashashibi brings a fascinating perspective of life in Gaza.

**ELECTRICAL GAZA** combines footage collected by Nashashibi during a visit to Gaza in 2014. In her 18 minute long film, Gaza resembles a place from myth: isolated, arrested in time, inaccessible and highly charged. Footage of cities and beaches, refugee camps of the Gaza Strip and Nashashibi's entourage of fixer, translator and drivers, are merged with animated scenes. This will be the first time Nashashibi has used animation in her work.

"I aim to portray the place as I saw it, but also to find a way to show something of its nature as an alternative universe."

**Rosalind Nashashibi**

Gaza is one of the most volatile places in the world today, and its people live in very challenging circumstances. Israel, which occupied Gaza during the 1967 Six Day War, withdrew its forces and settlers in 2005 but retained control over Gaza's airspace, waters and most of its borders. The last decade has seen constant tension between Israel and the Hamas authorities in Gaza, with rocket attacks on Israel from within Gaza, and stringent Israeli restrictions on the movement of people, food and other goods in and out of Gaza. Since 2008 this has turned into open conflict several times, resulting in intensified Palestinian rocket attacks with the Israeli response of heavy bombardment, and ground incursions. Nashashibi's filming took place during the build-up to the most recent hostilities in 2014.

*ELECTRICAL GAZA* was commissioned by IWM as the museum continues to develop its collections to explore the impact of contemporary conflict on people's lives. Britain has been involved in the Middle East since the First World War and IWM, founded in 1917, has collected material which reflects this history. This commission forms part of our collecting on conflict in the region today. Nashashibi was chosen by IWM's Art Commissions Committee after considering proposals invited from a range of artists.

## **Q&A with Rosalind Nashashibi**

### **What was the main inspiration for your film?**

*"Gaza has been closed from the outside. There is a strong feeling of autonomy and activism and a corresponding fatalism and despair, another contradiction- Gazans are set apart from the rest of the*

world and yet know that their situation is in some way central to it. Actually I think of the Gaza Strip as having been put under a kind of enchantment by the world powers. I'm using terms from an archaic or childish language to allow the extraordinary conditions to show through with all the attendant fear, excitement, suffering and boredom of life under enchantment."

**How do you feel about displaying your work at IWM London?**

"It feels right to show this work at the Imperial War Museum, its more interesting to think about it from the museum's perspective, they commissioned it and that shows that IWM has allowed its original remit of nominating war artists and embedding them with the British army to evolve into a new mode of commissioning artists that reflects current warfare."

**What do you hope that the public, who see your film at IWM London, will take away from their visit?**

"It's not useful for me to think about the audience or have hopes for a particular reception of the work as I only stand to learn something if I wait to see what actually happens. Seeing the film in a public showing is the beginning of being able to put what I've made into words."

**ELECTRICAL GAZA** will be on show at IWM London until 3 January 2016.



Film stills from **ELECTRICAL GAZA**, 2015, © Rosalind Nashashibi with animation by Visitor Studio

**For further press information and interview requests please contact:**

Nina Dellow, PR Manager, [ndellow@iwm.org.uk](mailto:ndellow@iwm.org.uk) 0207 091 3069 or  
Ellie Fry, Press Officer, [efry@iwm.org.uk](mailto:efry@iwm.org.uk) 0207 416 5365

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**Notes to Editors:**

**Supporters**

The Henry Moore  
Foundation

Rosalind Nashashibi, **ELECTRICAL GAZA**, is supported by The Henry Moore Foundation.

**IWM Contemporary**

IWM Contemporary is a programme of exhibitions by leading artists and photographers whose work is a response to war and conflict.

## Events

### ***In Conversation with Rosalind Nashashibi***

**Saturday 21 November 2015**

**2.30 - 3.30pm**

**IWM London**

**Free Admission, booking required**

Join award-winning artist Rosalind Nashashibi and Jonathan Watkins, Director of Ikon Gallery, and until recently Chair of IWM's Art Commissions Committee, as they discuss the ideas behind Nashashibi's new film, **[ELECTRICAL GAZA](#)**. Born in Britain to a Palestinian father and an Irish mother Nashashibi brings a fascinating perspective to this subject. Her work explores the rhythms and rituals of everyday life but often incorporates unexpected or fictional elements that challenge expectations; in this film she uses animation for the first time. ELECTRICAL GAZA is premiering at IWM London as part of the IWM Contemporary programme.

**[Book tickets](#)**

### **IWM London**

IWM London - IWM's flagship branch - tells the stories of those whose lives have been shaped by war through the depth, breadth and impact of our Galleries, displays and events. Visit our brand new First World War Galleries featuring over 1,300 objects from IWM's collections, explore what life was like at home during the Second World War in [A Family in Wartime](#); delve into the world of espionage in [Secret War](#); visit our award-winning [Holocaust Exhibition](#); discover stories of bravery in [The Lord Ashcroft Gallery: Extraordinary Heroes](#); see work by some of Britain's most significant 20<sup>th</sup> Century artists in our [art galleries](#) or take in our latest major temporary exhibitions. Our family learning sessions and events encourage debate and challenge people's perceptions of war.

Open daily from 10am – 6pm (except 24 - 26 December)

IWM London, Lambeth Road, London, SE1 6HZ.

T: 020 7416 5000 E: [mail@iwm.org.uk](mailto:mail@iwm.org.uk)

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### **IWM**

IWM (Imperial War Museums) tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.

Our unique Collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We challenge people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives.

IWM's five branches attract over 2 million visitors each year. [IWM London](#), our flagship branch, marks the Centenary of the First World War with new permanent First World War Galleries and a new Atrium with iconic large object displays. Our other branches are [IWM North](#), housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; [IWM Duxford](#), a world-renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; [Churchill War Rooms](#), housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser [HMS Belfast](#).

### **First World War Centenary**

**2014 - 2018** marks the centenary of the First World War, a landmark anniversary for Britain and the world. IWM will mark the centenary by leading a vibrant, four year programme of cultural activities across the country. For more information, visit [www.1914.org](http://www.1914.org)

