

**3 Feb – 12 Apr 2015**  
**Upper Gallery**

**ICA**

**Dor Guez:**  
**The Sick Man**  
**of Europe**

**Educator's**  
**Resource Pack**



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## About this Pack

**This resource pack has been developed to support teaching and learning both at the ICA and offsite. It offers starting points and ideas for visiting educators to use with students. It was developed with GCSE and A-Level students in mind but is well suited for work with groups of all ages.**

**Activities and discussion points are suggested and one of the key learning objectives is for students to develop their skills in aesthetic understanding and critical judgement. Students will be guided towards an analysis and exploration of how the works by Dor Guez reflect the social and cultural contexts in which they were made. Suggested activities are offered for use in the gallery and offsite.**

### **Please note**

**We will tailor programmes to respond to curriculum needs whenever possible. Please contact us to make arrangements and check the website for upcoming Learning Events.**

**Contact [learning@ica.org.uk](mailto:learning@ica.org.uk) for more information or to add your contact to our learning mailing list.**

# ICA Exhibitions

First Happenings: Adrian Henri in the '60s and '70s  
27 Jan 2015 – 15 Mar 2015  
Fox Reading Room

Viviane Sassen: Pikin Slee  
3 Feb 2015 – 12 Apr 2015  
Lower Gallery

Dor Guez: The Sick Man of Europe  
3 Feb – 12 Apr 2015  
Upper Gallery

fig-2  
5 Jan – 20 Dec 2015  
ICA Studio

## About the ICA

The ICA supports radical art and culture. Through a vibrant programme of exhibitions, films, events and talks, the ICA challenges perceived notions and stimulates debate, experimentation, creativity and exchange with visitors.

Founded in 1946 by a group of artists including Roland Penrose, Peter Watson and Herbert Read, the ICA continues to support living artists in showing and exploring their work, often as it emerges and before others. The ICA has been at the forefront of cultural experimentation since its formation and has presented important debut solo shows by artists including Damien Hirst, Steve McQueen, Richard Prince and Luc Tuymans. More recently Pablo Bronstein, Lis Rhodes, Bjarne Melgaard and Juergen Teller have all staged key solo exhibitions, whilst a new generation of artists, including Luke Fowler, Lucky PDF, Hannah Sawtell and Factory Floor have taken part in exhibitions and residencies.

The ICA was one of the first venues to present The Clash and The Smiths, as well as bands such as Throbbing Gristle. The inaugural ICA / LUX Biennial of Moving Images was launched in 2012, and the ICA Cinema continues to screen rare artists' film, support independent releases and partner with leading film festivals.

# Introduction to Dor Guez: *Sick Man of Europe*

In collaboration with The Mosaic Rooms, the ICA is presenting the first UK institutional solo exhibition of artist Dor Guez. As an artist of Christian Palestinian and Jewish Tunisian descent, living in Jaffa, he is considered a leading and critical voice from the Middle East whose practice questions contemporary art's role in narrating unwritten histories. Entitled 'The Painter' this new installation is the first of five from a new body of work, *The Sick Man of Europe*. Guez's most ambitious project to date, it reflects on the military history and current political climate of the Middle East through the creative practices of individual soldiers from the region.

The installation presents the story of a painter-turned-soldier, a Jewish Tunisian who immigrated to Israel. The 'painter' was conscripted to the Yom Kippur War as a reservist soldier in 1973 and, in recent years, has undergone psychiatric treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder, part of which consists of repeatedly recording his memories of the war. These recordings are central to Guez's new work, and relate directly to his artistic strategy of repetition and storytelling in re-evaluating accounts of the past.

Dor Guez (b.1983 Jerusalem) is an artist, scholar, and founder of the Christian Palestinian Archive (CPA). In March 2014, Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design Jerusalem has appointed Guez as Head of the Photography Department, making Guez the youngest department head in the history of the academy. His latest research project about archives, *Pre-Israeli Orientalism*, is due to appear this coming year.

Guez's work has been the subject of over 20 solo exhibitions. In 2010, the KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, held his first European solo exhibition, making Guez the youngest artist to have had a solo show in the institute's history. In 2012, The Rose Art Museum in Boston hosted Guez's first Overview show. Guez presented in numerous international exhibitions and biennials including the 12th Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul; 17th and 18th International Contemporary Art Festival, Videobrasil, São Paulo; the 3rd Moscow International Biennale, Moscow; Biennale Benin, Cotonou; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography; Maxxi Museum, Rome, and more. Guez's most recent installation, *40-Days* was exhibited at The Mosaic Rooms, London.

The exhibition is accompanied by a publication produced in collaboration with The Mosaic Rooms, designed by Koby Barhad and including an essay by Achim Borchardt-Hume, Head of Exhibitions, Tate Modern.

In collaboration with *The Mosaic Rooms*, with support from the *A M Qattan Foundation*.



Dor Guez, *The Sick Man of Europe: The Painter*, 2015.  
Video still, colour, sound, 20 min. Courtesy the artist

# Discussion Points

**1** → How might you describe *The Sick Man of Europe: The Painter* by Dor Guez? Carefully analyse the exhibition which includes films, photographs, scanograms and archival material. What is the exhibition about? How does the artist use formal elements such as composition, the archive, objects, as well as light, colour, sound and scale? How successful are the works in your opinion? What criteria are you employing to judge the work?

**2** → Guez's father is of Tunisian Jewish descent and his mother is a Palestinian Christian in the Greek Orthodox tradition. His work deals with the Christian Palestinian community in the Middle East which has been marginalised. Guez has discussed how his work is about the way different cultures meet and the outcome of this meeting point. Do you think this is visible in his work? Look carefully at the photographs, books and other objects in the vitrines. How are different cultures presented? What statements is the artist making in your opinion?

**3** → 'The Sick Man of Europe' was a term first used by Tsar Nicholas I of Russia during the mid-nineteenth century to describe the Ottoman Empire. What does its use in the title of the exhibition, *The Sick Man of Europe: The Painter* suggest about the meaning behind Guez's work?

**4** → “You, on the other hand, are interested in the flaws of time, often more than you are in the image itself.” This quote is from *Villa in the Jungle*, a conversation between D. Guez, *the painter* and the artist Dor Guez. What evidence is there in the exhibition for Dor Guez’s interest in the flaws of time rather than the image, for example, the emphasis on the cracks and mistakes in *the painters* work? How might the works be seen to highlight the way that history and knowledge of the past are flawed?

**5** → Look carefully at the use of lines in Guez’s exhibition. The line in the film appears to be in a constant state of flux. Other lines appear in the exhibition – the lines on the map, drawn lines, as well as the title of the essay ‘Drawing a Line’ by Acim Borchardt-Hume, in the exhibition book. What do you think these multiple lines symbolise? How might they be linked to the geopolitics of the Middle East, for example to the Green line which was set out in 1949 to demarcate military territories in the region?

**6** → What is the significance of the drawing ‘Boots’ (1974) which shows a pair of high military boots with undone laces? One boot is leaning against the other and they appear the wrong way round – the right boot is on the left side. Discuss the relevance of the work in the installation for both Dor Guez and for D. Guez, the painter. Why do you think the film and installation presents this drawing and a considerable amount of other drawings, when part of the title of the exhibition is *The Painter*?

# Activities

## Happening

Film: Dor Guez's film in *The Sick Man of Europe: The Painter* is part-documentary, part-testimonial and incorporates experimental filmmaking techniques. Create a short film exploring one or several of the themes that Guez addresses in the exhibition: personal identity, history, nationality, ethnicity and memory. Experiment with the process that the artist uses, and employ visual metaphors in your work to highlight wider issues.

## Identity

Guez challenges cultural regimes of identities in his work. In the current exhibition Guez presents the story of The Painter, a Jewish Tunisian painter-turned-soldier who immigrated to Israel. As a group, create a visual representation of the theme of personal and collective identity – this might be in the form of a diagram, map, a film or a series of photographs. How are personal and collective identities formed? To what extent does the culture in which you live allow you to shape your own identity? What does Guez suggest about identity in his work?

## Interpret

Guez talks about the role of his work in raising questions about history, nationality, ethnicity, personal identity and cultural memory. Look carefully at the objects in the vitrines such as the books and photographs. Compile a list of critical questions that emerge from a close analysis of these objects and how they have been arranged by the artist. Pay close attention to the cultural and historical elements of these objects.



## Research

Guez's work deals with revealing unknown/hidden histories, while questioning existing accounts of the past. In 2009 the artist founded the Christian Palestinian Archive (CPA) which is dedicated to collecting archival material that documents the personal histories of the Christian-Palestinian community. Research the CPA by accessing the artist's website: <http://dorguez.com/CPAAbout.html> What is the artist's current research for the project? How is his interest in revealing unknown histories reflected in *The Sick Man of Europe: The Painter*?

## Present

In groups, choose a selection of works from Dor Guez's previous exhibitions such as *Dor Guez: Pendant Letters* (Tel Aviv, Israel, 2014), *100 Steps to the Mediterranean* (The Rose Art Museum, Boston, 2012), *40 Days* (The Mosaic Rooms, 2013), *SABIR* (Tel Aviv, 2012), *Watermelons Under the Bed* (Tel Aviv, 2010). Present the works to your peers and discuss how knowledge of these earlier exhibitions affects your interpretation of the current exhibition, *The Sick Man of Europe: The Painter*. What do Guez's previous exhibitions focus on, and in what way is his current exhibition different or similar? Use the following website links to help you research the artist's exhibition history:

*Dor Guez: Pendant Letters* | *100 Steps to the Mediterranean* | *40 Days*  
| *SABIR* | *Watermelons Under the Bed*

## Debate

"Every Country has a metanarrative. It's the job of the minorities to create an opposition to that." In groups, discuss your thoughts about this statement made by Guez. Choose a country you feel a connection to either through personal history or interest, and investigate how a metanarrative and its opposition might be occurring in that location. Investigate the role of art in highlighting the issues at stake within the location you have chosen.



Dor Guez, *The Sick Man of Europe: The Painter*, 2015 Detail of the installation Courtesy the artist

# ICA Learning

Our dynamic learning programme provides opportunities for creative exchange, investigation and discussion between practitioners and audiences. The ICA strives to build sustainable relationships with universities, students, schools and our wider audiences, nurturing interest and appreciation of the creative process, and broadening engagement with contemporary arts.

ICA Learning provides different opportunities to engage with the ICA programme through gallery tours, guided visits to our exhibitions, Friday Salons, online educational platforms and the ICA Student Forum, a dedicated student body that curates events and projects for the Public Programme.

Our University Partnerships exist to encourage the development of joint projects and research. In addition, ICA Academy provides career paths to Further Education, Higher Education and employment.

For further information or to make a booking, please email [learning@ica.org.uk](mailto:learning@ica.org.uk)

ICA Learning is generously supported by The Ernest Cook Trust

# ICA Learning Events

**Artist's Talk: Dor Guez**

Wed 4 Feb, 6.30pm

£8/£7 ICA members

Dor Guez discusses his ICA exhibition, *The Sick Man of Europe*, the artist's most ambitious project to date.

This reflects on the military history and current political climate of the Middle East through the creative practices of individual soldiers from the region.

**Artists Film Screening**

Sat 11 April, 2pm

£5/£3 ICA members

Coinciding with the exhibition, this event will feature a screening of films by Dor Guez and will include an introduction by the artist followed by a Q+A.

**Educator's Tour**

Wed 4 Feb, 5pm.

Free, booking required

Educators tour of the Dor Guez and Viviane Sassen exhibitions, led by ICA curators Matt Williams and Juliette Desorgues.

**Gallery Tour with View Festival**

School of Babel, 18 Feb, 4.30pm

Time is Illmatic, 11 Mar, 4.30pm

Led by ICA curator Juliette Desorgues.

**Gallery Tour**

Thur 26 Mar, 6.30pm

Free, booking required.

Led by Astrid Schmetterling.

**Panel Discussion at the Mosaic Rooms.**

Wed 8 April, 7pm.

A panel discussion around the themes in Dor Guez' exhibition. For further information please visit [www.mosaicrooms.org](http://www.mosaicrooms.org).



Dor Guez, *The Sick Man of Europe: The Painter*,  
2015 Detail of the installation Courtesy the artist

**ICA Learning**

[ica.org.uk/learning](http://ica.org.uk/learning)  
[learning@ica.org.uk](mailto:learning@ica.org.uk)

**Educators' Previews**

Join our teacher's previews for all of our exhibitions

**Educator Resource Packs**

Educator resource packs are available at the ICA Box Office, or by emailing [learning@ica.org.uk](mailto:learning@ica.org.uk)

**Art Rules**

Art Rules is an online space to discuss the rules of art today. Engage your students by visiting: [artrules.ica.org.uk](http://artrules.ica.org.uk)

**MA in the Contemporary**

Find out more about our unique, interdisciplinary MA programme, in partnership with University of Kent. [ica.org.uk/ma-contemporary](http://ica.org.uk/ma-contemporary)

**Cinema Matinee Screenings**

Cinema group matinees are available for schools, colleges and universities.

[ica.org.uk/learning/school-and-groupscreenings](http://ica.org.uk/learning/school-and-groupscreenings)

**ICA Student Forum**

Join the ICA Student Forum to shape and develop a public programme of events in response to the ICA programme.

[ica.org.uk/student-forum](http://ica.org.uk/student-forum)

**University Partnerships**

Through our University partnerships we engage and promote greater collaborative opportunities between university students, teaching staff and the ICA's public programme.

[ica.org.uk/university-partnerships](http://ica.org.uk/university-partnerships)

**Opening Hours**

Tuesday—Sunday, 11am—11pm

**Day Membership £1**

Wednesday—Sunday, 11am-6pm  
 Until 9pm on Thursdays

**Exhibitions**

Tuesday—Sunday, 11am—6pm  
 Open late every Thursday until 9pm

**ICA Box Office & Bookshop**

Tuesday—Sunday, 11am—9pm

**ICA Café Bar**

Food served from 11.30—3.30pm / 5.30—9pm

**Tuesday Cinema**

All films, all day: £3 for ICA Members / £6 non-Members

**Sign Up to our Newsletters**

[ica.org.uk/signup](http://ica.org.uk/signup)

**Follow us****Cover image:**

Dor Guez, *The Sick Man of Europe: The Painter*, 2015.  
 Video still, colour, sound, 20 min. Courtesy the artist

Resource pack developed by Rita Cottone and Alice Holliday