

Press Release June 2018



**PALLANT
HOUSE
GALLERY**

Colliding Worlds: Scottie Wilson Laila Kassab (13 June – 29 July)

Outside In and Pallant House Gallery commission contemporary artist Laila Kassab to produce new work inspired by Outsider artist Scottie Wilson

Outside In and Pallant House Gallery have commissioned Palestinian artist Laila Kassab to produce new work inspired by the renowned Scottish Outsider artist, Scottie Wilson. The commissioned artwork is exhibited at Pallant House Gallery, Chichester, from 13 June to 29 July 2018 in the exhibition 'Colliding Worlds: Scottie Wilson', alongside works by Wilson from the Gallery's collection.

Through an open call in 2017, Outside In and Pallant House Gallery offered an exciting opportunity for artists to submit proposals in response to the artwork of Scottie Wilson. Contemporary artist Greg Bromley, a social worker from Yorkshire, was awarded the commission, but due to the high quality of Laila Kassab's proposal, and the unique opportunity at stake, it was decided to offer a second commission.

Since Laila is unable to leave Gaza Outside In ran a successful crowdfunding campaign which took place in May 2018, raising the extra funds needed for Laila to take part in this commission, and ensuring her art work could travel safely to Pallant House Gallery.



Laila Kassab creating her artwork in her home based in Yibna Refugee camp in Rafah along the South of the Gaza strip

“While a woman like me is denied the freedom to travel, my defiance is symbolised by having my paintings exiting Gaza.” - Laila Kassab

About Laila Kassab:

Laila Kassab is a self-taught artist, creating beautifully colourful artworks reflecting her life experiences. For Laila, her life in Gaza did not provide her with what she needed to pursue a career as an artist. She grew up in a poor family in inadequate living conditions and felt that the events surrounding her led her to she calls 'a dismal life'.

It was through art that she was able to transform her sadness into creativity. Using charcoal to draw directly onto the walls of her home, she was able to express her feelings inside and turn unhappiness into hope for herself and those around her.

Laila was drawn to this commission as she saw many similarities between herself and Scottie Wilson: "Scottie and I share the urge to express our art in the face of a life of poverty, personal hardship and painful memories of war."

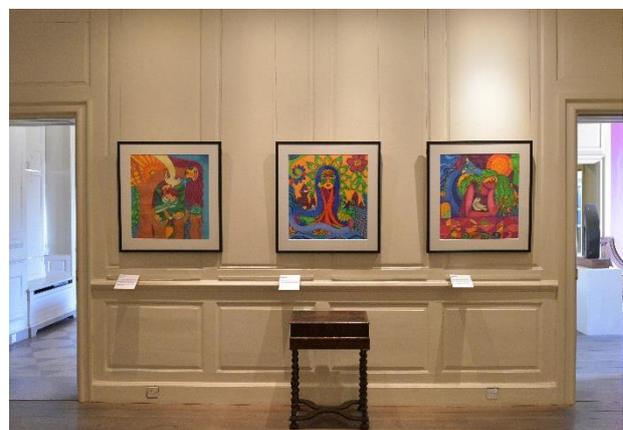
"Paying tribute to Scottie's art, I will draw the commissioned paintings in bright and warm colours combined with each other to create bold paintings full of lines and curves, symbols and secrets. I will use flora, fish, birds, animals, and other creatures, possibly merging with faces, symbolising freedom, oppression, despair and hope".



Laila Kassab, *Cruelty but Hope*, pencil on paper, 2018 (Image credit: Andrew Hood)



Left: Laila Kassab, *Hope*, pencil on paper, 2018. Right: Scottie Wilson, *Springtime*, Coloured inks and crayon on paper, n.d. Presented by Anonymous Donors (2013) (Image credit: Andrew Hood)



Alongside the commissioned work, there is a selection of work by Scottie Wilson from the Pallant House Gallery collection. Scottie's distinctive art work has been widely admired and collected by influential members of the art world, including Jean Dubuffet and Pablo Picasso. His works embody a sense of morality, wherein characters called 'evils and greedies' are juxtaposed with naturalistic forms, such as birds, fish and trees, to symbolise goodness and truth.



Scottie Wilson *Untitled (Sea Creatures)*
1950s
Gouache on Paper
Wilson Loan (2006)

Further quotes

John Booth, Chair of Pallant House Gallery:

"We are delighted to support this inaugural commission for Outside In at such an exciting moment in its history. The standard of applications was extraordinary."

Marc Steene, Director of Outside In:

"We are thrilled to be working with Pallant House Gallery on this important commission. It will become a significant

and landmark opportunity for the artists Outside In supports. The commission enables our artists to produce new work and present it in a prestigious Gallery, and to develop their confidence and reputation in the process."

Notes to Editors

About Scottie Wilson and the commission:

Scottie Wilson (1891 – 1972) started his artistic career late in life at the age of 44, and his distinctive artwork has since been widely admired and collected, including by Jean Dubuffet and Pablo Picasso.

In 2017 Outside In and Pallant House Gallery launched an open call to commission artists to respond to Wilson's work, with the opportunity of being exhibited alongside the Scottie Wilson's works from the Gallery's collection in summer 2018. The commission is funded by The John Booth Charitable Foundation

About Outside In:

Founded in 2006 by Pallant House Gallery, Chichester, and an independent charity since 2017, Outside In provides a platform for artists who face barriers to the art world due to health, disability, social circumstance or isolation. Winner of the Charity Award for Arts, Culture and Heritage in 2013, the charity aims to create a fairer art world that rejects traditional values and institutional judgements about those work can and should be displayed. It offers a range of online and physical exhibition platforms as well as professional development opportunities. Since its inception, Outside In has engaged over a quarter of a million audience members and over 80 partner

organisations nationally. It has held over 50 exhibitions and currently supports 2,600 artists.

www.outsidein.org.uk

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About Pallant House Gallery:

Pallant House Gallery is a unique combination of a historic Queen Anne townhouse and contemporary extension, housing one of the best collections of Modern British art in the UK. Widely acclaimed for its innovative temporary exhibition and exemplary Learning and Community Programme which has inclusion at its heart, the Gallery has won numerous awards since re-opening in 2006, including the Gulbenkian Prize, the largest for arts and cultural organisations in the country.

www.pallant.org.uk

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