

# Exhibition Guide

Noor Abed

*our songs were ready for all wars to come*

3 December 2021 — 13 February 2022

Tower Room, Second Floor



Noor Abed (b. 1988, Palestine) works at the intersection of performance, media and film. Her artistic practice examines notions of choreography and the imaginary relationship of individuals, creating situations where social possibilities are both rehearsed and performed.

*our songs were ready for all wars to come* (2021) is a 22-minute film of choreographed scenes based on documented folk tales from Palestine. It begins with four minutes of darkness and the haunting sound of a woman's voice. The perforated edge of the film, occasionally silhouetted by flashes of light, highlights the nature of the work as a mediated document. Performances by women connect stories of water wells and communal rituals associated with disappearance, mourning and death. The only narration in the film is a song, which is sung by Palestinian singer Maya Khaldi. Its lyrics are a collage of different folk tales:

*Whoever drinks from it becomes a gazelle*

*gazelle  
gazelle*

*Touch the same water of bitterness*

*O time, leave me  
O time, come back  
come back  
come back*

The film explores the critical stance of folklore as a source of knowledge and its possible connection to alternative social and representational models in Palestine. How can folklore become a common emancipatory tool for people to overturn dominant discourses, reclaim their history and land, and rewrite reality as they know it?

# IKON

Please note the Tower Room is only accessible via a number of steps and to one visitor or household at a time.



**Noor Abed**  
*our songs were ready for all wars to come (2021)*  
Single-channel video, sound. 22:03 minutes  
Courtesy the artist

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Open Tuesday – Sunday, 11am–5pm  
Free entry, donations welcome

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