

Large Print Guide and Transcript

Jananne Al-Ani

Timelines

12 February to 22 May 2022

You will find the large print guide for Timelines on pages 2-5, and the transcript of the audio for *Timelines* on pages 6-7.

LARGE PRINT GUIDE

Jananne Al-Ani, *Timelines*, 2022

Panoramic Video Installation, 5.1 audio

9 minutes 7 seconds

Jananne Al-Ani is a London-based, Iraqi-born artist working with photography, film and video. Her practice is concerned with the power of testimony, representations of landscapes marked by conflict, and the legacy of British power and influence globally.

In *Timelines*, an ambitious new panoramic video installation, Al-Ani reveals a micro landscape in the surface of a highly decorated brass tray that originated in Iraq and is now held in the V&A Collection.

The tray is said to depict events on Armistice Day, 1918, in the Iraqi town of al-Hindiyyah. Biplanes fly over the river Euphrates that cuts across the centre of the tray, and crowds of highly stylised Arab men

and women and British soldiers are shown from a bird's-eye view on either side of the river.

The tray inadvertently depicts the use of airpower to crush the Arab rebellion that arose in opposition to British occupation, which followed the end of World War I. Using ultra close-up photographs of the engraved surface and computer animation, Al-Ani transforms the flattened perspective of the scene into a vast and varied landscape.

A woman's voice guides us on this journey as the artist draws upon interviews with her mother, recalling personal experiences of growing up in Britain as the child of Irish immigrants and living in Iraq through intense social and political change. Her memories move between these contexts, alighting on stories of repressive regimes, rebels and underground movements, reflections on the aftermath of the Irish War of Independence and the failure of the Iraqi revolt – creating a layered narrative where multiple timelines intersect and overlap.

Jananne Al-Ani, *Timelines* is co-commissioned by Film and Video Umbrella and Towner Eastbourne with Art Fund support through the Moving Image Fund for Museums.

Producer: Tracy Bass

Director of Photography (stills): Oliver Goodrich

Director of Photography (moving image): Martin Testar

VFX Supervisor and Lead 3D Artist: Elliott Kajdan

Motion Control Operator: James Gillett

Gaffer: Tom Nowell

Gaffer: Owen Porter

Production Manager: Rose Cussen

Editor: Sue Giovanni

Composer and Sound Designer: Andy Cowton

Re-Recording Mixer: Ben Young

Narrator: Ann Al-Ani

Transcriber: Shatha Al-Ani

Special thanks to Beccy McCray

The Mill: Colour Producer: Edwin Elkington; Colourist: Philip Hambi;

Executive Producer: Gemma Humphries; Lead 2D Artist: David

Wishart.

RES: Mark Calvert, Dave Green, Ben Stern.

ADi Audiovisual: Ant Marlow.

Film and Video Umbrella: Steven Bode, Katie Byford, Susanna Chisholm, Jade Desumala, Mike Jones, Sophie Luard, Jonathan Stubbs.

Towner Eastbourne: Noelle Collins, Joe Hill, Emily Medd, Sam Pullen.

V&A: Rachel Dedman, Benjamin Hinson, Tim Stanley.

Thanks to Daniel Alexander, Sussan Babaie, Levon Biss, Noski Deville, John Hindmarch, Jules Hussey, Sarah Lowry, Lindsay MacDonald, Effie Paleologou, Tim Saunders, Karen Shepherdson, Jarrad Vladich, Val Williams, and Bettina von Zwehl.

TRANSCRIPT

There was this beautiful, beautiful river

A very dangerous river

With swift currents

A very dangerous place

Very deep water

They were very politically aware

They felt they were living under a repressive regime.

They were all part of an underground movement

They were very optimistic

It was wonderful

The hope and the promise

And then what happened afterwards was so bad

Everywhere there were guards

Secret police on the streets watching

They did not want to be seen

Some of his relatives had been shot by the British

Him and the other rebels were armed

They chased this policeman

And he got caught between these rebels and was shot

They were hung

Some men had been hung

They were hung under this bridge

When the aeroplanes came

It made me realise that the situation was very volatile

There was a lot more tension everywhere

People were really worried

All those places have been devastated

That was very sad

It was just for everybody, utterly horrendous

They've seen such dreadful things

They've been through things that we haven't

Such sadness

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