

# Jala Wahid Conflagration

28 Oct - 13 Jan 2024

- ➔ Born in 1988, Jala studied at Goldsmiths and the Royal Academy of Arts.
- ➔ Jala is interested in the link between Kurdistan and Britain.
- ➔ Her work looks at the history of the oil industry in the Middle East.
- ➔ Nothing in her show directly depicts oil, but everything represents the traces of either oil, location or industry.

## Key words:

- **Kurdistan** - A country in West Asia including Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria.
- **Oil** - A liquid used for fuel
- **Oil industry** - The processing, discovery and transport of oil
- **Middle East** - An area in West Asia comprising of 16 countries
- **Baba Gurgur** - The first oil field to be discovered in Northern Iraq, discovered in 1927
- **Kirkuk** - A city in Northern Iraq
- **Warfare** - Activities related to war or conflict
- **Pollution** - A poisonous or harmful substance on the environment.

Conflagration is a word used for a fire that is difficult to put out and destroys a lot of things.



The sound piece, Naphtha Maqam, is a story of when oil was first struck. The story ends with oil begging to be put back in the ground. The singer is Amal Saeed Kurda, a contemporary Kurdish singer/ composer.

Part of a larger deck, the playing cards explore themes of archaeology and discovery.



Baba Gurgur is about an oil source and natural fire of the same name that was found in Kurdistan. This finding made Britain interested in the Middle East. Although it was discovered in 1927, Jala is interested in the links it still has with Britain.

The sculpture is based on Salvia Spinosa - the only type of flower that grows in between rocks in oil wells. These flowers can be found at Baba Gurgur and grow between North Africa and Afganistan.

Baba Gurgur has a naturally occuring fire that has stayed alight for thousands of years. It is a symbolic place for local people.

Jala is showing us this wonder with a toxic overlay of warfare, pollution and conflict.

Sick Pink Sun (03:00 14:10.1927-) is a projection of the Sun after ISIS bombed the Qayyarah oil fields and let off lots of toxic smoke covering the Sun.

