

ALAA ABU ASAD

Alaa is an artist, researcher and photographer.

Alaa looks at the ways seeing, reading, understanding, presenting and translating meet.

Language and plants are main themes in his work. He explores these themes through writing, film and interactive installations.



WILD PLANTS OF PALESTINE

The film shows a collection of information and images of plants and flowers in Palestine.

It questions what the term Palestinian means by looking at land. It was filmed on the West Bank.

Wild plants of Palestine explores photography as a way to spread, but also limit information.

THE DOG CHASED ITS TAIL TO BITE IT OFF

The photos on display introduce what is being shown in the film *Wild plants of Palestine*, they question how the artwork is seen.

For example, how can a film about people exploring plants and flowers also show us landscape, history, and colony planning?

How can the study of invasive plants make us think about society and its behaviours?

Alaa uses Japanese knotweed as an example; what plants become accepted as native even though they are not, and which are seen as invasive or foreign?

People complain about Japanese knotweed being destructive, however we don't think about what we are doing as a society that means it grows well – warmer weather due to climate change, industrial sites with not much nature meaning it has space to grow, or highly polluted soil.