

English

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ARJAH ART FOUNDATION

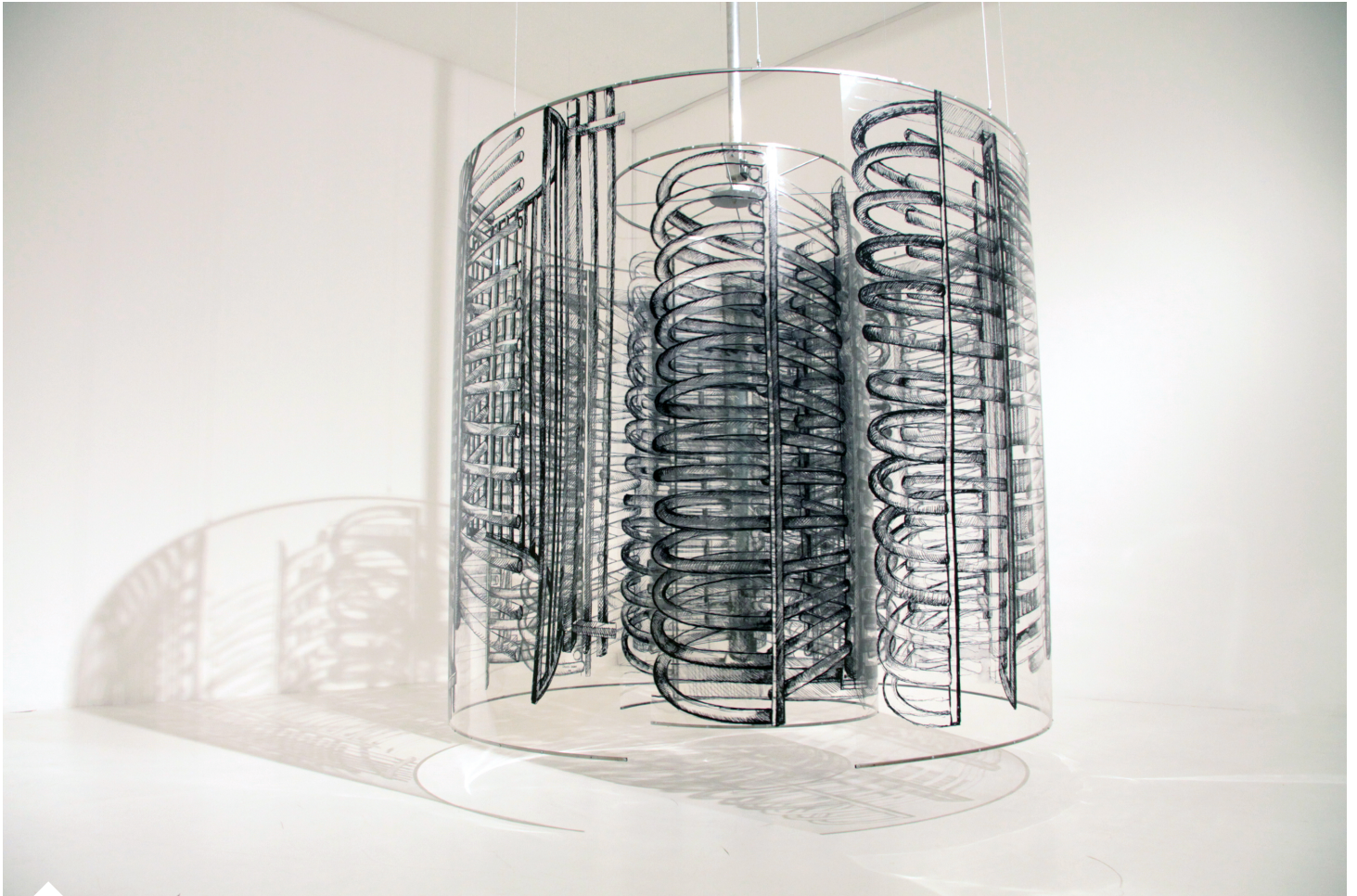
PROJECTS

Have a Pleasant Stay!

Samira Badran
2009

Multi-media Installation
Commissioned and
produced by Sharjah Art
Foundation

With *Have a Pleasant Stay!* I wanted to create a space for reflection and empathy, a visual and physical metaphor of the concept of suffocation and claustrophobia.



**Have a Pleasant Stay!,
2009**

Samira Badran
Have a Pleasant Stay!, 2009
Multi-media installation
Dimensions variable
Installation view
Commissioned and produced by Sharjah Art
Foundation
Photo by Alfredo Rubio

Artist Statement

One of the numerous places which has suffered a radical and dramatic transformation is between Ramallah and Jerusalem, where the checkpoint at Qalandia has become a frontier completely separating Jerusalem from the rest of the Palestinian territories and villages.

Just entering that space is shocking and terrifying. A giant net of metal bars of all sizes and forms, thick heavy turnstiles - one after the other that make a huge and dense

tissue of horizontal and vertical lines. An oppressive atmosphere where visibility is minimal and there seems to be no air to breathe.

Every time I pass this checkpoint and go through these turnstile doors I am psychologically and physically imprisoned, confined inside a reduced triangle without any possibility of movement and surrounded by iron bars and cameras. I am overwhelmed with strange and contradictory sensations that I have never experienced in any other place. I feel nervous, annoyed, afraid, insecure and suffocated. My heart rate increases and my brain is bombarded with uncontrollable questions. Will they permit me to pass? What if they impose a curfew? How can I get back home? Will I see my family on the other side? Constantly repeated throughout the day. Your perception of time is lost. Constant interrogation. Constant insecurity. Constant tiredness.

With *Have a Pleasant Stay!* I wanted to create a space for reflection and empathy, a visual and physical metaphor of the concept of suffocation and claustrophobia. I wanted reflect the feeling of Palestinians living inside their own land, but a land that has become a prison around them.

2009

Excerpted from Provisions, Book 1, the catalogue for the 9th Sharjah Biennial

This project was part of Sharjah Biennial 9

Commissioned and produced by Sharjah Art Foundation

Project Images

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Installation view
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Related



Sharjah Biennial 9: Provisions Book I

Publications

Published to accompany Sharjah Biennial 9, *Provisions* is an experimental catalogue approaching the space of the book as an art project.



Sharjah Biennial 9: Provisions Book II

Publications

The second book in the *Provisions* series looks at the experience of taking part in and attending a biennial.

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