

Muna Malik

Diasporic Purgatory

In the desire for belonging, diasporic identities navigate a liminal space between homeland and new home(s), drawing connections between cultural symbols old and new, both inherited and assumed. This exhibition explores the desire for freedom and grounding, while navigating the politics of land, nationhood, migration, and displacement.

Through a body of work that includes sculpture, painting, works on paper, and film, *Diasporic Purgatory* navigates the paradox of feeling caught between worlds. The exhibition features masks inspired by Afro-Futurism, sculptures reflecting East African seafaring traditions, and a revaluation of valueless currency. At the center of the exhibition is a film that combines archival footage from Somalia's golden age (1960s-1970s) with contemporary footage filmed in Swahili trading cities on the coast of Kenya in 2023. Malik's work reclaims cultural symbols of her past and present, while constructing new mythologies that anchor new identities in this transitory space.

Muna Malik is a multidisciplinary artist based in Los Angeles, CA born in Sanaa, Yemen. Her work explores history, gender, popular culture, social justice, politics, and identity, employing diverse mediums and forms, from painting and sculpture to large-scale, socially engaged public art, and film. Malik's work has been featured at the Parrish Art Museum, the International Center for Photography, Annenberg Center for Photography, and MOCA Geffen, and in publications such as the New York Times, LA Times, and Vogue.

Almost there
2024
Oil on linen
76 in x 76 in



Echoes of Promise: "I got as close as I could."
2024
Two channel film
9:42



Sirens Call
2024
Ceramic masks, fish nets, steel flag pole
dimensions variable



An Ode - National Purgatory

2023

Wood, steel, polyester fabric, acrylic, cement,
plaster, found net

9ft x 3ft x 5ft



New Immigrant Portrait

2022

Steel, polyester fabric, acrylic, cement, plaster

6ft x 3ft x 5ft



Revolutionary, Shillin
2024
Archival print
27.25 in x 53.5 in



Basket Makers, Shillin
2024
Archival print
27.75 in x 55.5 in



Boat Builders, Shillin
2024
Archival print
25.25 in x 48 in



Nature, Shillin
2024
Archival print
22.25 in x 43.5 in



Seascape

2024

Window vinyl

Site specific installation, dimensions variable

