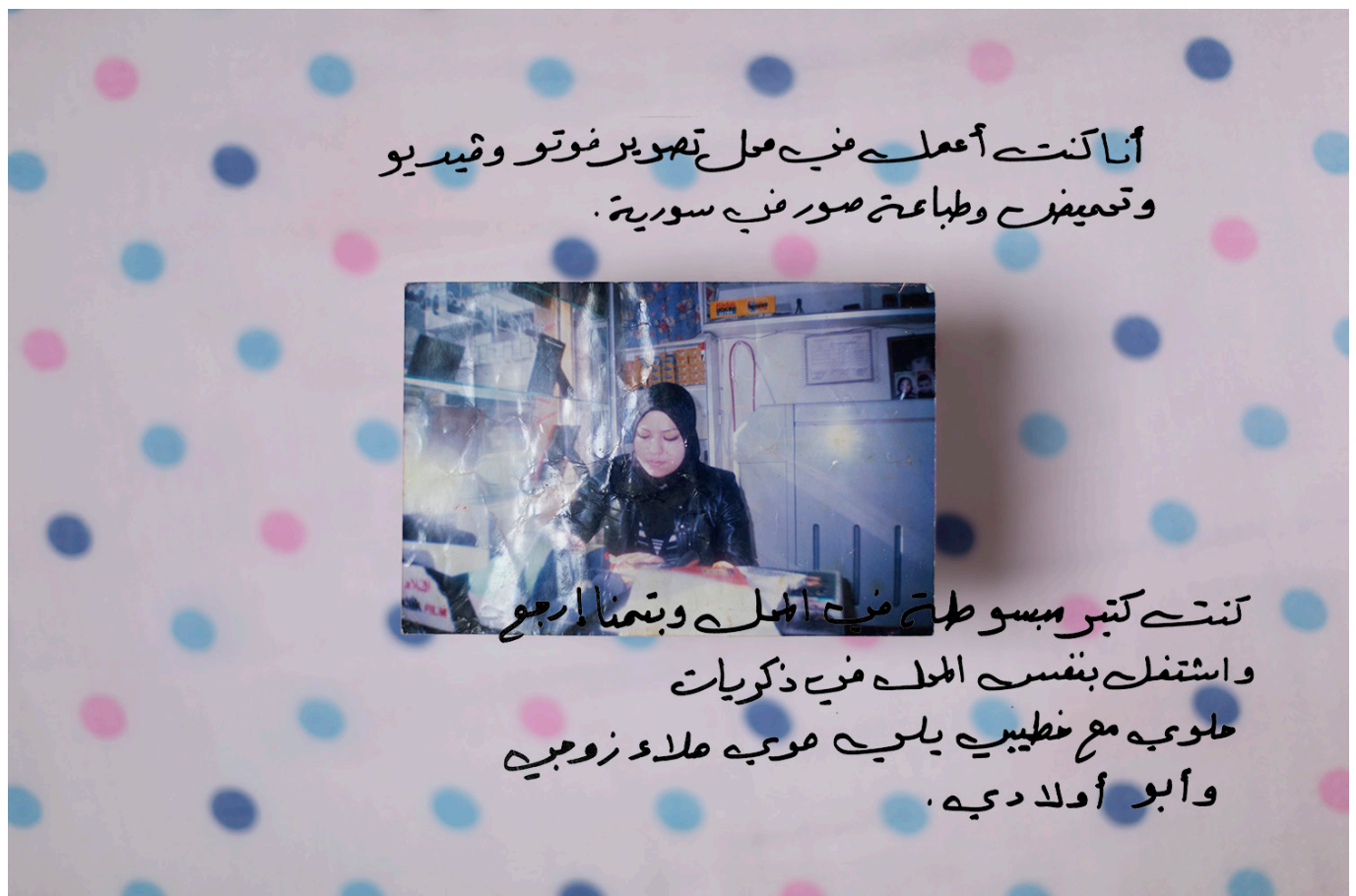


In Which Language Do We Dream?

Rich Wiles and the al-Hindawi family



An exhibition exploring displacement, identity,
integration and home

Touring information

In Which Language Do We Dream?

It has been over 10 years since the beginning of the Syrian Civil War in 2011. Since then, more than 500,000 people have been killed or are missing and an estimated 5.7 million Syrians have been forced to flee their homes and country.

In the UK, we are familiar with the news headlines and the photographic images of the so-called 'refugee crisis'. But what happens after displacement to those who are resettled and try to rebuild their lives? What about personal stories, and the relationships that form between new friends and new neighbours? And how do people hold on to loved ones and a past life that they had to leave behind?

In Which Language Do We Dream? offers fresh insights into these issues, through the photographic perspectives of a Syrian family with first-hand experience.

The multi-stranded exhibition presents an intimate perspective on the lives of displaced people: one in which displaced people themselves tell their own stories. Archival family photos rescued from Syria will be presented alongside contemporary photographs by Rich Wiles, new work by the al-Hindawi family, and in particular their mother Ruba al-Hindawi, as well as a specially commissioned film of Whats App photos sent by their extended family members and shared across national boundaries.



Ruba photographed during a day out to the East Yorkshire coast in Flamborough, July 2020 © Rich Wiles



Mustapha and Yazan join friends exploring the local countryside.

In early summer with schools still closed but lockdown restrictions easing, brothers Mustapha (left) and Yazan (second from right) go out exploring the local countryside with friends.

Drifffield, East Yorkshire, June 2020

© Rich Wiles

Rich Wiles is a documentary photographer who lived and worked for seven years in a refugee camp in Palestine, before returning to the North of England with his wife, a Palestinian refugee. Over a period of four years, Rich has been collaborating with the family and their relationship has become close. "I want to explore more of these relationships given the parallels between our families. My wife is currently going through the immigration process, my eldest daughter was born in the Middle East and now living in UK, much like Rami and Ruba's eldest

daughter. My youngest daughter was born here a few months after Rami and Ruba's youngest daughter. We are all living somewhere in between homes, cultures and languages." In Syria, Ruba worked in a photographic processing lab in Homs. When the city was besieged, she and her husband Rami and children Mustapha, Yazan and Hannan, had no choice but to flee their home country and live as displaced people in Lebanon. Five years later, they were among the few to be admitted to the UK under British Government's resettlement



Hanan (right) and Rayan photographed by their mother, Ruba, while playing with a dog in their neighbours garden. Ruba (and other family members) documented their lives during lockdown in 2020.

Drifffield, East Yorkshire, 2020

© al-Hindawi family

programme, and were housed in a small Yorkshire market town.

What began as a documentary project by Rich Wiles has grown into a significant collaboration. With Rich's support and encouragement Ruba began photographing herself, her husband and her children's daily life as they navigate resettlement and integration.

Ruba says "Our lives have been different in every place, in Syria, Lebanon, and now England, and we want people to see this. Our photographs help to explain this and I want our children to be able to see how our lives have changed because I don't know if we will ever be able to go back home or not. I like photography because photographs always take you back to the moment in which they were taken. Photography brings your memories back. I want to show people that we are trying to integrate and that my kids love living in England. We feel happy here, but really we miss home.

I am enjoying working on this project because it helps me feel part of something and learn more language. Every time I take photos I feel happy and more relaxed."

In Which Language Do We Dream? is a universal story told in a personal way, raising debates surrounding issues of displacement, identity, resettlement, integration and home. It will challenge stereotypical images of refugees, and counteract negative perceptions in politics and the media. Most importantly, through co-authorship the exhibition considers the power of authentic representation by amplifying the voices and viewpoints of refugees experiences. Collectively, *In Which Language Do We Dream?* is rebuilding a family archive.

This collaboration was made possible thanks to public funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

أنا كنت أعمل في محل تصوير فوتو وفيديو
وتصميم وطباعة صور في سورية.



كنت كتير مبسوطة في المحل وبتعنا ارحم
واشتغل بنفسي المحل في ذكريات
حلو مع خطيبتي ياسر حبيب علاء زوجه
وأبو أولاديه.

Re-worked family archive photograph.

Text by Ruba:

"I was working in a shop that did photography and video, developing and printing photographs in Syria. I was really happy in the shop and I hope to go back and work in the same shop. There are loads of nice memories with my fiancée who is now my husband and my children's' father."

Original archive photo from Homs, Syria, circa 2005. Reworked in 2020.

© Rich Wiles/al-Hindawi family



Hanan and Rayan photographed by their mother, Ruba, while out for a walk in the local area.

Ruba (and other family members) documented their lives during lockdown in 2020.

Driffield, East Yorkshire, 2020

© al-Hindawi family

Rayan photographed while playing in her living room at home.

Rayan is the only member of the al-Hindawi family that was born in the UK. Despite her place of birth Rayan is not entitled to a British passport as neither of her parents have 'Settled Status' in the UK. Instead she adopts the same immigration status as her parents.

Driffield, East Yorkshire, December 2020

© Rich Wiles



Mustapha and Hanan with family friends,
photographed by their mother, Ruba,
2020

© al-Hindawi family



Rami and Ruba attempt to open a tin of halal luncheon meat in the kitchen while Yazan plays on the Playstation.

Without being able to go outside to play, lockdown often meant screen time for the children. For Rami and Ruba preparing food was a regular way to pass time. Versions of the scene were played out in homes across the UK through 2020.

© Rich Wiles



Freshly baked baklava and Arabic coffee being prepared for guests, 2020

© al-Hindawi family



Mustapha and Yazan with friends
alongside the local canal.

As lockdown restrictions began to ease, Mustapha (left) and his younger brother Yazan (right centre) accompanied school friends on a day out to play alongside a local canal. The brothers arrived in the UK in 2017 with their family having been displaced from Syria several years earlier.

June 2020

© Rich Wiles



Re-worked family archive photograph.

Text (as written) by Hanan:

"I was 7 month and I had a white and gray and red dress. We was in Homs then we whent to Lebanon because there was a fite in Syria and after we wanted to go back but the fite didnt stop."

Original archive photo circa 2012.
Reworked in 2020.

© Rich Wiles/al-Hindawi family



Yazan and Mustapha photographed by their mother, Ruba, while watching their tablet in their bedroom.

Ruba (and other family members) documented their lives during lockdown in 2020.

© al-Hindawi family



Hanan (right) with her friend Nadia alongside the Humber Estuary.

Hanan began her resettlement in the UK in 2017 with her family having been displaced from Syria in 2012. Nadia is the daughter of photographer Rich Wiles – she was born in Palestine and arrived in the UK a year or so before Hanan. Both girls are growing up between two cultures and languages. The girls are a similar age and have become good friends.

Humber Bridge, 2019

© Rich Wiles



Rami photographed in the sea at Bridlington.

The al-Hindawi family's first family day out after more than two months at home was a trip to the coast a few miles from their house. Rami and his wife Ruba arrived in the UK in 2017 with their children having been displaced from Syria several years earlier.

Bridlington, June 2020

© Rich Wiles



Until today...
from 2012 I haven't seen him.



my mum refused to go to Lebanon
until she knew where he was.

Stills from film commissioned to accompany the exhibition, featuring WhatsApp photos sent by extended family members and shared across national boundaries. Commentary by Rami and Ruba al-Hindawi.

About Rich Wiles

Rich Wiles is a socially-engaged artist and documentary photographer. His practice explores social issues of our times, often focussing on notions of 'home' and 'identity' in different contexts. His work has been exhibited in 12 countries, recognised by numerous grants and awards including the Palestine Photography Award, and widely published in the international media and photographic press including *Al Jazeera International*, *Times Educational Supplement*, and the BBC.

Rich Wiles was based in Palestine from 2005 to 2016, including 7 years living and working inside Aida refugee camp. His participatory work with the camp's children led to the establishment of 'Lajee Center Arts & Media Unit', an award-winning grassroots, youth-led, sustainable participatory photography and film project. He also implemented participatory work with groups of women in the West Bank and young photographers in the Gaza Strip, and has run participatory projects in UK schools.

His work has been exhibited at Migration Museum, London; Sony World Photography Awards at Somerset House, London; Fotomuseum, Antwerp, Belgium; and Amnesty International Human Rights Centre, London.

Developing *In Which Language Do We Dream?*

In Which Language Do We Dream? was made possible thanks to public funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England. The exhibition is a co-created project with curator Anne McNeill guiding the photographic selection through collaboration and discussion with Rich Wiles, Ruba and family.

About Ruba and her family

In 2012 the year after the crisis in Syria began; Rami, Ruba and their children Mustapha, Yazan and Hanan were forced to flee Homs, the city of their home. Rami had worked as a driver in Syria and Ruba had spent some time working in a photographic lab prior to getting married. In Homs they lived alongside their large extended family.

They fled across the closest border into Lebanon, remaining there until 2017 when they were offered the chance to resettle under the British Government's VPRS scheme. Shortly after they arrived, their daughter Rayan was born. Most of their surviving family members are displaced and spread across several countries, although a few remain in Syria today.

About Anne McNeill, Curator

Anne McNeill is an experienced and well respected curator, with over 25 years experience. Exhibitions include *Facing the Front*, unseen wartime fashion photographs by Lee Miller (1998), *Seven Years* (2004) seminal exhibition by Trish Morrissey *Cockroach Diaries & other stories* (2010), first retrospective of Anna Fox's work, shortlisted for the Deutsche Börse Prize, *Lost Languages & other voices*, major survey of Joy Gregory a key artist emerging from the Black British photography movement on the 1980s. *Beyond the Border* (2014) group exhibition of one of the most significant shows of new Scottish photography in a generation.

Anne is regularly invited to judge international awards, such as the W. Eugene Smith Memorial Grant, New York, 2015, and the Krasna Krausz Book Awards 2019. She is the editor of numerous publications on photography and a writer on photography, most recently a response to Autograph ABP's commission of Joy Gregory's work exploring self-care during Covid.

Exhibition content

Space required

Approximately 70 - 90 linear metres. We can help advise on adapting the show to suit your space.

Artworks

Framed photographs

75 colour photographs presented as hand printed dry mounted prints in unglazed bespoke white frames in three sizes:

- 15 artworks at 60 x 90 cm / 24 x 36"
- 50 artworks at 49 x 73.5 cm / 19" x 29"
- 10 artworks at 45 x 30 cm / 17.5 x 12"

Film of WhatsApp photographs

Specially commissioned 11 minute film featuring WhatsApp photographs sent by extended family members and shared across national boundaries. Commentary by Rami and Ruba al-Hindawi, in Arabic with English subtitles.

The film can be presented on a wall-based screen or projected, to suit venue (audiovisual equipment not supplied).

Family archive photographs

10 colour family archive photographs and text (circa 2005 to 2010) from Homs, Syria, collaboratively reworked in 2020. Presented in ten bespoke vitrines (supplied), each W92cm x D53cm x H106cm.

12 mobile phone photographs of extended family, Lebanon (circa 2015 to 2017), with accompanying text in English and Arabic. Presented in a vitrine (not supplied).

VR virtual exhibition experience

An interactive virtual experience, which can be embedded into the venue's website. Visitors can explore the exhibition at Impressions online, zoom into artworks, play films and click on hotspots to view more information.

Interpretation and engagement

Meet the Artists film

10 minute film with Rich Wiles and Ruba al-Hindawi talking about the project, in English and Arabic, subtitled.

Exhibition information in English and Arabic

Supplied as InDesign files for you to produce in your preferred format to suit your space:

- Introduction panel.
- Captions for each image.
- Information sheet.
- Exhibition guide.
- 3 text panels with a synopsis of the al-Hindawi family's story, English only.

Wall based activity

Supplied as InDesign files for you to produce in your preferred format to suit your space:

- Map of Europe, North Africa and Western Asia.
- Title text and activity instructions.
- 4 template postcards with prompts to encourage written and drawn responses.

Resource area

- Artist information folder.
- Printed Q&A with Rich Wiles.
- Links to further resources.
- A selection of contextual and recommended books.

Newspaper

Full colour newspaper specially published to coincide with the exhibition, featuring photographs by Ruba and her children Mustapha, Yazan and Hanan, with text in the children's own words.

What the hire fee covers

Your touring fee of £5,000 +VAT includes:

- Loan of exhibition and all artworks for up to 12 weeks at your venue, plus additional time for installation and take-down.
 - Suggested liner hang 70 - 90m. Please note that the images featured in this proposal are indicative, and final content may vary slightly.
 - Fees to Rich Wiles and Ruba al-Hindawi.
 - A fully interactive virtual reality version of the exhibition, which can be experienced remotely on tablets, mobile phones, laptops and desktops, as well as Oculus VR viewers.
 - Bilingual interpretation (such as exhibition guides and information sheets) produced in English and Arabic to help welcome people from refugee communities.
 - Support from Impressions' Engagement and Learning Manager to advise on creative workshop ideas.
 - Digital copies of exhibition interpretation to use and reproduce, including wall panels, information sheets, exhibition guides, and family activities.
 - 50 copies of newspaper featuring the family's photographs and stories, available for schools and education workshops, helping to overcome misconceptions about refugees and asylum seekers.
 - Media pack with high resolution rights-cleared digital images and press release for your own press campaign.
 - Support from the curator and Impressions' team, with advice on curatorial and technical matters to help you plan the exhibition.
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Your venue will cover the following:

- Two-way transport of the exhibition and insurance in transit and in situ.
- Exhibition installation.
- Travel and accommodation for a member of Impressions' curatorial team to attend layout day, if appropriate.
- Fabrication of interpretation, such as wall vinyls and info sheets.
- AV equipment to present WhatsApp film.
- Exhibition launch (if applicable) and costs for Rich Wiles, Ruba al-Hindawi and family (if appropriate) to attend from within the UK.
- Fees and costs for your education and learning programme, and any engagement activities involving the curator and/or artists (if applicable).
- Press and marketing for your own venue.

About Impressions Gallery

Impressions Gallery is a charity that helps people understand the world through photography and acts as an agent for change.

Based in Bradford, Impressions Gallery works internationally to bring the best of contemporary photography to wide and culturally diverse audiences. Since opening in 1972, as one of the first photography galleries in Europe, we have been at the forefront of photographic practice, making us an influential UK venue for photography.

We support ground-breaking, new and mid-career artists to resource and develop artistic talent through world class, confident exhibitions that explore timely and relevant issues in society, identity, and politics.

Our national and international touring exhibitions programme means that more people have the opportunity to experience great photography, wherever they may be.

We have worked with a variety of partners from museums and arts centres to heritage sites and international festivals. With curatorial and technical expertise, marketing and interpretation templates, and photographers' fees inclusive in exhibition hires, we aim to make the touring process as easy as possible.

Impressions Gallery is funded by Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation and supported by Bradford Metropolitan District Council.

Contact

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