

firstdraft

Gallery 2

30 April 2023 – 14 May 2023

Title: Act III: Love (or what if this is love?)

Maissa Alameddine

Act III: Love (or what if this is love?) embodies the inheritance and transference of knowledge through an ancestral plant that requires both community and family to nurture. Maissa Alameddine has been engaging with her overgrown and neglected areeshi (grapevine) since the first covid lockdown in 2020. This deep engagement has led her to question the layers of isolation experienced through living in Diaspora, resulting in the creation of a body of work constructed in three acts.

Act III: Love (or what if this is love?) follows previous acts investigating the burden of ties to heritage and cultural practice, as well as inheritance and transference in the Diaspora. Alameddine carries out an intuitive enquiry into the areeshi by documenting a series of communal gatherings among her community through photography, sound and video. Her findings reasserts the profound ties between cultural practice, the value of storytelling and the need to transfer this heritage to each other and the next generation. This work embodies love of community, family and cultural practice, a love that prevails each time the plant is harvested. It presents a deep desire to practice with her communities and to be present in the love of sharing stories, food, music, to gather and harvest.

The artist acknowledges: Videographer Romel Bahhi, Photographer Luisa Brimble, Sound Producer Cam Nascon, Assistant Editor Nagham Helou, AV installer Gotaro Uematsu and Mentor Nicole Barakat for their support and technical assistance in making this work.

The artists acknowledge with gratitude and immense love the community of family, friends and neighbours who offered me cultural guidance and helped in the making of this work in many aspects and generously participated in and off camera in this celebration and realization of this work:

Messara Alameddine (Em Saiid), Bahijee Helou (Em Tony), Amira Alameddine El-Hussein & Hind Alameddine Needham, Sivine Tabbouch, Karima Hazim, Rawi & Aiman Alameddine Lewis, Jason Lewis, Hanan & Maysa Shammass Gye Katie Shammass, Abeer Al Hassan, Adrian Mouhajer, Sophia Nasser, Ryan Wazir, Zeina lalli, Yul Scarf and Nicole Barakat.

Special thanks to PAS Open residency & Mentor Taloi Havini for the early support and guidance.

Gallery 1
WhOr3s 4eva
Curated by Katie Winten

Gallery 3
Public Art
Nick Breedon

Gallery 4
Far from heaven
Foong / McGrath

firstdraft
gadigal land
13–17 riley street
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firstdraft.org.au

**we acknowledge and pay respect to the gadigal people of the eora nation,
the traditional owners of the land on which firstdraft is built and operates.**

**firstdraft is supported by the NSW
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assisted by the Australian Government
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Maissa Alameddine grew up in Tripoli, Lebanon and now lives and works on the unceded lands of the Cammeraygal and Dharug peoples. She is an artist and vocalist working across photography, video, sound design and live performance.

Maissa's work explores the idea of migration as a chronic injury. Maissa inherited her voice from a long line of women vocalists, she uses voice as a provocation and a response. Her work is personal, exploring inheritance and transference of heritage in the complexity of the diasporic experiences of displacement and living between cultures. Maissa has been part of the collective and collaborative practice within the contemporary Arab Australian arts community for over twenty years. She produces, curates and collaborates on developing multi-disciplinary works and has worked with local Arabic music ensembles, Western orchestras, and art organisations. She is a founding member and one of the creative producers of Western Sydney-based Arab Theatre Studio.

Artwork

For sales enquiries, please email
maissa.alameddine@gmail.com

Act III: Love (or what if this is love?), 2023
multi-channel digital video, colour, aspect ratio: 16:9, soundscape
35 minutes

Act III: Love (or what if this is love?), 2023
digital C-type prints
4 x 6", 8 x 12"

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