

Press Release

# *As we move away from the sun*

Curated by **Fatma Hendawy**

On view:

**May 11 - June 8, 2024**

**Mon. - Sun., 10am - 5pm**

Opening Reception: **May 11, 4 - 6pm EDT**

**Opening reception will take place in Children's Conservatory**

Location: **Allan Gardens, 160 Gerrard St.**

Featuring work by:

**Abbas Akhavan - Asmaa Al-issa - Dima Srouji - Lamis Haggag - Patricia Dominguez - Tania Willard**

Artists find new ways to represent their work and practices as they find themselves integrating into new communities after experiencing displacement. Sometimes the process of integration requires compromising one's own identity. The precarious state of integration resonates with what some invasive plants can do to adapt to new environments. In order to survive, some plants can change their properties, undergoing a mutation that affects both its nature and form.

*As we move away from the sun* explores topics of migration, displacement, and adaptation with a focus on the inextricable connections between human and plant migration. This exhibition invites the audience to engage with questions of how people can come to resemble plants while adapting to a new country and culture, and how the shift of one's identity can be affected by the rigid integration processes inherited from western colonial systems. The artworks selected for this exhibition interweave the aesthetics of natural materials with the mutation of culture and identity that the artists imply through their creative processes. The exhibition at its core considers how artists utilize natural/organic aesthetic forms that embrace creative metaphors for experiences of adaptation and survival, utilizing research-based methodologies. Taking place inside the Greenhouses at Allan Gardens where Cactus and Palm trees live, the exhibition reintroduces Toronto's famous botanical gardens as a place of refuge to many migrant bodies.

**Special thanks to Friends of Allan Gardens and the City of Toronto for their generous donation of the exhibition venue.** Their support is integral in envisioning a space where connections to the land are regenerated and Toronto's unique tapestry of multiculturalism is activated.

*As we move away from the sun* was selected through apexart's Open Call. For more information and images visit <https://apexart.org/hendawy.php> or contact [ash.hagerstrand@apexart.org](mailto:ash.hagerstrand@apexart.org).

**Fatma Hendawy** is an Egyptian-Canadian curator, based in Toronto. Hendawy graduated in 2020 from the MVS Curatorial program, University of Toronto. Since 2008, Hendawy held different positions at Bibliotheca Alexandrina including Head of Permanent Exhibitions (2010-12). She was the Assistant Curator at AGYU, Toronto (2021-22). Hendawy participated in curatorial workshops and residencies including Tate Intensive 2017, ProHelvetia and ZKU/Berlin. She curated *Overt: Militarization as Ideology*, 2020 at the Art Museum, *Blind Ambition* by Hassan Khan film screening at Images Festival 2022, *Garden of Broken Shadows*, 2023 at Critical Distance Center for Curators, and *Art Nest*, 2023 at TOAF 62.

**apexart's** program supporters past and present include the Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation, the Kettering Family Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Buhl Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Spencer Brownstone, the Kenneth A. Cowin Foundation, Epstein Teicher Philanthropies, The Greenwich Collection Ltd., William Talbott Hillman Foundation/Affirmation Arts Fund, the Fifth Floor Foundation, The Puffin Foundation, the Trust for Mutual Understanding, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, public funds from Creative Engagement, supported by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and administered by LMCC, funds from NYSCA Electronic Media/Film in Partnership with Wave Farm: Media Arts Assistance Fund, with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, as well as the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the New York State Legislature.

**#Aswemoveawayfromthesun**

apexart - Toronto, Canada



Asmaa Al-Issa, *Untitled (map to tanuma)*, 2023

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