

Vienna, 26.5.2022

Statement on the cancelation of the lecture of Dr. Walaa Alqaisiya in the framework of the [Spring Curatorial Program 2022: Art Geographies](#) organised by the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and Verein K, which was scheduled for Monday, May 30, 2022 at mumok kino.

As the curator of the program, I want, together with Verein K, co-organisers of the program, to express my regrets about the cancelation of the lecture of Dr. Walaa Alqaisiya by mumok and the Academy. The cancellation was based on the accusation that certain contents of her lecture, as announced in the [program](#), are antisemitic.

Dr. Walaa Alqaisiya was invited to participate in the program and to talk about her forthcoming book [The Politics and Aesthetics of Decolonial Queering in Palestine](#) to appear with Routledge Publishers in October 2022, which is highly relevant to the topic of the Spring Curatorial Program. The book is based on her research on the relation between aesthetics and de/colonisation in Palestine and examines the meanings of queer(y)ing spaces and their relevance for decolonial geographies and imaginaries. As a teaching fellow in gender, peace and security at the London School of Economics and Political Science and as a Marie Curie Global researcher at the University of Venice and Columbia-NYC, Dr. Walaa Alqaisiya deals with decolonial and feminist environmental geographies across contexts of Indigeneity and her research complies with the highest academic standards. Her speaking and writing has been consistently grounded in research and earned her global recognition and we firmly believe that her academic freedom of speech should not be cancelled or compromised.

The program does not express, support or imply any antisemitic attitudes. On the contrary, it deals with complex and difficult issues in the context of exhausted geographies through artistic, theoretical and research practices, searching for possibilities of planetary sustainable and politically responsible coexistence in conditions of the permanent geopolitical peace, trying to reflect the diversity of positions on the topic.

On behalf of the Spring Curatorial Program Team, we therefore reject the accusations in an attempt to discredit the lecture and censor its content. The Spring Curatorial Program distances itself from antisemitism, censorship as well as from any manipulative political misinterpretations that instrumentalise difficult and complex topics, making it impossible to discuss them. We would like to present our apologies to Dr. Walaa Alqaisiya for a cancellation – which at this point in time was out of our hands – and will work towards organizing a public event with Dr. Alqaisiya in the near future, to facilitate a much-needed dialogue.

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