

PS1

MoMA PS1 PRESENTS THE FIRST MAJOR EXHIBITION OF JUMANA MANNA IN THE US

October 14, 2022 – MoMA PS1 presents the first major museum exhibition of Jumana Manna (Palestinian, b. 1987) in the United States. On view from September 22, 2022 to April 17, 2023, *Break, Take, Erase, Tally* brings together nearly 20 works including two recent films, *Wild Relatives* (2018) and *Foragers* (2022), along with a series of new and existing sculptures, charting the artist's multidisciplinary practice that explores the paradoxical effects of preservation practices in agriculture, science, and the law. Across the works in the exhibition, from sculptures to films, the land and its rhythms are explored as the basis for ways of life that have undergone duress while also resisting, evading, and transforming hegemonic power structures. In conjunction with the exhibition, a new sculpture by Manna, *Middle Ghost* (2022) is on view in the public plaza at PS1's main entrance, extending the exhibition into the cityscape. Part of the artist's *Cache* series, this installation is presented in collaboration with NYC Parks' Art in the Parks program and marks the first public artwork organized by PS1 in this new public plaza.

Focusing on the land in the face of increasing forms of alienation from it, Manna's films use a range of narrative methods to examine how land-based practices like farming and foraging are embroiled in and struggle against neoliberal and colonial policies and in turn, climate change. Drawing from specific examples, such as the first withdrawal from the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in 2015 in response to the Syrian war—the subject of her film *Wild Relatives*—Manna underscores the scientific limitations in recovering the loss of biological life, in all of its forms. Additionally, her work visualizes the slow violence of industrial agriculture while asking poignant questions about what kind of future is possible in a precarious present.

In her new film *Foragers*, which makes its New York premiere in the exhibition, Manna moves between documentary and fiction to chronicle confrontations between Palestinian pickers of the wild growing herbs 'akkoub and za'atar and the Israeli Nature Protection Authority, which has deemed the plants endangered. The foragers' refusal and the punishments they face, from large fines and potential jail time, at times takes on an absurdist and comical tone that raises key questions around the politics of extinction—namely who determines what gets to live on and how. In both of Manna's films, plants and seeds are primary subjects, and the relationship between human labor and the land is essential to their narrative structures.

A centerpiece of the exhibition is a large-scale installation of new sculptures from the artist's *Cache* series, which take inspiration from the fragmented remains of *khabyas*—meaning “the thing that hides” in Arabic—traditional and now obsolete structures for grain storage in the Levant. The sculptures are placed in dialogue with the artist's signature industrial plinth assemblages, which borrow materials found in the urban environment—from construction sites to drainage systems. Through these juxtapositions, Manna considers the shift of systems of storage from sources of sustenance and regeneration tied to agricultural life cycles to spaces of accumulation and centralized

economies of capital growth. These formal amalgamations of architecture speak to Manna's ongoing sculptural inquiries into improvised infrastructures in places where infrastructure is built to fail, as well as questions of recursion, materiality, and scale.

Jumana Manna (b. 1987) lives and works in Berlin, Germany. Recent solo exhibitions include *Jumana Manna / MATRIX 278*, Berkeley Museum of Art, San Francisco; *Sketch and Bread*, Balade Charlottenburg, Villa Oppenheim, Berlin; *Thirty Plumbers in the Belly*, M HKA – Museum of Contemporary Art, Antwerp (all 2021); *Wild Relatives*, Tensta Kunsthall, Sweden (2020); *Jumana Manna*, Tabakalera, San Sebastian, Spain (2019); *A Small Big Thing*, Henie Onstad Museum, Høvikodden (2019), Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin (2018); *A Magical Substance Flows Into Me*, Mercer Union, Toronto (2017); *Wild Relatives*, Jeu de Paume's Satellite 10 program at MABA and CAPC musée d'art contemporain de Bordeaux, France (2017); *A Magical Substance Flows Into Me*, Malmö Kunsthall, Sweden (2016) and at Chisenhale Gallery, London (2015); and *Menace of Origins*, SculptureCenter, New York (2014). She has participated in numerous significant group exhibitions and film festivals, including Toronto Biennial of Art (2022 and 2019); 11th Taipei Biennial (2018); Nordic Pavilion, 57th Venice Biennale (2017); Liverpool Biennial (2016); Marrakech Biennale 6 (2016); Vision du Reel, Lyon (2022), Dokufest Kosovo (2018 and 2022), Open City Film Festival, London (2022), 54th and 56th Vienna International Film Festivals (2016 and 2018); IFFR (2013 and 2017), IDFA (2021 and 2022); 66th and 68th Berlinale (2016 and 2018); and CPH:DOX (2018). Manna's work is held in public and private collections internationally, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; MCA Chicago; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Carre d'art, Nîmes, France; National Museum of Norway, Oslo; and Sharjah Art Foundation, UAE.

Jumana Manna: Break, Take, Erase, Tally is organized by Ruba Katrib, MoMA PS1 Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs.

Significant support for *Jumana Manna: Break, Take, Erase, Tally* is provided by The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art.

Generous support is provided by The Contemporary Arts Council of The Museum of Modern Art and Lise Stolt-Nielsen.

Special thanks to Hollybush Gardens, London.

The presentation of Jumana Manna's *Middle Ghost (Cache Series)* in the 46th Ave Public Plaza is made possible by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

ABOUT MoMA PS1

MoMA PS1 champions art and artists at the intersection of the social, cultural, and political issues of our time. Providing audiences with the agency to ask questions, access to knowledge, and a forum for public debate, PS1 has offered insight into artists' diverse worldviews for more than 40 years. Founded in 1976 by Alanna Heiss, the institution was a defining force in the alternative space movement in New York City, transforming a nineteenth century public schoolhouse in Long Island City into a site for artistic

experimentation and creativity. PS1 has been a member of New York City's Cultural Institutions Group (CIG) since 1982 and affiliated with The Museum of Modern Art since 2000.

Hours: MoMA PS1 is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Thursday through Monday. Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Admission: \$10 suggested admission; \$5 for students and senior citizens; free for New York State residents and MoMA members. Free admission for New York State residents is made possible by The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation. Tickets may be reserved online at mo.ma/ps1tickets.

Visitor Guide: Discover even more from PS1 with the Bloomberg Connects app. Read wall text, hear directly from artists, and uncover the building's history with this multimedia visitor guide. This digital experience is made possible through the support of Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Directions: MoMA PS1 is located at 22-25 Jackson Avenue at 46th Ave in Long Island City, Queens, across the Queensboro Bridge from midtown Manhattan. Traveling by subway, take the E, M, or 7 to Court Sq; or the G to Court Sq or 21 St Van Alst. By bus, take the Q67 to Jackson and 46th Ave or the B62 to 46th Ave.

Information: For general inquiries, call (718) 784-2084 or visit moma.org/ps1. Press Contacts: Kai Mora, kailyn_mora@moma.org; Molly Kurzius, (718)392-6447 or molly_kurzius@moma.org

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