

# **Jumana Manna Break, Take, Erase, Tally 07.03–25.08**

Exhibition Guide  
English

# **Kunsthall Stavanger**

Jumana Manna  
*Break, Take, Erase, Tally*  
07.03.24 - 25.08.24

Kunsthall Stavanger is proud to announce *Break, Take, Erase, Tally* by Palestinian artist Jumana Manna, organized in partnership with MoMA PS1 in New York.

This major exhibition charts the artist's multidisciplinary practice, which explores the paradoxical effects of preservation practices in agriculture, science, and the law. The exhibition at Kunsthall Stavanger brings together for the first time in Norway nearly 20 works including two recent films and a series of new and existing sculptures.

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. 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*, 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.

The exhibition also features a new large-scale installation of sculptures that take inspiration from the fragmented remains of khabyas, 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. Across sculpture and film, Manna's works explore the land and its rhythms as the basis for ways of life that can also serve to resist, evade, and transform hegemonic power structures.

Jumana Manna is a visual artist and filmmaker. Her work explores how power is articulated, focusing on the body, land and materiality in relation to colonial inheritances and histories of place. Through sculpture, filmmaking, and occasional writing, Manna deals with the paradoxes of preservation practices, particularly within the fields of archaeology, agriculture and law. Her practice considers the tension between the modernist traditions of categorisation and conservation and the unruly potential of ruination as an integral part of life and its regeneration. Jumana was raised in Jerusalem and lives in Berlin.

*Jumana Manna: Break, Take, Erase, Tally* is organized in partnership with Ruba Katrib, MoMA PS1 Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs, and was on view at MoMA PS1 from September 22, 2022 – April 17, 2023. Curators of the exhibition at Kunsthall Stavanger are Hanne Mugaas, Director, and Heather Jones, Curator (Interim).

The exhibition at Kunsthall Stavanger is generously supported by Arts Council Norway, Fritt Ord, Bergesenstiftelsen, and Norske Kunstforeninger.

Exhibition technicians: Matt Bryans, Leif Ole Stampa Johanssen, Bjørnar Hesby and Frank Aasnes.

Kunsthall Stavanger would like to thank the artist, MoMA PS1, Hollybush Gardens and Brief Histories.

## GALLERY 1

1. *Family (Extended)* (2023). Ceramic, lime, pigments. Dimensions variable.
2. *Ghost (Cache Series)* (2023). Ceramic, concrete, lime, pigments. 93 x 61 x 40 cm.
3. *Darsa (Cache Series)* (2022). Ceramic, concrete, lime, pigments. 98 x 55 x 65 cm.
4. *Red Cube with Ledge (Cache Series)* (2022). Ceramic, concrete, lime, pigments. 92 x 48.5 x 52.5 cm.
5. *Yellow Cube with Ledge (Cache Series)* (2023). Ceramic, concrete, lime, pigments. 92 x 48.5 x 52.5 cm.
6. *Sandwich (Cache Series)* (2022). Ceramic, concrete, lime, pigments. 60 x 92 x 35 cm.
7. *Worms (Limb Pipe Series)* (2021). Ceramics, steel. 50 x 25 cm each.
8. *Water Arm (I and II)* (2018). Ceramic, lime, metal grid. Dimensions variable.
9. *Wavy Sea 2* (2023). Collage on paper from cleaning product labels. 30.1 x 21.7 cm.
11. *Old Bread (International)* (2022). Ceramics, metal grid. 23 x 300 x 70 cm.
12. *Theory of an Unfinished Building (River)* (2021). Scaffold dust sheet, wooden frame. 230 x 410 x 30 cm.

## GALLERY 2

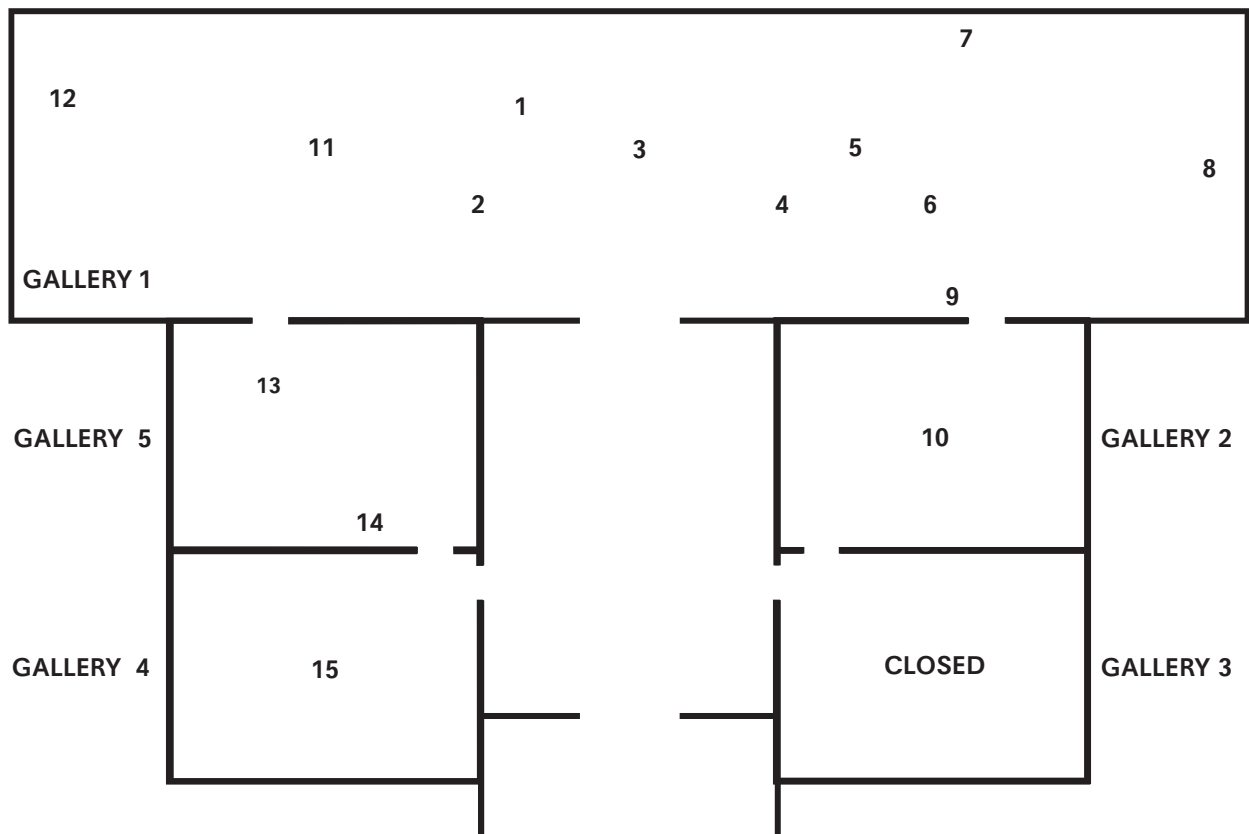
10. *Foragers* (2022). HD video with sound, 63:34.

## GALLERY 4

15. *Wild Relatives* (2018). HD video with sound, 63:55.

## GALLERY 5

13. *Cache* (2019). Ceramics, tadelakt, aluminium shelving unit, steel grates. 220 x 280 x 60 cm.
14. *Hairy Mountains* (2023). Collage on paper from cleaning product labels. 30 x 21.5 cm.



**Opening hours**  
**Wednesday 11–16**  
**Thursday 11–19**  
**Friday - Sunday 11–16**

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