



Foundland, "Escape Routes and Freedom Mirage," Baltic Sea Cultural Centre, Gdansk, Poland, 2013

Foundland: Escape Routes and Waiting Rooms

July 30 - August 29, 2014

Opening Reception: Wednesday, July 30, 2014, 6 - 8pm

Hours: Wednesday - Friday, 12-6pm

International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP)

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The International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP) is pleased to announce **Escape Routes and Waiting Rooms**, the first exhibition by **Foundland** in the United States. Foundland, initiated in 2009, is a collective of two artists: Ghalia Elsrakbi (Syria) and Lauren Alexander (South Africa). Along with artist Taysir Batniji, Foundland are the recipients of the first ISCP residency sponsored by **Edge of Arabia** in partnership with **Art Jameel** for artists from the Middle East.

In **Escape Routes and Waiting Rooms**, Foundland investigates personal stories of mobility and migration around Syria, a place where freedom of movement is strictly restricted due to its ongoing civil war. In two newly created installations, a Syrian family's dinner table is restaged to depict a schematic map of a family where most of the members have migrated from the country over time. The work reveals intimate family moments and history set in a ravaged country where millions of people are displaced.

Also included in this exhibition is a tent and video installation modeled on actual tents used in Za'tari camp in Jordan, one of the largest Syrian refugee camps in the world. Originally serving as a temporary living space, a refugee tent can be considered a "waiting room" for an unknown future. Foundland visualizes the potentiality of the tent as a symbolic transformative structure, which initially facilitates temporary, emergency landscapes, but could become the starting point for new communities over time.

This exhibition is organized by **Kari Conte**, Director of Programs and Exhibitions with **Shinnie Kim**, Programs Manager. A catalog will be published to accompany the exhibition with a commissioned text by Nat Muller, an independent curator and critic specializing in media art and contemporary art in and from the Middle East.

Foundland's work has been shown in exhibitions and festivals including Kadist Art Foundation, Paris (2012), Impakt Festival, Utrecht (2011, 2012), BAK, Utrecht (2012), and Visual Arts Festival Damascus, Istanbul (2013). They have given master classes and lecture presentations at Studium Generale ArtEZ, Arnhem, de Appel for Sandberg Institute, Amsterdam, Royal Academy of Arts, The Hague, Gerrit Rietveld Academie, Amsterdam and at the Athens Biennial 2013. They have contributed essays and visuals to international journals such as Open Magazine (The Netherlands), Krisis Magazine (Italy), Esse Magazine (Canada) and Ibraaz, Middle East online journal. In 2013, they completed an artist residency at the Townhouse Gallery in Cairo.

The International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP) is a leading nonprofit, residency-based contemporary art institution for emerging to mid-career artists and curators from around the world. Founded in 1994, ISCP has hosted over 1,900 artists and curators from more than 62 countries, including the United States. In 2008, ISCP moved from Manhattan to East Williamsburg, Brooklyn to an 18,000 square-foot building constructed in 1901. This move expanded ISCP's facilities to 35 studios, an exhibition gallery and a project space. To advance its core mission of supporting artists in producing and exhibiting a wide range of contemporary, often experimental, artistic approaches, ISCP annually presents a series of innovative exhibitions and public programs both on- and off-site. ISCP's programming engages audiences in meaningful ways while fostering the institution's relationship to its community. Each year, over 100 artists and curators are in residence at ISCP and approximately 10,000 individuals attend ISCP's public programs.