



REFUGEE STORIES INSPIRE THE FIRST WEB-BASED ARTWORK ACQUIRED BY DENMARK'S MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

18th January, London

Dream Homes Property Consultants (DHPC) by Palestinian artist Alexandra Sophia Handal has been acquired by the Museum of Contemporary Art, Denmark (Museet for Samtidskunst) making it the first web-based artwork brought in to the museum's permanent collection.

Awarded the 2014 Lumen Prize People's Choice Gold Award, DHPC is a continually evolving artwork that takes the form of an online estate agency. It revisits the history of expropriated Palestinian houses in West Jerusalem, uncovering stories of displacement, dispossession and cultural cleansing.

Built over a nine-year period (2007-2016), the artwork delves into the memories of twenty-eight Palestinian refugees and exiles, creating a labyrinthine space full of personal tales of abrupt goodbyes, impossible reunions and suspended dreams.

Conceived by Handal as a way to engage with the web in a meaningful way, DHPC reflects on, in the artist's own words "whether – amidst war, occupation and colonialism – art could make a tangible impact without relinquishing the freedom to be sensual, enigmatic, intuitive and poetic".

Commenting on the acquisition, Handal said: "The Museet for Samtidskunst's acquisition of Dream Homes Property Consultants (DHPC) for its permanent collection has special significance that resonates beyond me. As artists working in new media can attest, art made specifically for the web demands a sustained technological upkeep that is near impossible without the support of an institution. In light of the fact that Jerusalem continues to be a divided city, having DHPC in the care of the museum guarantees that this collective testament will be preserved and accessible to the public for many years to come".

Carla Rapoport, Founder & Director of The Lumen Prize added: "We are thrilled that DHPC has been recognised by a national institution like Denmark's Museum of Contemporary Art. Lumen has worked closely with Alexandra throughout the acquisition process and we are proud to be helping museums collect these important digital works of art."

-ENDS-

For more information, please contact:

Aimen Chouchane

Director | Challenger PR

aimen@challengerpr.co | +44 (0)7835 900 201

Notes for Editors:

Dream Homes Property Consultants (DHPC) can be accessed at:
<https://www.dreamhomespropertyconsultants.com>

A video 'tour' can be viewed at:
<https://vimeo.com/78433407>

About Alexandra Sophia Handal

Alexandra Sophia Handal is a Palestinian artist, filmmaker, essayist and independent researcher. Her personal history is shaped by intergenerational and transcontinental displacements across diverse geographies. Since 2004, Handal works between Palestine and Europe, spending the first ten years in London, subsequently moving momentarily to Amsterdam before setting-up her atelier in Berlin. Handal's first solo museum exhibition *Memory Flows Like the Tide at Dusk*, opened in 2016 at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Denmark.

About The Lumen Prize

Founded in the UK in 2012, The Lumen Prize celebrates the very best digital art being produced worldwide. Our goal is to focus the world's attention on this exciting genre through an annual competition and a global tour of works selected by an international panel of judges.

Since our first show in January 2013, Lumen has awarded more than \$50,000 in prize money and staged over 35 exhibitions and events around the world, including New York City, Shanghai, Athens, Amsterdam, Riga, Cardiff, Hong Kong, Leeds and London.

Much more than just a competition, Lumen is dedicated to building a movement around digital art. We cultivate a network and opportunities for all our participating artists, and work in collaboration with its partners to advance the understanding of digital art at seminars, artist talks, workshops and symposiums.

w: <http://lumenprize.com/> | i: [@lumen_prize](#) | t: [@lumenprize](#) | f: [@lumenprize](#)

About the Museum of Contemporary Art, Denmark (Museet for Samtidskunst)

The Museum of Contemporary Art was established in 1991 as Denmark's first museum for contemporary art. Today, the museum works with the latest media within both Danish and international contemporary art, including sound art, performance art, video art and net art.

The Museum of Contemporary Art is an independent institution run with subsidies from the State and Roskilde municipality and grants from private foundations. Ever since its establishment, the museum has occupied the Royal Palace in the centre of Roskilde.

<http://samtidskunst.dk/>