

Biography

Mona Marzouk was born in 1968 and lives and works in Alexandria, Egypt. After finishing her art studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Düsseldorf, Germany, in 1996, Marzouk returned to her home town of Alexandria, Egypt, to launch her professional career in painting and sculpture. Marzouk's recent solo projects include: *The New World*, Art in General, New York and Townhouse Gallery, Cairo, Egypt, 2006; MUSAC, León, Spain, 2006 and Marco Noire Contemporary Art, San Sebastiano Po, Turin, Italy, 2002.

In 2005, Marzouk co-founded and co-directs the renowned artist-run centre Alexandria Contemporary Arts Forum in Egypt.

Further Information

To find out more about Mona Marzouk and our other exhibitions visit BALTIC Library & Archive online database <http://archive.balticmill.com>

The database contains over 100 films and audio files documenting the artists and their work.

Free Daily Guided Tours

From Monday 25 February this exhibition will be included in the Daily Guided Tours at 11.00 and 16.00, meeting at the Information Desk, Ground Floor. No booking required.

BALTIC Podcasts

For further information and to subscribe (free of charge) to BALTIC podcasts visit www.balticmill.com/podcasts

MONA MARZOUK

The Bride Stripped Bare By Her Energy's Evil

20 February – 27 April 2008

BALTIC
www.balticmill.com

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Opening Times: daily 10.00-18.00 except Tuesday 10.30-18.00. Free Admission.

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Supported by:



MONA MARZOUK

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BALTIC presents the first UK solo exhibition of painter, sculptor and installation artist Mona Marzouk. *The Bride Stripped Bare By Her Energy's Evil* imagines an alternative to cultural difference – a “hybridised future”.

Marzouk is best known for the deconstruction and rebuilding of different architectural histories. Her earlier work merged architectural elements to release them from their function and power in a search for a new visual language. Recently, to tackle universal themes, she has used the more varied cultural forces of pop-culture, mythology and technology. Making reference to man-made creations and mythical creatures, Marzouk investigates the possibilities and boundaries of relationships. The result is a fusion of elements that give a vision of a possible future.

At BALTIC, Marzouk has produced a site-responsive installation that includes two large scale wall paintings, audio elements and a projected animated short film. The title of the installation *The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Energy's Evil* includes a hybrid of elements in a reflection of her work. Marzouk tackles ideas relating to energy as the currency of power and life and makes particular reference to oil in the black and gold of the wall paintings.

With debates about energy consumption, waste, pollution and global warming on the rise, she aims to go beyond the present gridlock. Her work presents a humorously fantastical, often surreal but sinister place where fuels, production facilities, animals and even the architectural landmarks of NewcastleGateshead have become metaphorical fusions.

In the installation an animated creature, with some noticeable whale-like characteristics lies washed up on an alien shore. It exists in a world that feels too close to a possible future reality for comfort. The massive and lonely creature's call spreads an ambience of disillusionment. Elsewhere, an unusual crawler with many limbs seems to have developed a hump that resembles the Gateshead Millennium Bridge. The world her creatures inhabit offers an intensely dramatic parody of an ailing mother nature.



The New World (Installation View) 2007



Black Gold Odyssey (Installation View), 2006.
Photo: MUSAC Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León, Spain