

Media information: Thursday 7 February 2008

# BALTIC

**MONA MARZOUK**

**The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Energy's Evil**

**Wednesday 20 February – Sunday 27 April 2008**

**Level 3**

**BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art** welcomes Egyptian artist **Mona Marzouk** (b.1968, Egypt), in her first exhibition in the UK, which takes place from **Wednesday 20 February to Sunday 27 April 2008**.

Painter, sculptor and installation artist **Mona Marzouk** studied in Egypt, Germany and Greece. Her work reassembles varied influences including architectural histories, mythology and technology to tackle universal themes. **Marzouk** imagines an alternative to cultural difference, a 'hybridised future'.

**Marzouk** creates work referencing architecture and cultural histories, which echo past civilizations (Pharaonic, Greco-Roman, Islamic and Coptic). The architectural elements chosen are fused together and thus released from their initial power and religious function to attempt to find a new universal aesthetic and conceptual architectural language. Whilst it is possible to trace various references, the new merged entity is more representative of the future than of history. **Marzouk** also references beyond man-made creations - animals, birds and creatures of the sea to discover the possibilities of their relationship and boundaries. She explains: "I think living bodies, like buildings and constructions, have their own architectural logic. The way each element is joined to the next and the way the elements get to become a unified whole that is functional in that it breathes, stays alive, moves and reproduces. "

Titled **The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Energy's Evil** the new site-specific installation at **BALTIC** includes two large scale wall paintings, audio elements and a projected animated short film. The project tackles issues pertaining to energy as the currency of power and life. With debates about energy consumption, waste, pollution and global warming on the rise as never before in history, **Marzouk's** work goes beyond the present gridlock. She presents a humorously fantastical but somewhat sinister zone where fuels, production facilities, animals and even the architectural landmarks of **NewcastleGateshead** have become metaphorical

fusions. An animated quasi-mammal hybrid, with some noticeable whale like characteristics, lies washed up on an alien shore 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 a multitude of limbs seems to have developed a hump that resembles **Gateshead Millennium Bridge**. These are some of the beings that inhabit **Marzouk's** intensely dramatic parody of an ailing mother nature.

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To find out more about Mona Marzouk as well as other exhibitions at BALTIC visit the BALTIC Library & Archive online database <http://archive.balticmill.com> The database contains over 100 films and audio files documenting the artists and their work.

**BALTIC** is a major international centre for contemporary art situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England. BALTIC presents a constantly changing, distinctive and ambitious programme of exhibitions and events, and is a world leader in the presentation, commissioning and communication of contemporary visual art. BALTIC has welcomed over 2.7 million visitors, since opening to the public in July 2002.

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**Opening hours:**

Monday - Sunday 10.00 - 18.00 (Excluding Tuesday)

Tuesday 10.30 – 18.00

**ADMISSION FREE**

[www.balticmill.com](http://www.balticmill.com)

