



HOME HOME
MCR. ORG

NOOR AFSHAN MIRZA & BRAD BUTLER

THE SCAR

CURATED BY SARAH PERKS

SAT 10 FEB – MON 2 APR 2018

A photograph showing a man in a light-colored shirt and tie driving a car at night. A woman is visible in the back seat. The scene is dimly lit, with city lights visible through the windshield. The word "INTRODUCTION" is overlaid in large white letters.

INTRODUCTION

"Together we are barrelling towards the scene of the accident at 120 kilometres an hour."

Welcome to the world premiere of *The Scar*, a three-part, large-scale fiction film installation by Noor Afshan Mirza and Brad Butler, weaving together conspiracy, gangster, noir, politics, crash theory, fantasy and reality.

The Scar spans three chapters - 1. The State of the State, 2. The Mouth of the Shark and 3. The Gossip – and is loosely inspired by a real car crash in Turkey in 1996. Four passengers are on a journey in a black Mercedes, unaware that their fate will lead to the largest social protest in Turkish history.

Three of the passengers are archetypes of the State: the Chief of Police; a Politician and an Assassin, whilst Yenge, the only female traveller, is silenced by the men's gangster talk and the genre conventions of her role in the film.

In chapter two, Yenge's noir voiceover begins to interrupt the male characters' forced bravado as they are haunted by the Resistant Dead – the residual movements created from stories of people who refuse to be forgotten.

The film's final part, *The Gossip*, addresses tales of female emancipation and empowerment, where a group of activists transcend time, geographical borders and linguistic barriers to gather in a fugitive nether-realm of conversation and solidarity.

Curated by Sarah Perks, Artistic Director: Visual Art, HOME and Professor of Visual Art, Manchester School of Art.

The Scar is commissioned by FLAMIN Productions through FILM LONDON Artists' Moving Image Network with funding from Arts Council England in partnership with HOME & no.w.here with support from àngels Barcelona, Centre national des arts plastiques France, Delfina Foundation, Edith-Russ-Haus Germany, London College of Communication, Razwana Akram, Spectre Productions and University of Salford Art Collection.



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YENGE (THE TAKEN ONE)

Yenge is a former beauty queen with an unfulfilled desire to sing and become a film actress. Girlfriend of Reis who she was introduced to by friends. He makes her feel safe and he is well connected to powerful people. She is in the car on the way to Istanbul to sign the divorce papers from her violent husband, a powerful publishing CEO.



AĞA (THE POLITICIAN)

A disappointing son with a powerful father, Ağa is lazy and self-indulgent. He is 'Ağa' ('benefactor') the mouthpiece of a powerful Kurdish clan that supports the Turkish state war against the Kurdish Worker's Party. Moved sideways as part of the 'family business' into politics, he is an MP in a safe seat. On the edges of big deals, he has dreams of grandeur, but is the butt of family jokes.



KAPTAN (THE CHIEF OF POLICE)

Intelligent, emotionally calm until roused, Kaptan is a ruthless, paranoid pragmatist, better others dead than him. An Alevi Turkish leftist and one of the founders of POL-DER, a strong left wing Police faction that was put down by the 1980's military coup. When the political nationalist tide turned against POL-DER, Kaptan turned confessor and now fears for his life from both sides as well as from several powerful mafia bosses.



REIS (THE STATE ASSASSIN)

Charismatic, smouldering and handsome in a cold way, Reis is sometimes humorous, although mostly at other people's expense. Comfortable in his own skin with an aura of violence and power. A ruthless nationalist enforcer and torturer, he holds the story of (international para-military network) Gladio in his body and often works for NATO via the Turkish State.



THE GOSSIP & THE RESISTANT DEAD

The Gossip: A network of transnational women organising to dismantle oppressive patriarchal structures.

The Resistant Dead: A call from the dead to the living to resist with dignity, issued in the name of everyone living, dead and yet-to-live.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Noor Afshan Mirza and Brad Butler engage contradictions of inequality, power, privilege and (non) participation. Their fictional construct The Museum of Non Participation (2008-2016) includes works on women's bodies as sites of resistance, the deep state, unreliable narration and the ectoplasm of neoliberalism. In their work they use an expanded notion of body politics stretching from irrational and non-verbal knowing to how resistance is inscribed in the body and how the body memorises traumatic experience. The duo were nominated for Artes Mundi 6 (2014), and were awarded the Paul Hamlyn Award for Visual Artists in 2015. They currently live between London and Istanbul.



FIND OUT MORE

If you're interested in digging deeper into *The Scar* and the themes and ideas it explores, check out the extra content available online or come along to one of our specially curated events.

DOWNLOADS

ARTISTS' COMMENTARY

Stream or download this exclusive artists' commentary, as Noor and Brad take you through the films in their own words. Perfect for listening through your headphones on your second viewing.

A full transcript is also available to download.

BIRDS DIE, YOU REMEMBER THE FLIGHT BY BIRGÜL OĞUZ

This essay, written especially for *The Scar*, is a response to the themes within the film. You can download the essay free from our website or ask a member of HOME Gallery staff for a copy.

All downloads available from homemcr.org/the-scar

EVENTS

PREVIEW & OPENING PERFORMANCE

Fri 9 Feb, 18:00 – late

Join us for a glass of wine to celebrate the opening of *The Scar*, then stick around for an evening of related performance from spoken word group Young Identity, MC and grime artist Endo Bravo and Istanbul-based artist collective Ha Za Vu Zu.

MEET THE ARTISTS AND CURATOR

Sat 10 Feb, 14:00 & 15:00. Free, booking required

The Scar is a film experience to immerse yourself in and doesn't lend itself to a traditional gallery walking tour. As an alternative, we invite you to join us for a cup of tea to discuss the exhibition with the artists Noor and Brad and curator Sarah (allow at least an hour to view the installation works). And the tea is on us! Booking essential.

FILM PROGRAMME + ARTIST Q&A

Dir: Noor Afshan Mirza, Brad Butler/US 2012 & 2014/61 mins

Thu 15 Mar, 18:20. £9 full / £7 concs

Scripted in collaboration with author China Miéville, *Deep State* explores the shadowy nexus of special interests and covert relationships that often run counter to the outward impression of democracy. Presented with two short companion works – *Everything for Everyone and Nothing for Us* and *Hold Your Ground* - and a Q&A with the artists.

Deep State and *Hold Your Ground* are commissioned by Film and Video Umbrella. *Everything for Everyone and Nothing for Us* is commissioned by the Hayward Gallery.



THE SCAR



If you don't want to keep me,
please return to an invigilator or recycle me!



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