

Khaled Sabsabi

Origin: Lebanon
Birthdate: 1965

Medium/s:

installation
video
sound

Relevant Event/s:

Australian Perspecta Y2K:6

Resume:

Khaled Sabsabi emigrated to Australia in 1979 with his family. He has primarily worked with sound and music, with a noted interest in hip-hop. Sabsabi's practise has recently transformed to include sound and mixed media installations in the gallery context. His sound and music projects have been for film and theatre, and also community oriented, including work on projects for youth suicide prevention, HIV and Hepatitis C education and prevention, drug and alcohol education, projects for young people of non-English speaking backgrounds and as a community worker for at risk youth in the Bankstown area. He participated in Walking the Street in the Newtown Festival (Newtown, Sydney, 1998); Arabmade (Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Sydney, 1998); Arabic Carnivale Exhibition (Arabic Council, Bankstown, Sydney, 1998); recieved an AFI nomination for his sound work on the film Colour Bars (1997); sound and music for Writing From The Hip (Belvoir Street Theatre, Sydney, 1996) which was also awarded Best Play in the 1996 Contemporary Performance Awards.

Artist Statement:

I migrated to Australia in the late 70s. My childhood was heavily affected by the War. Flashbacks of the elders telling us not to pick up toys. Israel made them explode. My eardrums damaged by low flying sonic boom jets. Hiding in basements of buildings because Syria invaded Lebanon. Losing my legs to fear dodging sniper's bullets. Running to a safe house. Coming to Australia for a better life but instead fighting a different war, the 'wog war'. I'm 34 now, these sequences make me and my art. Maaraya, or Mirror, in my opinion, is a reflection of how West sees East.