



THREAD MEMORY SYMPOSIUM

22 April 2026
V&A Dundee

* Moderated by

^ Presenting online

09.00 - Registration

09.30 - Welcome

Leonie Bell, Amer Shomali[^], Rachel Dedman, Kirsty Hassard & Miriam Mallalieu

10.20 - Palestinian Dress in the British Mandate Period (A)

Baha Jubeh[^], Nadi Abusaada[^] & Moya Tönnies

11.15 - Comfort Break

11.30 - Palestinian Dress in the British Mandate Period (B)

Baha Jubeh[^], Nadi Abusaada[^], Moya Tönnies & Rachel Dedman*

12.00 - The History of Colour in Palestinian Dress

Diego Tamburini, Wafa Ghnaim & Miriam Mallalieu*

13.00 - Lunch

14.00 - *The Flowers Stand Silently, Witnessing* (2024)

Film screening and Q+A with Theo Panagopoulos & Wafa Ghnaim*

14.40 - Knitting Fragments - Women, Nation, Liberation

Yazid Anani & Rachel Dedman*

15.20 - Comfort Break

15.30 - Dressed for Dissent: Fashion and Activism in Palestine

Roberto Filippello, Zeid Hijazi, Hazar Jawabra & Kirsty Hassard*

16.45 - Closing Remarks

Leonie Bell & Nadia El-Nakla



About

Tatreez is the ancient practice of elaborate hand-embroidery in Palestine. It tells stories of Palestine's remarkable regional diversity and the lives of its people.

This symposium invites speakers to unfold some lesser-known stories around *tatreez* and Palestinian dress, and share new research from the field.

Welcome

Welcome from **Leonie Bell**, Director at V&A Dundee and **Amer Shomali**, Director of The Palestinian Museum in Birzeit.

Symposium introduction from curators **Rachel Dedman**, **Kirsty Hassard** and **Miriam Mallalieu**.

Palestinian Dress in the British Mandate Period

Presentations + Panel

This session explores Palestinian art and culture during the British Mandate period through art, embroidery, architecture, and emerging museum collections. Speakers **Baha Jubeh**, **Nadi Abusaada**, and **Moya Tönnies** trace connections between British and Palestinian creatives, examining the Palestine Folk Museum's dress collection, the 1933–34 Arab Art Exhibitions in Jerusalem, and the embroidered Bethlehem ensemble designed by C. R. Ashbee for a British royal in the 1920s.

Chaired by curator **Rachel Dedman**

The History of Colour in Palestinian Dress

Presentations + Panel

Delve into the history of colour in historic Palestinian dress with **Diego Tamburini** and **Wafa Ghnaim**. Drawing on samples taken from collections at the V&A, British Museum and Metropolitan Museum, this session will present discoveries from scientific analyses of dyes and fibres in Palestinian dress, paired with findings from oral history research.

Chaired by curator **Miriam Mallalieu**



***The Flowers Stand Silently, Witnessing* (2024)**

Film Screening + Q&A

Using found archival film shot by a Scottish missionary in the early 20th century, and featuring some of the earliest known colour footage of the wildflowers of Palestine, filmmaker **Theo Panagopoulos**' short video essay questions the role of image-making in both testimony and resistance.

Followed by Q+A with **Theo Panagopoulos** and **Wafa Ghnaim**

Knitting Fragments - Women, Nation, Liberation

Presentation + Q&A

Curator **Yazid Anani** presents new research on the organisation Inaash al-Usra, founded in 1965 in Al-Bireh, Palestine. Embroidery, as articulated through the vision of its founder, Samiha Khalil, is understood as an essential part of the feminist liberation project. Over decades, *tatreez* at Inaash al-Usra operated as income generation, cultural preservation, and political practice, capable of sustaining families affected by incarceration, displacement, and loss.

Followed by discussion with curator **Rachel Dedman**

Dressed for Dissent: Fashion and Activism in Palestine

Presentation + Panel

This session will look at how Palestinian fashion can serve as a form of resistance, community and creative activism within Palestine and on a global stage. Framed by **Roberto Filippello**'s upcoming book *Dressed for Dissent*, Roberto is joined by fashion designers **Zeid Hijazi** and **Hazar Jawabra**, both of whom feature in *Thread Memory*, to discuss what it means to honour and innovate heritage craft.

Chaired by curator **Kirsty Hassard**

Closing Remarks

Final words from the symposium hosts, and a special note from Dundee City Councillor **Nadia El-Nakla**.



Speakers

(in order of appearance)

Leonie Bell - Director, *V&A Dundee*

Amer Shomali - Director, *The Palestinian Museum*

Rachel Dedman - Jameel Curator of Contemporary Art from the Middle East, *V&A*

Kirsty Hassard - Senior Curator, *V&A Dundee*

Dr Miriam Mallalieu - Curator, *V&A Dundee*

Amer Shomali - Director, *The Palestinian Museum*

Baha Jubeh - Curator, *Palestinian Heritage Museum*

Dr Nadi Abusaada - Assistant Professor, School of Architecture and Design, *American University of Beirut*

Dr Moya Tönnies - Art Historian, *Technische Universität Berlin*

Dr Diego Tamburini - Scientist: Polymeric and Modern Organic Materials, *The British Museum*

Wafa Ghnaim - Dress Historian and Founder, *The Tatreez Institute*

Theo Panagopoulos - Artist, filmmaker and researcher, *University of West Scotland*

Yazid Anani - Senior Curator, *Hayy Jameel*

Dr Roberto Filippello - Assistant Professor of Media and Culture, *University of Amsterdam*

Zeid Hijazi - Designer, *Zeid Hijazi*

Hazar Jawabra - Designer, *Hazar Jawabra*

Nadia El-Nakla - Councillor, *Dundee City Council*

Symposium Programme Team

Troy Nelson - Creative Programmer, *V&A Dundee*

Rachel Dedman - Jameel Curator of Contemporary Art from the Middle East, *V&A*

Annabel Wilton - Project Logistics, *Freelance*

Dr Miriam Mallalieu - Curator, *V&A Dundee*

Kirsty Hassard - Curator, *V&A Dundee*

Charlotte Hale - Head of Exhibitions, *V&A Dundee*

Caroline Grewar - Programme Director, *V&A Dundee*

Dr Sara Guerrero-Mostafa - Head of Learning, *V&A Dundee*

Pip Mitchell - Programme Assistant, *V&A Dundee*

This symposium is convened to mark the closing days of the exhibition *Thread Memory: Embroidery from Palestine* at V&A Dundee, 26 June 2025 – 26 April 2026. The exhibition, and this symposium, are made in partnership with Art Jameel, The Palestinian Museum, V&A South Kensington and V&A Dundee. *Thread Memory* at V&A Dundee expands upon an exhibition with the same title that was shown at Hayy Jameel, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 23 January – 17 April 2025, curated by Rachel Dedman.

The zigzag motif used in this programme design comes from Nablus, Dundee's twin city.

