

# BORDER FARCE



## SAFDAR AHMED

15-03-21 - 04-04-21

intelligent animal and the Darlington Installation Project (DIP)  
present **Border Farce** by Safdar Ahmed.

**Sales can be made via email:** [art@intelligentanimal.com.au](mailto:art@intelligentanimal.com.au)  
[intelligentanimal.com.au](http://intelligentanimal.com.au)

ia acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation on whose traditional lands we live, create, meet and work, and their elders past, present and emerging.

# A R T I S T S T A T E M E N T

This exhibition coincides with the launch of my graphic novel, *Still Alive*, which records my experiences of volunteering with people of an asylum seeker or refugee background in the Villawood Detention Centre and in studios around Western Sydney and the Inner West over the last ten years.

As much as I try to document Australia's abuse of refugees in a journalistic idiom *Still Alive* is also about the politics of representation and my thinking over how the refugee issue (or any issue of such magnitude) should be approached.

Some of the images in this display were rejected from the graphic novel because they seemed too literal — too evocative of Agamben's notion of 'bare life', which is a powerful touchstone for thinking about sovereign violence and biopolitics but which can also efface the agency of the very people who are subjected to that violence.

Some of these pages didn't make the final cut because they clamour to 'tell' (rather than 'show') the reader how duplicitous Australia's policies are on the issue of human rights and the abusive regimes we support on the international stage.

So this is a space to reflect on the storytelling mode as a problem. A way to think through how best to honour and do justice to other people's experiences and agency, whilst hopefully engaging the viewer is such a way as to prompt the necessary care, concern, shock etc.

All proceeds from the sale of prints go to supporting a refugee family who are stranded in Indonesia.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-ali039s-family-refugees-stuck-in-indonesia>

*Still Alive* can be purchased online from the 12 Panels Press website.  
<https://www.twelvepanelspress.com/books/still-alive/>

<https://safdarahmed.com/>

# B I O

Safdar Ahmed is a Sydney based artist, academic and educator. He is a founding member of not-for-profit community art organisation Refugee Art Project, for which he conducts regular art workshops with people of an asylum seekers and refugee background in their studio at Thirning Villa in Ashfield. He is also a member of *elevelen*: a collective of contemporary Muslim Australian artists, curators and writers.

## A R T F O R S A L E

### BORDER FARCE by Safdar Ahmed

1.	Representation	A2 NFS	
2.	We all go down...	A3 print	\$20
3.	Border Farce	A3 print	\$20
4.	Death	A2 print	\$40
5.	Vision	A3 print	\$20
6.	Aspects	A2 print	\$40
7.	Through the moon	A3 print	\$40
8.	The heap	A2 print	\$40
9.	Borders are imaginary	A2 print	\$60
10.	Australia	A2 print	\$40
11.	Confinement	A2 print	\$40
12.	Home	A2 print	\$40
13.	The Rhizome	A2 print	\$40
14.	Too much mercy...	A2 print	\$40
15.	No Way!	A2 print	\$40
16.	Detainee Service	A2 NFS	
17.	Abyan	A2 NFS	
18.	Duplicity	A2 NFS	

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