

# Nasser Soumi Palestine: Wine and History



The Cambridge Centre for Palestine Studies  
invites you to attend an exclusive session about:

## “Palestine: Wine and History”

Date: 07<sup>th</sup> November 2024 - Time: 6pm (UK),

Jesus Lane Quaker Meeting House

12 Jesus Lane Cambridge CB5 8BA

(1st Floor)

Please register/confirm via email to: [theccps21.org@gmail.com](mailto:theccps21.org@gmail.com)



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Palestine Studies  
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### Speakers/Panelists:

Mr. Nasser Soumi

### Director and Convener:

Dr Makram Khoury-Machool

### About the esteemed Speakers:

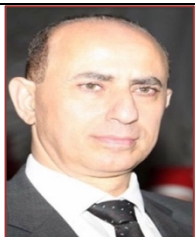


Mr Nasser Soumi is an internationally renowned painter and installation artist, art historian and author. Nasser Soumi was born in July 1948 after his family was displaced from Jenin, Palestine during the Nakba/Catastrophe. In 1955 they moved Eastwards to Irbid (Jordan). Naturally, in his art, Soumi yearns “to understand from where we came and where we are going”. Being an experimental artist, Soumi ventures in various disciplines to relay his feelings and share them with the outside world.

Nasser Soumi studied art at the National School of Fine Arts in Damascus, Syria. Between 1971-1977 Nasser continued his studies at the National School of Fine Arts in Paris, France. Soumi lived in Lebanon between 1977 and 1980. Upon the completion of a two-year UNESCO scholarship in Paris (1980-1982) he had nowhere to return as his house in Souq al-Gharb in Lebanon was looted (with cultural artefacts disappearing) and destroyed following the Israeli occupation of Lebanon. Ever since, he has been living in Paris. Marrying the “distant and the near”, Soumi searches for the visible and the invisible. He expresses himself through art to understand his being and comprehend the universe. The distant for him is the “exterior” that relates to the whole universe, whereas the near is “inside”, buried within himself, where his homeland, Palestine, is carried. Soumi uses the different tones of the indigo blue colour, which evokes the Mediterranean Sea and gives an impression of navigation and nomadic movement towards a faraway land. Practically, Soumi transforms a variety of ordinary materials into works of art. His work is an assembling of “eclectic and handmade objects”. Soumi has been exhibiting since 1976 worldwide and is the recipient of various prizes and honours.

#### **The Book: Palestine: Wine and History What if Palestine was the cradle of wine production?**

This is the question that Nasser Soumi tries to answer by highlighting the multiple facets of Palestinian history in this illustrated and documented work that traces the history of wine in this region, linked to the deeper, exciting and passionate history of Palestine, a holy and wounded land. To do this, he goes back to the appearance of wine in this region, thirteen thousand years ago, and traces the different phases of production, marketing, and export around the Mediterranean. From trade with Egypt, to the changes imposed by the Muslim conquest and the Ottoman period, to the rise of contemporary Palestinian wine, Nasser Soumi offers us a journey through time. Drawing on archaeological discoveries, historical and scientific evidence, and approaching the issue from an anthropological point of view, the author rehabilitates Palestine's contribution to the field of vines and wine on a global scale. He also shares his passion for wine, which he developed at the age of fourteen. His dream was to produce his own wine in Palestine... but the Israeli occupation decided otherwise. Since the history of wine is closely linked to that of Palestine, he denounces along the way the injustice done to his country "Reconnecting today with this history that is several thousand years old has a symbolic importance, because wine is a giver of pleasure, and an excellent ambassador to tell us about Palestine. Wine, with its power of sharing, love and conviviality, will one day bring us back to justice and peace."



Dr Makram Khoury-Machool is the founding director of the Cambridge Centre for Palestine Studies. He is an internationally renowned academic (and Public Intellectual) specialising in History, Philosophy, International Relations and Political Communications. Dr Khoury-Machool is the author of many academic publications on Palestine, the media and Palestine and Palestinian media; communicating war (such as: kidnap videos; Internet and uprisings; war, audiences and propaganda; Syria and Palestine). As a media practitioner (1980s & 1990s), he was acclaimed as the journalist who announced the outbreak of the first Palestinian Intifada in December 1987 whilst covering the events in the Gaza Strip. During his coverage of the unfolding events in the Gaza strip, he was shot in the face and rescued under fire. In 1990 he was awarded the International Reuters Award for Journalism. During the academic year 1990–91, Khoury-Machool was a Reuters Research Fellow at the University of Oxford. In 1996 Khoury-Machool was elected by the World Economic Forum (Geneva-Davos) as one of 100 Young Global Leaders (GLTs). Between 1999-2002 he completed his PhD., at SOAS, University of London, where he also taught. Since October 2003 he taught and supervised at the University of Cambridge and other English universities.