

Accompanying Talk

Social Playgrounds

Wed 13 Jun, 7pm, £5/£3 conc

Reem Charif and Mohamad Hafeda from Febrik are joined by Joost Beunderman, Demos and Hub Westminster, to discuss their research on public space and children's play.

Booking is essential

Call 020 7703 6120 or book online:

www.southlondongallery.org/tickets

Current exhibition:

Stephen Willats: *Surfing with the Attractor*

1 June – 15 July 2012

Main gallery

FEBRIK: PLAY, I FOLLOW YOU

**SOUTH LONDON GALLERY
EXHIBITION GUIDE
17 MAY - 22 JUL 2012**

SLG

South London Gallery 65–67 Peckham Road, London SE5 8UH
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Twitter: [@SLG_artupdates](https://twitter.com/SLG_artupdates)

FEBRIK: PLAY, I FOLLOW YOU 17 MAY – 22 JUL 2012

Febrik, a collaborative platform for participatory art and design research, seek to unravel the politics of the right to public space and explore relationships between invented, inherited and modified play practices. Their work considers the potential of curious and familiar narratives of daily social play. For this project, their focus has been on the spatial dynamics of community groups in two different contexts: Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut and Amman, and Sceaux Gardens in Camberwell. Through photographic documentation, texts and animations, the exhibition reveals the processes of research, design and development undertaken in the creation of The Shop of Possibilities, the SLG's new social space for play for local residents in a retail outlet on the neighbouring Sceaux Gardens housing estate.

The exhibition brings together, for the first time, almost a decade of research and findings collected by Reem Charif, an architect and social researcher, and Mohamad Hafeda, an artist and designer, from Febrik. Their research began in 2003 in the Palestinian refugee camps of Lebanon, their country of origin, where they investigated the relationship between different communities, public space and play. Films and photographs document their site-specific installations in the camps, accompanied by beautiful play manuals and playful animations which, rather than drawing conclusions, illustrate Febrik's on-going findings and discoveries.

Febrik's interest in how abandoned objects can be transformed into play items has been carried through from the Palestinian refugee camps to the Sceaux Gardens estate, where they have worked with children to design The Shop of Possibilities, which includes an evolving interactive wall of play items made from recycled objects. In this context, re-use is not only a means of creating a dynamic and compressed playground to activate unmarked public terrains on the estate, but also as a social tool for making networks within the community. As objects are donated or collected, their stories become part of the growing archive of play, giving new meaning and function to the objects.

Originally invited in 2010 by the South London Gallery to undertake a Making Play residency in a smaller shop unit on the Sceaux Gardens estate, Febrik worked with resident children to create The Shop of Possibilities in a much larger neighbouring unit. It serves as a free afterschool and weekend club for children on a number of local housing estates, with a focus on bringing together children's play and contemporary art practices.

Febrik's research material is divided between the two rooms of the first floor galleries, with one space dedicated to the SLG-related projects. This includes a projection of the Shop of Possibilities blog and *A Proposition-O-Meter* with the *Rail of Play Encounters*, a new diagrammatic work, which unpacks the relationships between artists, children and families, as well as between research and intervention.

www.southlondongallery.org/febrik

Biographies

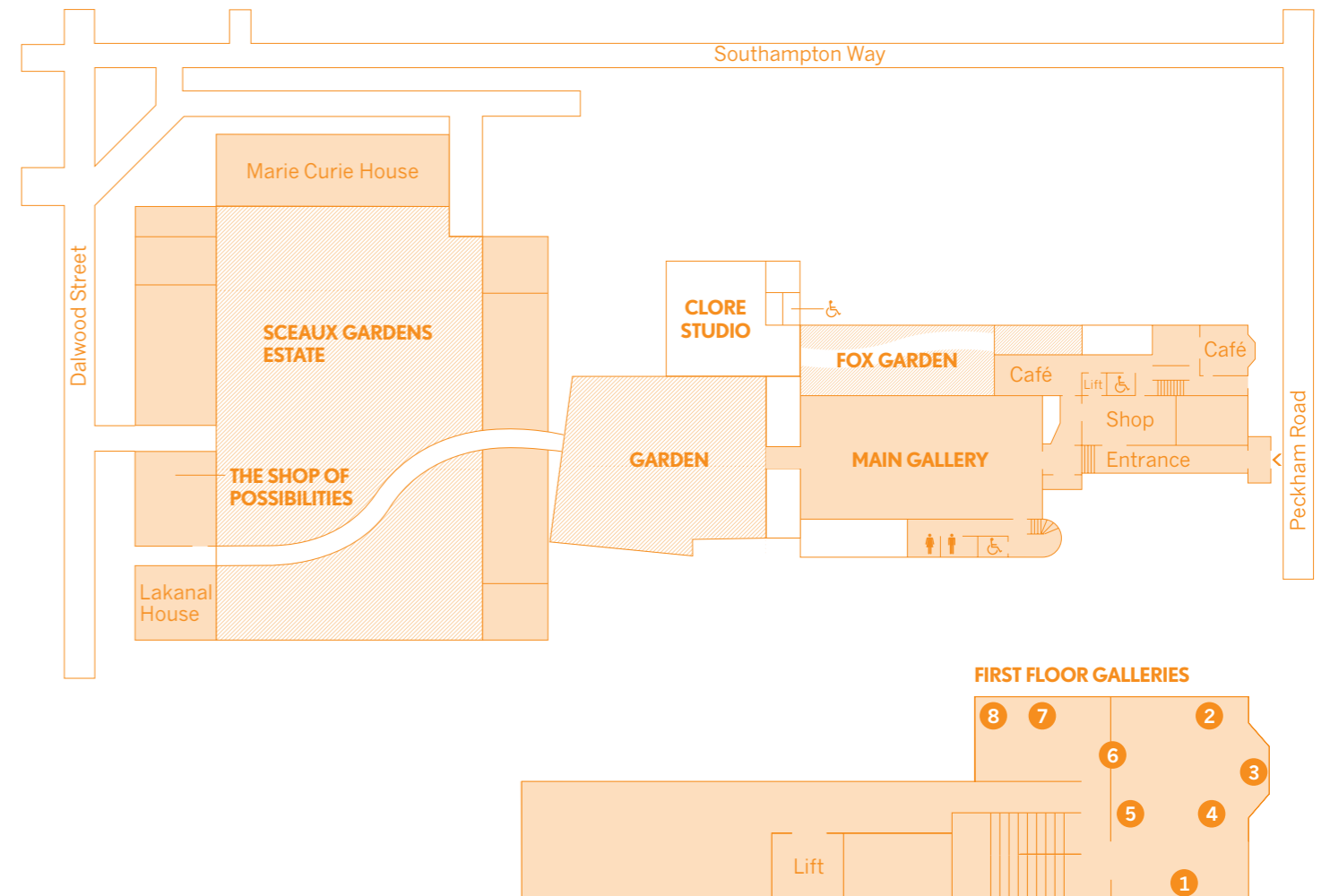
Febrik is a not-for-profit collaborative platform for participatory art and design research projects with practicing architects, designers and artists active in the Middle East and the UK. Further information: www.febrik.org

Reem Charif obtained a degree in Architecture from the Architectural Association, School of Architecture, after which she completed an Msc in Development Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. She has worked with international development institutions such as UNRWA, UNICEF and A.M. Qattan Foundation and is a founding partner of Febrik. She has taught at the Architectural Association, London Metropolitan University and currently at Chelsea College of Art and Design and University of East London.

Mohamad Hafeda is conducting a PhD in Architectural Design at the Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL London. His research investigates the negotiation of spaces of sectarian-political conflict and the informal processes for claiming spaces by different site users and controllers such as residents, militia, and politicians in contemporary Beirut-Lebanon. He has also taught design at the department of architecture and design at both the Lebanese American University and the American University of Beirut. He completed his MA in public art at Chelsea College of Art and Design-London and has a bachelors degree in Interior Architecture from the Fine Arts Institute-Lebanese University.

LIST OF WORKS

1. *Dream Space*, 2004
Dream Interventions, photographic documentation, text, 70 × 70cm
2. *Play Space*, 2005
Play Narratives, 18 × photographs, 29.7 × 19.7cm, text on paper, 15 × 75cm
3. *Edge of Play*, 2008–2010, projection on wall on loop
4. *Animation: Sites of Research*, 9 animation works on loop, 18'
5. *Proposition-O-Meter Diagram*, 2012, vinyl cut-out on wall, 1.6 × 6m
6. *Rail of Play Encounters*, 2012, with *Play Manuals* (2003 – ongoing), wood, steel and colour fold out booklets.
Play Space – 6 manuals, *Edge of Play* – 6 manuals, *Shop of Possibilities* – 7 manuals
7. *The Shop of Possibilities* 2010–12, Shop of Possibilities and Archive of Play Blog
8. *Shop Finder*, 2012, vinyl on window



From 16 June 2012, The Shop of Possibilities is open on Saturdays from 2–4pm. When the garden behind the main gallery is closed, visitors can access the Shop of Possibilities via Southampton Way and Dalwood Street (around a five minute walk).