

# **Yasmine Benabdallah**

## **Portfolio 2023**

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## VISIONS OF A DREAMT SUNSET

video/essay film

Year: 2023

Visions of a dreamt sunset brings together images of landscapes in Tangier, archive, posters from 1950s American films, my hands trying to save film from drowning, sounds of the water meeting my voice. A travelogue about a fragmented me and Tangier, a city with a different colonial past. I stare at the ocean, hoping it can help us reconnect. I seek refuge in dreams of a sunset. I look for answers in the colonial film legacy of the city, hoping to reverse the spell and invite healing.

Qisas artist residency at Cinémathèque de Tanger



كُطُوتُك MESSAGES SO FULL OF LOVE AND RAGE  
multimedia installation  
Year: 2022

كُطُوتُك messages so full of love and rage is composed of two silent videos on loop and a letter written on paper made of cotton, cloves, dried roses, and orange blossom water. The installation explores rituals of care, time travel, memory, and colonial clocks.

Commissioned for Al Mahal, a project curated by Loren Elhili that questions Moroccan migration to the UK. Funded by British Council Morocco. Exhibited in May and June 2022 in London, UK.





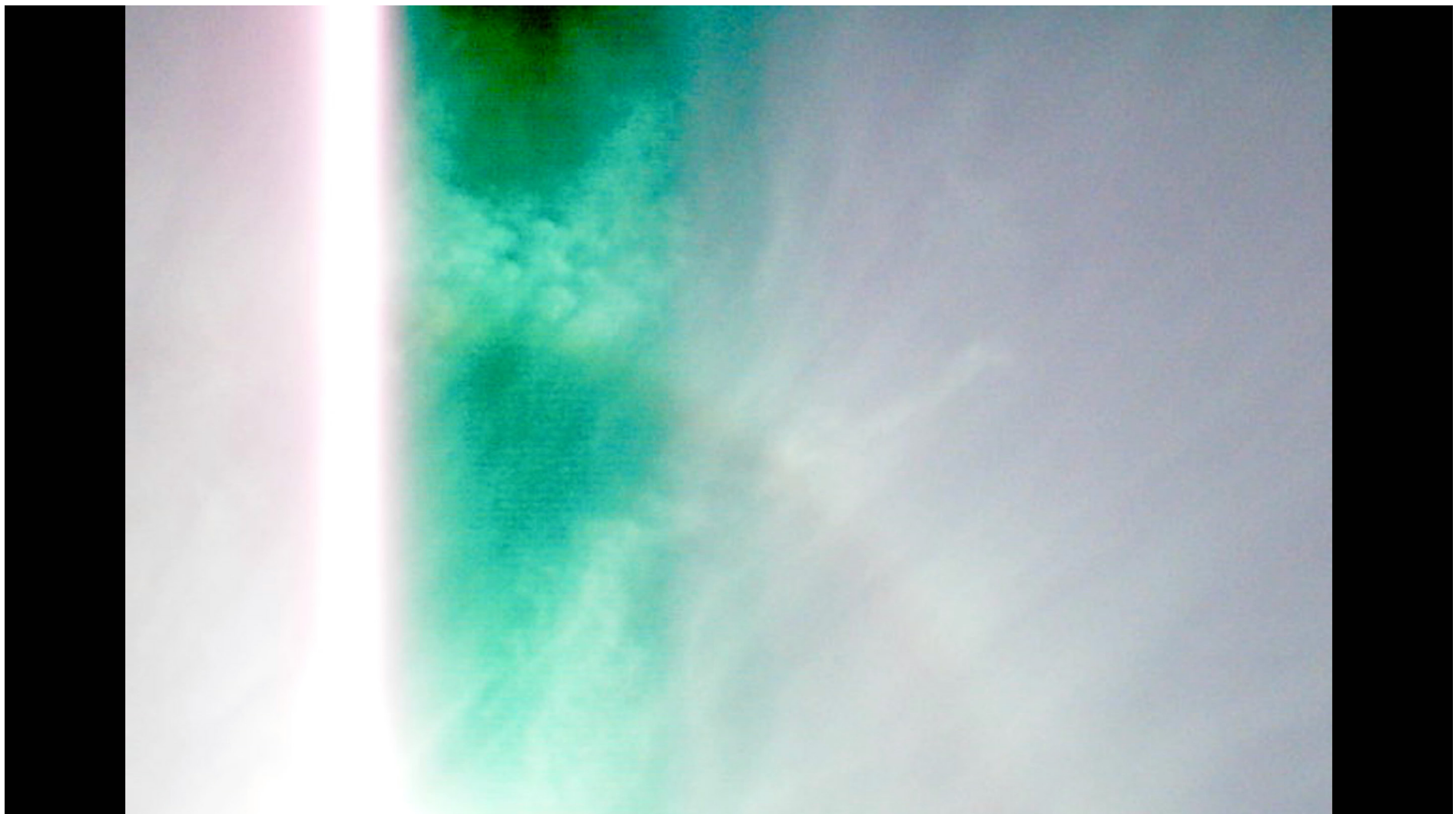
## OBJETS-RELAIS

film

Year: 2022

Middle schoolers touch and take objects in their hands. The objects are their grandparents', and in this act of touch, they take hold of their histories and heritage. Through 3D scanning and images that reflect, in their imperfections, the diluted memories that were passed on, the teenagers initiate the reappropriation of the objects and the stories they carry.

Year-long residency "Résidence Croisée" with Maison des Métallos, in two middle schools in Paris and Noisy-le-Grand / Collective mixed media exhibition at Maison des Métallos, co-prod by narrative, co-funded by DICRéAM and Fonds Images de la diversité



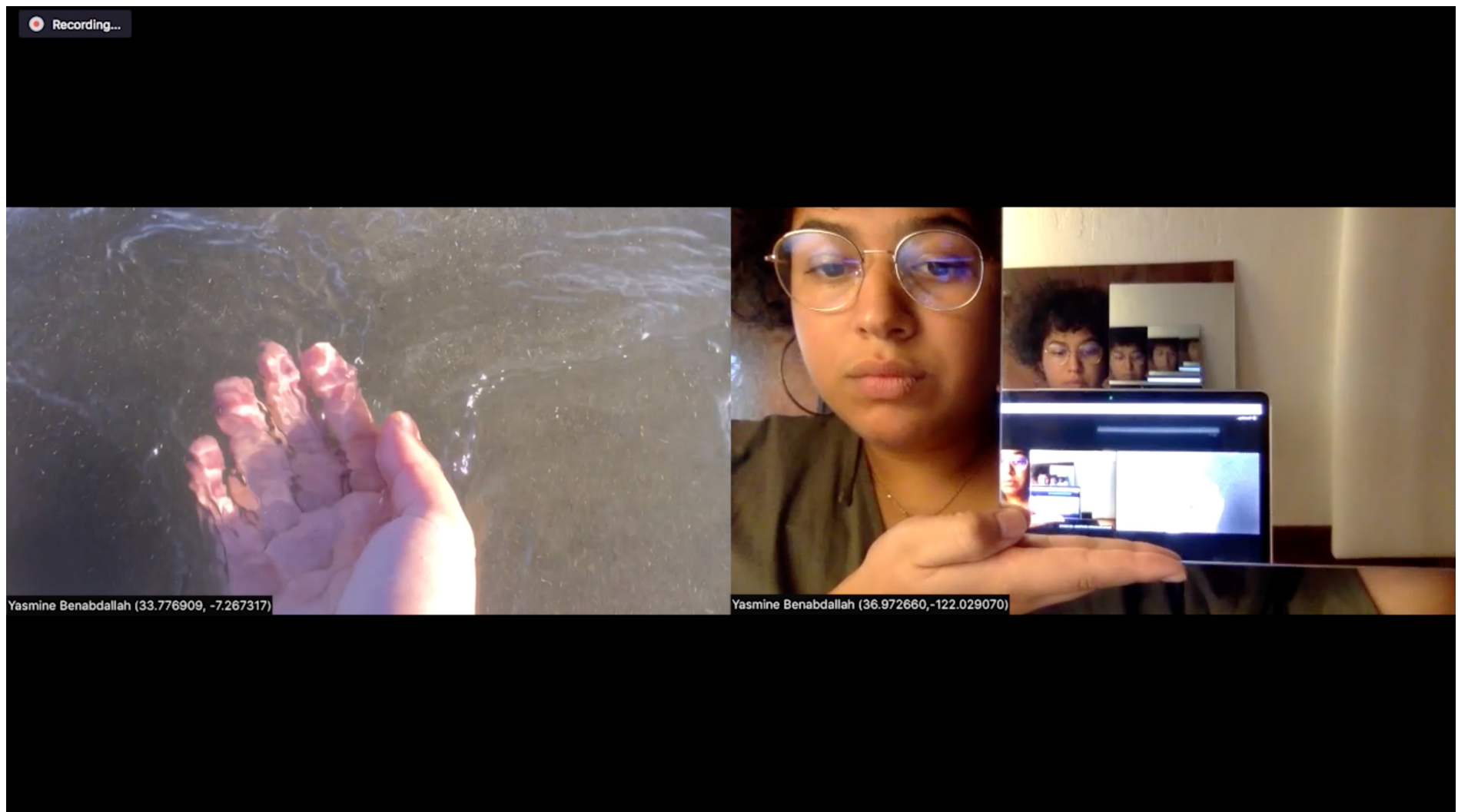
## HOW TO REVERSE A SPELL: THE PROMISE OF AN ARCHIVE

video

Year: 2022

How to reverse a spell: the promise of an archive is a speculative triptych which traverses the disappearance and erasure of the Moroccan public archives, the colonial displacement of videos, and the prayer for a solar flare for things to go back to how they never were.

Screening at documenta fifteen, "Decolonizing Archives" hosted by lumbung artist Le 18; Best Experimental Short Film award, Sharjah Film Platform, Sharjah Art Foundation; "Memories in Strife" screening at Wekalet Behna/SAVVY Contemporary; "Make History: Filed and Concealed" screening at Jameel Arts Centre; Network of Alternative Arab Screens (NAAS) and Sharjah Film Circulation Initiative: Tiro Art, Fédération Tunisienne des Ciné-Clubs, Cairo Animation School, Yabous Cultural Centre Al Quds Cinema



ARE WE TO EVER BE MATERIAL AGAIN?

video

Year: 2022

Are we to ever be material again? is a video piece, set as a recorded virtual conversation between two versions of myself. The conference call platform is explored as a time-space travel portal, allowing questions of belonging, connection, technology, and embodiment to arise.





## SUNDOWN CONVERSATIONS

radio show

Year: 2021

Sundown Conversations was a week-long daily half-hour radio show I co-hosted with Karim Kattan. The piece was commissioned by Soukaina Aboulaoula as part of Right On Time radio, a temporary web radio station for Sheffield DocFest 2021.

With sunset right around the corner, we discussed how an awareness of time affects our practice, and invited other artists to share in the discussion. A moment of in-betweenness, shifting lights, and generative bewilderment, twilight was an ideal pause to take stock of our relationship to time, as humans and as artists. We invited filmmakers Lina Soualem and Mounir-Aïcha Soussan, and photographer Rebecca Topakian, to share their artistic practice and that space with us.

<https://soundcloud.com/sheffdocfest/sets/sundown-conversations-by-yasmine-benabdallah-and-karim-kattan-right-on-time-radio>



ALLAH MADE ME QUEER or OUR SUCCESS IS IN SHARING SPACE  
 short film/video installation  
 Year: 2021

Allah made me queer or Our success is in sharing space is a three-act short film about identifying as both Muslim and queer, about spirituality, identity, negotiating the intimate and the shared. Between religious chants and coming out anecdotes, Wazina and Terna perform and take their private life to the public. A transformation from home, to backstage, to performance, to film.

There is also a 3-channel video installation of the project, which was shown online as part of "Lost, not to be found", a month-long program for Untitled curatorial duo.





SAB'AT 'AMWAJ  
video installation  
Year: 2021

A silent video on loop of a ritual in the sea, accompanied with an audio piece in which I speak of memory, the Atlantic, history, science fiction, and gaps in the sand. Part of "Lost, not to be found", a month-long online programme in response to Untitled curatorial duo's project "If a tree falls in a forest", funded by Les rencontres d'Arles and Institut Français.

"Sab'at 'amwaj is a Moroccan ritual where you stand in the ocean and wait for seven waves to wash over you. The water takes away your troubles, offering you renewal, a part of you fading in the waves." [Transcribed Excerpt from the audio]





OJALA: LA VUELTA AL ORIGEN  
documentary feature film  
Year: 2018

Ojalá: la vuelta al origen is a documentary feature film about being a Palestinian descendant in Chile and maintaining the cultural resistance through dance. From the perspective of bellydance and Dabke teacher Anne Marie Lolas, the film creates a conversation between diasporic identities and the practice of art.

Selected at the 2019 Haifa Independent Film Festival, Nominated for the Best Documentary Award at Cairo Shorts Film Festival, Columbia University Scholars Program Independent Research Fellowship, screening and installation in conversation with "Becoming Palestine" by Lina Meruane hosted by Reid Hall, the Columbia University Paris Global Center - 10.08.2018 / 10.09.2018



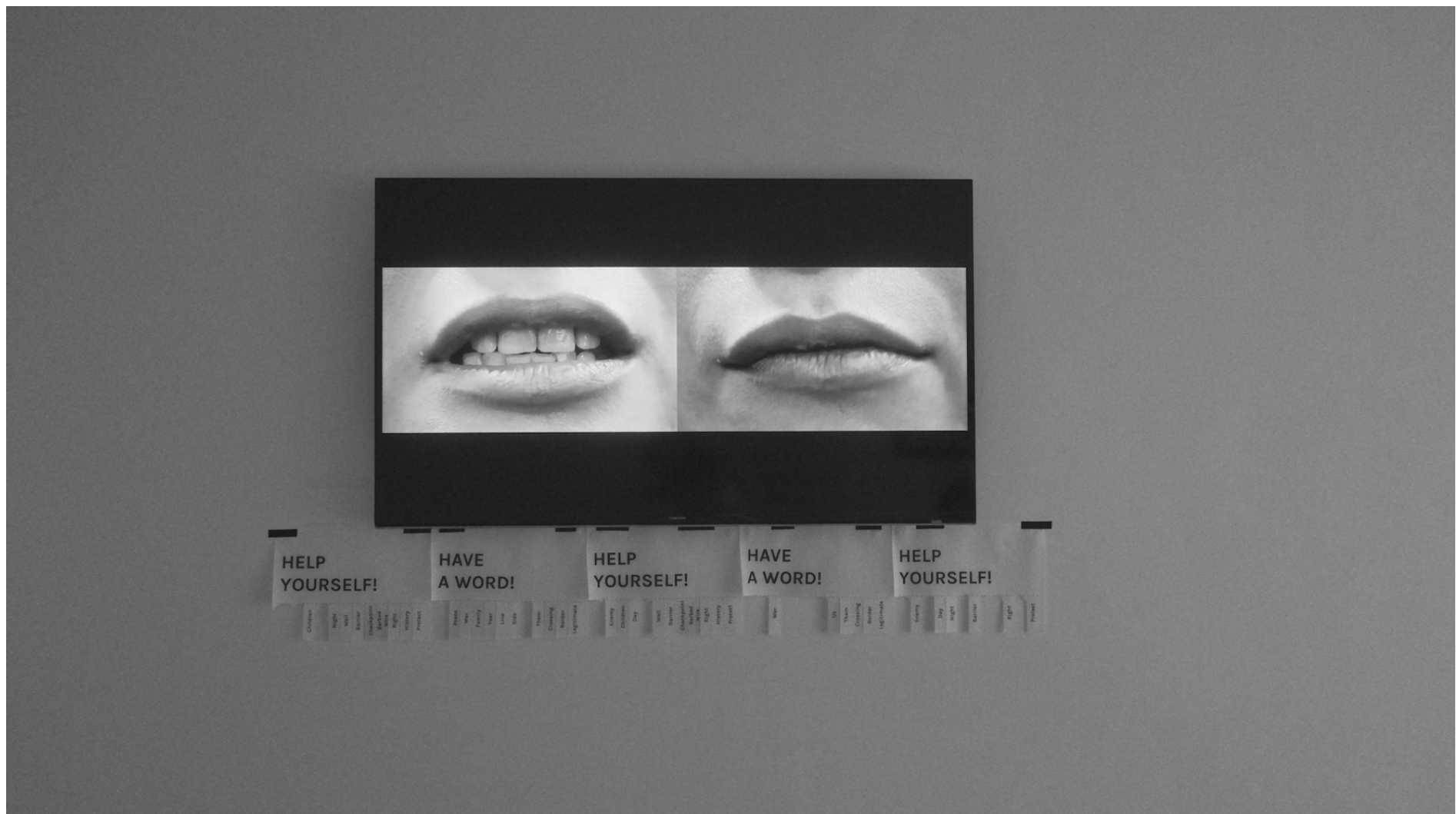


SU GENTE, SU CIELO, SU AROMA (ITS PEOPLE, ITS SKY, ITS SCENT)  
 video installation  
 Year: 2018

Su gente, su cielo, su aroma is an installation on the relationship between Palestinians in Palestine and Palestinians in Chile, comparing the passed-on nostalgia of the Palestinians of the diaspora with that of the Palestinians who stayed. The installation is composed of two videos shot in Bethlehem and Beit Jala (Palestine): to trace the steps and Chilean visions of Palestine / Who owns Dabke.

"On the road" - artist residency in Palestine (organized by the French German Cultural Center in Ramallah), Exhibition of a work in progress in Bethlehem





## THE EMBODIED BORDER: WORDS FOR POLITICAL FICTION

exhibition by MYST artist collective (Yasmine Benabdallah, Simone Fehlinger, Tamara Al Saadi)

The exhibition explores through installations and research spaces the question of the border in contemporary wars and conflicts, arguing that the frontier as a line is both process and political fiction. The trace on the (modern) map is only possible by the design of the Self and the Other through images, sounds and language. In contrast and in addition to the imagery of war reporting, the exhibition focusses on the word as a basis to the construction of the embodied border.

Year-long artist residency and first show at Théâtre Nanterre-Amandiers

Interdisciplinary conference hosted by Reid Hall, the Columbia University Paris Global Center - 10.02-03.2018

[www.mystcollective.com](http://www.mystcollective.com)



OBSERVATIONAL  
experimental short film  
Year: 2017

An observational exercise on surveillance and access to images of surveillance, the film is made of mock surveillance footage experimentally edited together to raise questions around the emptiness of surveillance.

<https://vimeo.com/259465335>





THE TRAVEL CURIOSITY  
documentary short film  
Year: 2016

A portrait of travel as told by a father to his daughter. Using archival footage and photography my father took more than 50 years ago, we trace back his memories of travel.

Official Short Film Competition at the 32nd edition of the Alexandria Mediterranean Countries Film Festival, Short Film Competition at Les Couleurs du Court-Métrage (Paris, France), Short Film Competition at Moteur Demandé (Loches, France), Short Film Competition at KaméOpen'Air (Nanterre, France), Collections Patrimoniales BNF (Archival Collection of the French National Library)

<https://vimeo.com/183058879>





## THE REAL WORLD SYNDROME

fiction short film

Year: 2014

A 90s news report about an institute created to treat patients who believe to be constantly followed by a camera crew. Borrowing visual tropes from reality TV, the film questions the binary of mental sanity.

Finalist for the 3rd Annual Cinema Los Angeles Film Festival

<https://vimeo.com/101716225>