

MAHMOUD ALHAJ | Dossier

## STATEMENT

As an artist i deal with different artistic media, implementing what is in my mind in more than one artistic style using drawing, sculpture, photography and video art. Over the last 4 years, I have turned to work with digital media so that I can keep pace with the crazy flow of events and images around me.

In light of this flow, the density of daily problems and the different ways we deal with them, I became fond of tampering with images, reflecting events that have implications to Palestinians but have lost their lustre in the eyes of the viewers, lost in the back doors of internet search engines.

I rely on the introduction of these images that are captured by others or by me and begin a process of recreating and redesigning these images by incorporating extensive digital production and processing tools using software especially designed for me. I deconstruct and analyze the structure of these images using Infrared Reflectography technology to generate a new class of materials and ultimately producing new digital work that offer unexpected results that can be interpreted in different ways.

Though my photography and digital work, I aim to present collective experiences where the artwork emphasizes my fragility as an artist and our shared humanity. On one hand, my work involves interpreting and understanding experiences of those around me through pictures, drawings or raw texts from conversations with my subjects. On the other hand, I interpret these experiences through the use of technology therefore offering another perspective on the same issues.

## BIOGRAPHY

1990, Visual artist and arts teacher lives and works in Gaza Strip, he holds BA degree in journalism and works as a visual arts teacher at the Palestinian Red Crescent Society since 2017.

In 2021, he finished two artistic residencies at the Royal Spanish Academy in Rome and the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague, in addition to solo exhibition for his project (402 Of Gray) through Shababeek for contemporary art in Gaza.

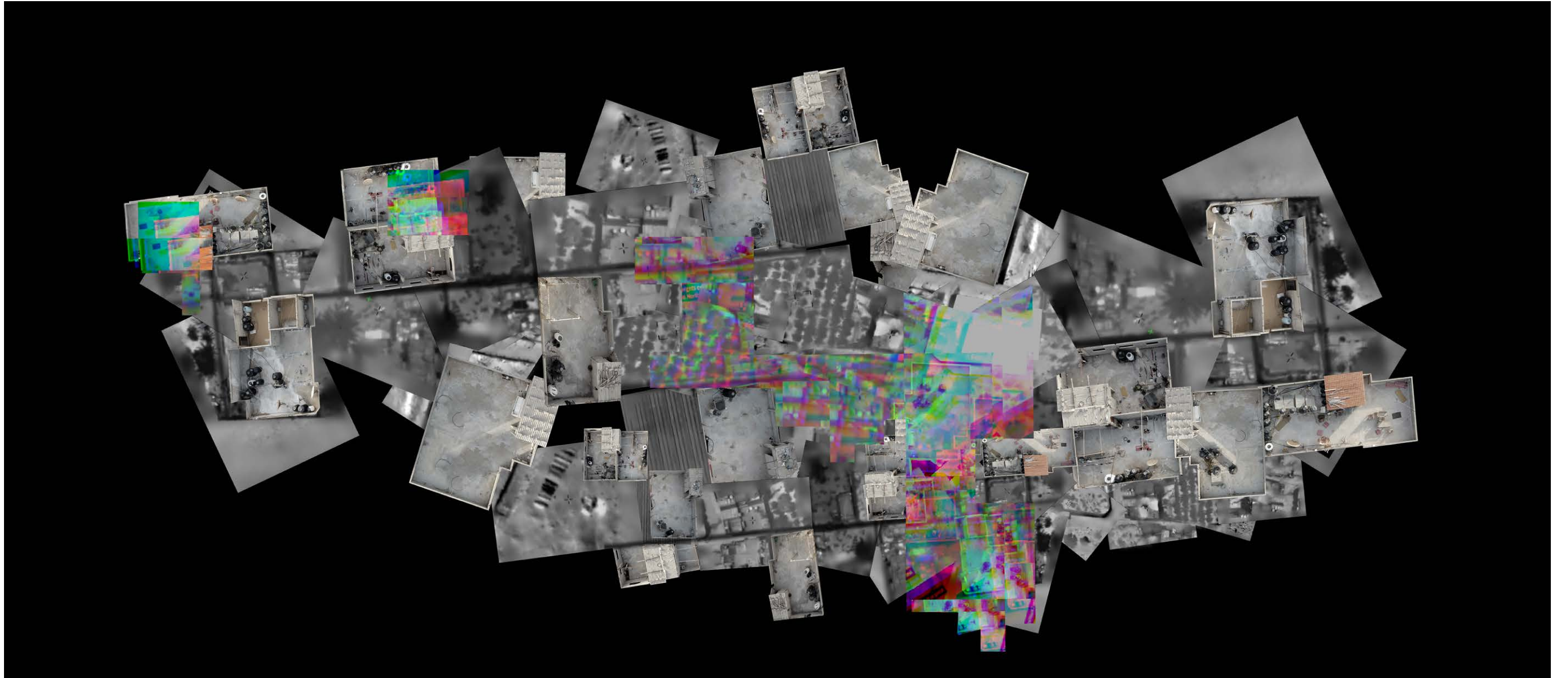
Alhaj have produced 6 projects between photography, Digital art and video, He exhibited widely in Palestine, Europe and the United States, In 2022 his short experimental film «The Right to See» was in the showcase of The 35th Festival Les Instants Video in Marseille, In 2021 the film was in Cairo Video Festival Concurrently with duo exhibition with the same name in Plaatsmaken studio- Netherlands in collaboration with Rob Voerman.

He participated in many collective exhibitions such as (Fenced off) by ICRC 2022, (ART NOW) at Gallery one 2021, (Art in isolation) at the Middle East Institute in Washington 2020, )Contemplative Contrasts( by Shababeek and A.M. Qattan Foundation and (Orient 2.0) at Pulchri Studio, Netherlands (2017).



**24/7 VICTIM**

In progress



Unnatural Landscape #1, Digital Photography, Surveillance Drones footage frames and archive





Unnatural Landscape #2, Digital Photography, Surveillance Drones footage frames and archive

هل لا به محمد سميحون إفتقلى على يد حراس منارة إورد حمينا اضل ليريق  
بجانبه هين طلال؟ كيف لقصيف مروان الخراس طمنا قاله انه كان به تخين الخيام  
خاسف؟ كيف شرفنا؟ دلوكان ته حواسنهم حميلة هذا صيقل الخيام  
اناسه من كل شلك اكلل بزاسيلة ابي نيفينه 700 مه على اقل؟  
انتم تكله صملا رسله لايته نه؟ ملوقه رضية لغيش كضمية الالانه؟

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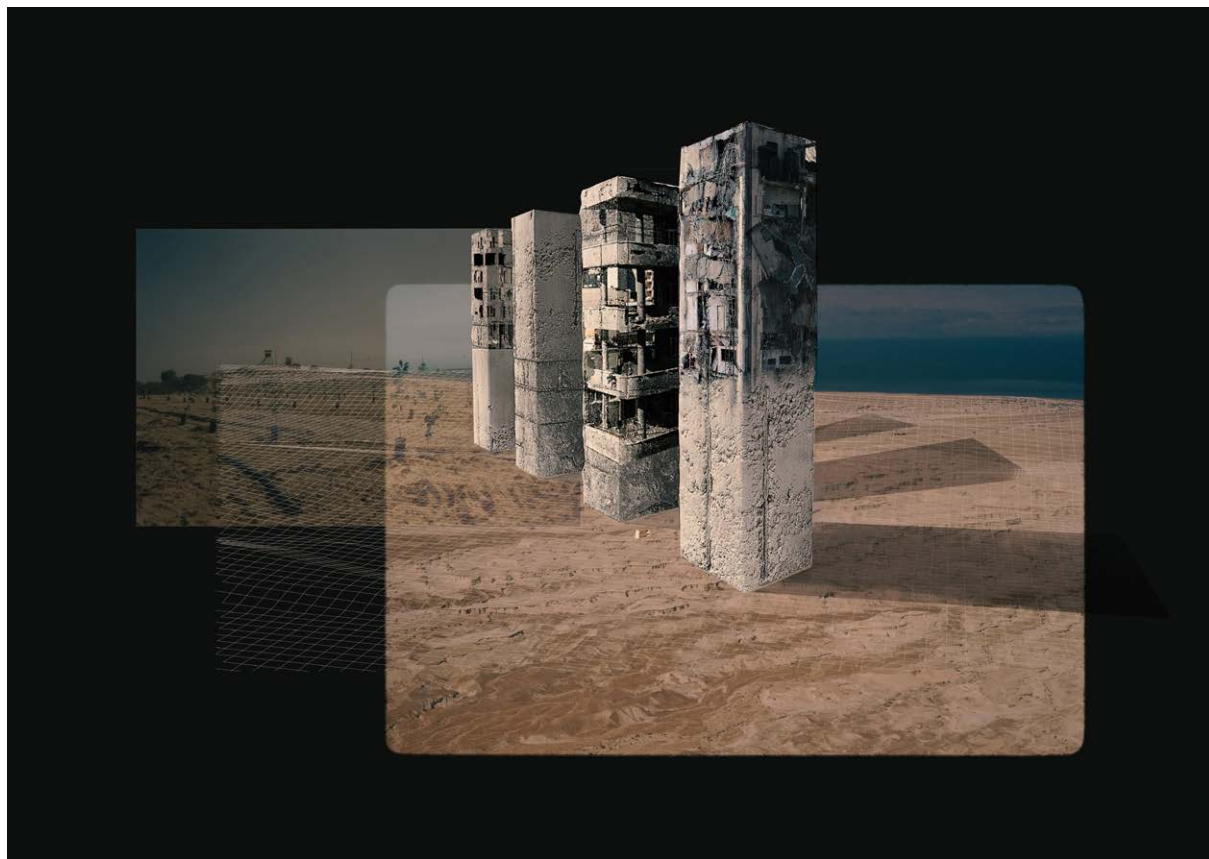
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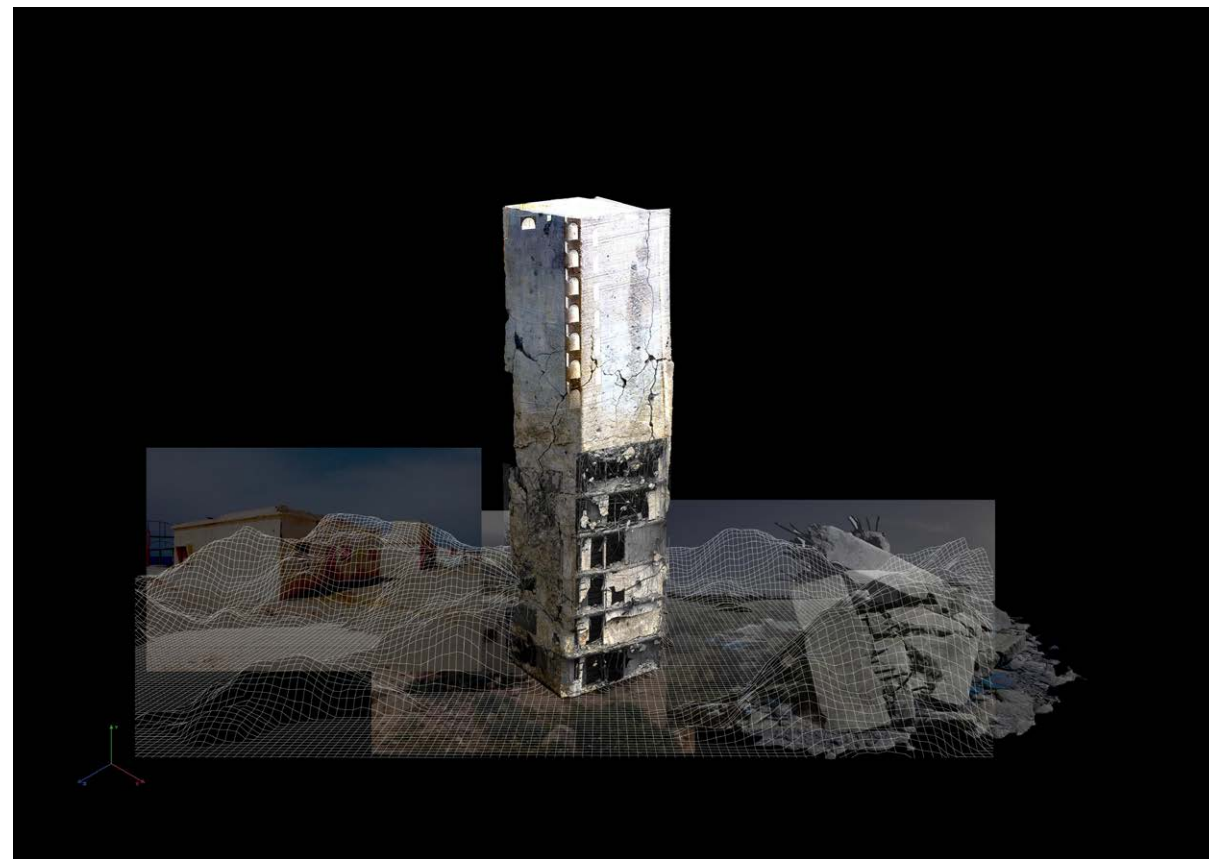
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Soldier X Archive Series, 2022- Virtual Archive- Photo/Documents installation -digital photography

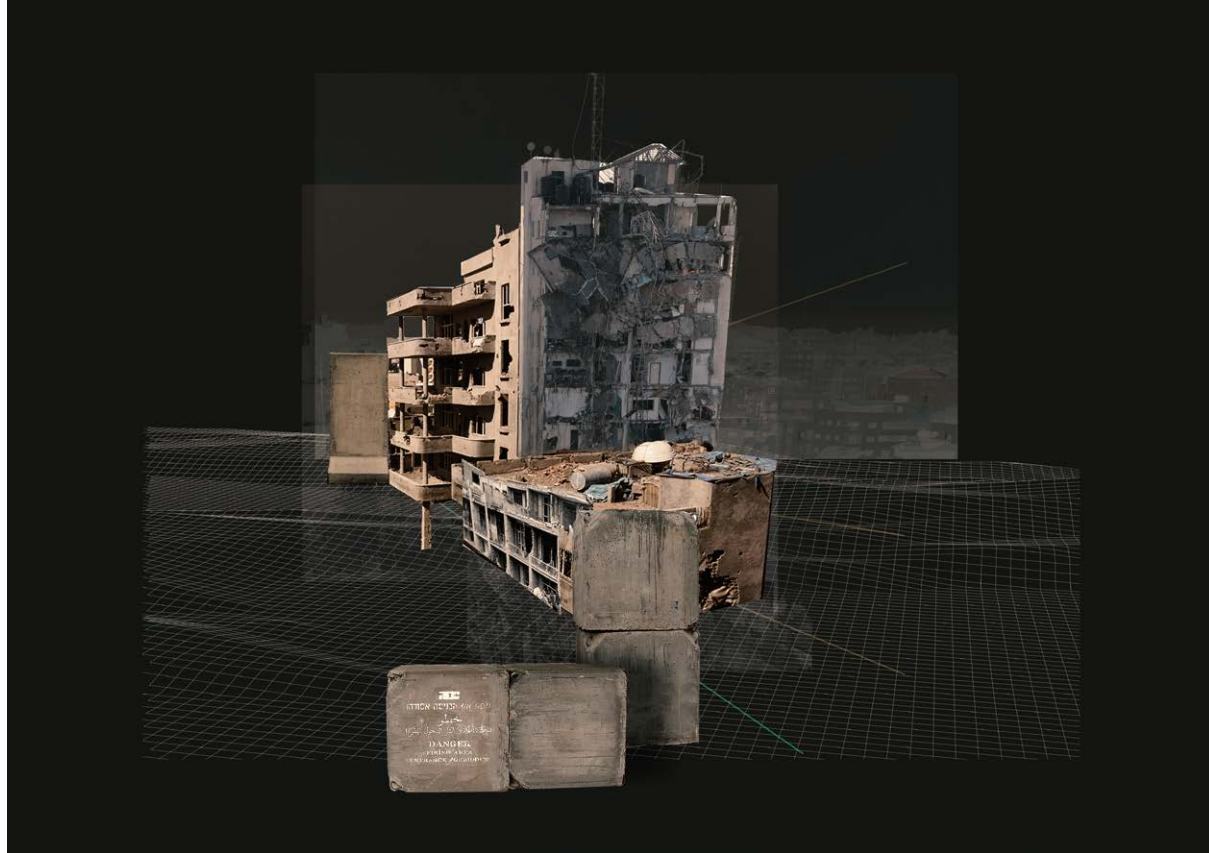




Shooting Range 365 Series, 2022- digital photography- 40x30 cm



Shooting Range 365 Series, 2022- digital photography- 40x30 cm



Shooting Range 365 Series, 2022- digital photography- 40x30 cm



**402 Of Grey**  
2021



## 402 Of Grey

The construction of the Apartheid Wall began in 2002 AD during the second Intifada and at the end of 2006 it reached 402 km. It passes on a tortuous path that surrounds most of the West Bank. And in certain places such as the city of Qalqilya, it forms enclaves, and a group of towns almost surrounded by the wall from all sides. And in the same year, in conjunction with the temporary halt of construction work, Israel began imposing a comprehensive closure on the Gaza Strip that lasts until this day.

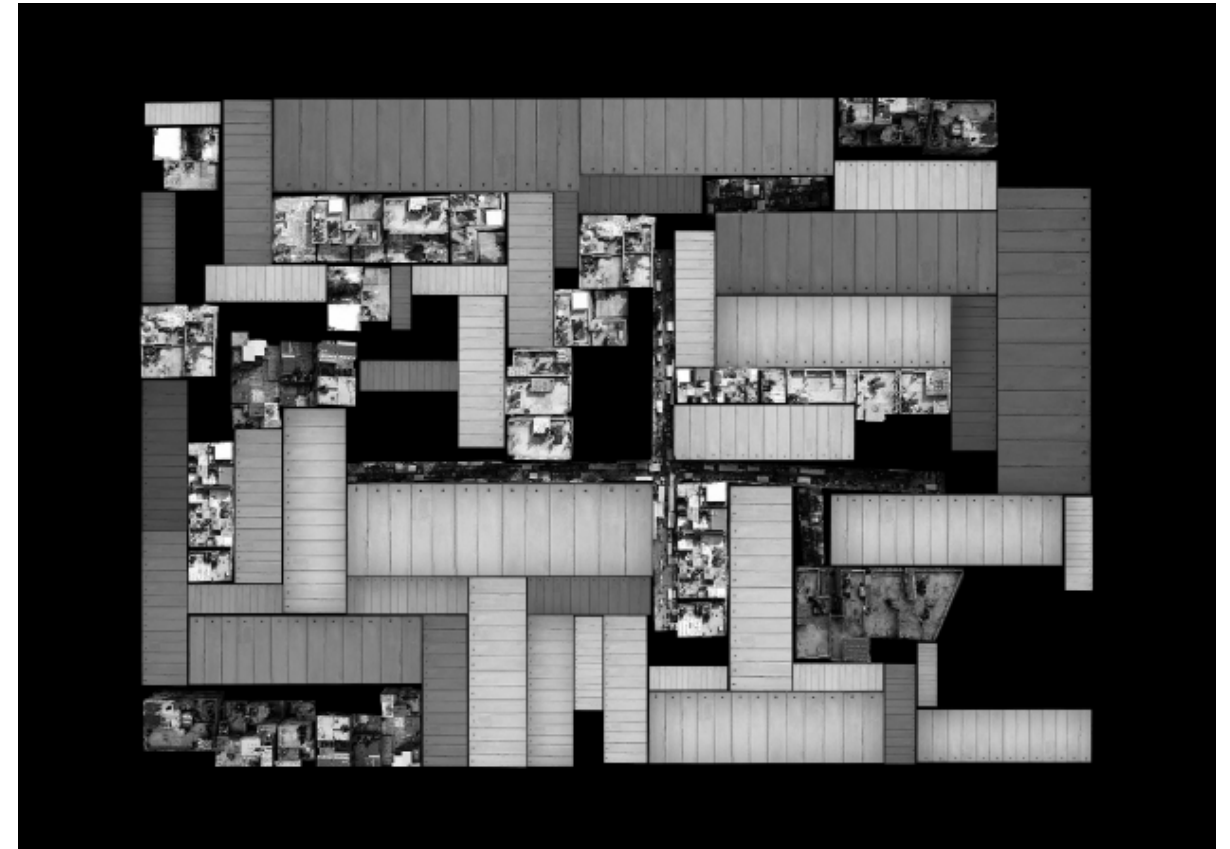
The moment they started building the apartheid wall, I was 12 years old at the time, I didn't realize what it meant to be surrounded by all this gray that became the pigment of everything, the wall is gray, the siege is gray, the bombing is gray, the buildings are gray, the people are gray, politics and money are gray, Everything is gray.

The wall is the physical form of closure and blockade is the Psychological state of closure. Both constitute violence and have an impact on geography, people, and freedom of movement.

For me, the experience of isolation for thirty years inside the Gaza Strip, accompanied with many failed exit attempts, constituted an impetus to find alternative ways to see the outside world. Google Maps was the only window available to do that and in this project it is one of my tools to obtain different materials for my artwork.

By an intense digital processing process I mix the layers of images included in the artwork that I have excavated and extracted it from the Internet archive, such as what Google Maps and Google Photos provide. Through this process I attempt to form a review of the time scene of the distortion caused by the Apartheid Wall or the siege of the Gaza Strip and I attempt to make maps of cities, sectors and mazes for the parallel world in which I live. From another angle it may be understood as the results of a microscopic research that shows a new type of cells.

These works are the result of research that has been going on for three years, and not only explores the effects left by the Israeli occupation policy, but is an attempt to answer one of my research questions about the effects of the wall. Is it possible to create an alternative artistic narrative by using images of violence against people, the Palestinian land and the environment, such as the wall, sewage dumps, military barracks, roundabouts and borders?



Fifth Dimension Series, 2020 - digital photography / Google Maps/ Internet archive 100x60cm



خارطة مفاهيمية  
Conceptual map

- الشيء
- هذا الفصل العفوي
- حضانة قطاع غزة
- الحدود
- التصميمات المتكلمة
- التنقل
- الفهم
- الاستبطان
- مخارج الاستقلال
- الاستقلال
- الحرام
- فهم السفر



مهمة 1  
بهذا البناء هذا الفصل عام 2002 خلال الانتفاضة الثانية  
وصول طول عام 2002 إلى 2005 بتكلفة 100 مليون دولار  
تخطيط الفناء الخلفية، وفي بعض الأماكن تلالا موازلا  
من مدينة تقليدية.

مهمة 2  
تقبل البناء هنا كانه ليس له السلفين ويحتمل انه منتمين لاسميتهم  
هناك بعض الاثار منهم على الحدود على تصاريح للتنقل بين اماكنهم  
علمهم وامكانهم معيهم.

مهمة 3  
نرضه اننا نحل حصار شامل على قطاع غزة بله فونز مركزه حراس  
بالانتخابات الفلسطينية منتمين من هذا حيث اتر  
كل كانه ففص مجيد.



- الاستقللة الارضية
- كل للحداد حرمية فنية
  - صلو للحداد حرمية دينية
  - كيفية التفرقة بين الارلامية والسلمية
  - كيفية التفرقة بين الحداد على الحدود
  - ظاهر التلاعبة بين الحداد والحداد

لماذا google maps

تسمية الايس في عزلة التلالين عملا  
مع بناء محاورات الخروج كانه وانما  
لايجاد طرق بديلة لرؤية العالم  
للممارسة ما اعتبره كانه الاوس للفرق  
« الحق من النظر »

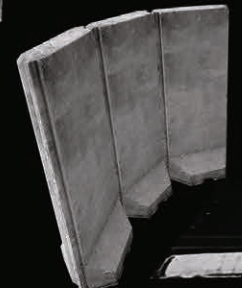
- مصادر المواد للاعمال الفنية
- مواظلة حوصل
  - حجر حرمية
  - حجر صخر صخرات - قطاع
  - حجر حبل حصر
  - الزخرفة الاندلسية

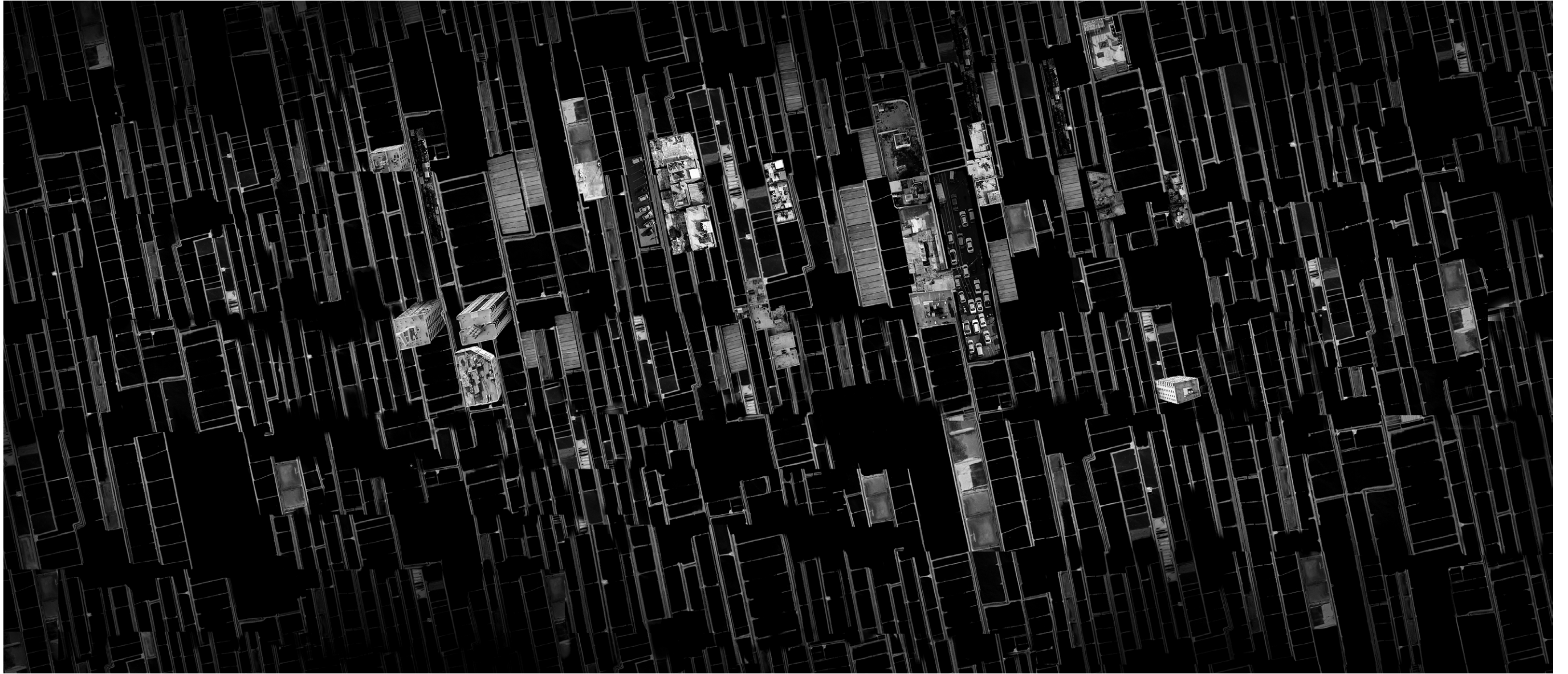
- مراحل المتابع
- قرادة وبحث حول عزلة المنوع
  - اجراء المقامات
  - جمع الصور ذات الصلة
  - معالجة الاولية للمصدر سترنول
  - تصاميم (1,7,7) Marc
  - المعالجة النهائية للامال

تتمتع من ابرارادي  
الترتم نسبة المسان التي تطورا بله زمن للواقع  
والرماوي هو فونز اليه ارون لانه الذي يسميه  
اليد سلاوي، التمدد سلاوي، السيادة سلاوية  
السياسة والموال سلاويان...

السلاوية

استعراض الحزمه الزمنية للمتمتع الذي يسميه  
الحداد من لينة الخلفية وحضارة من قطاع غزة





Fifth Dimension Series, 2020 - digital photography / Google Maps/ Internet archive 120x60cm





Fifth Dimension Series, 2020 - digital photography / Google Maps/ Internet archive 120x60cm

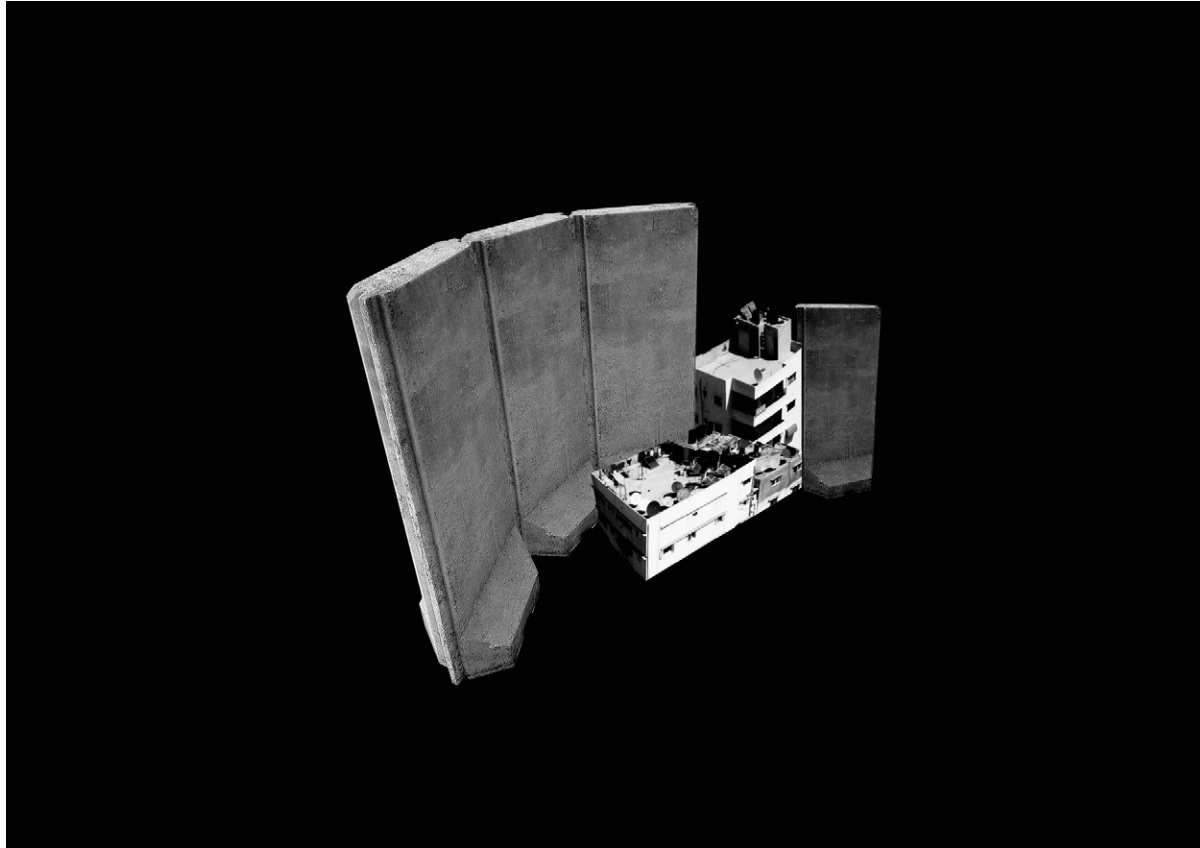


Distortion Series, 2019 - digital/ photography/ palestinian archive 100x60cm



Distortion Series, 2018 - digital/ photography/ palestinian archive 100x60cm

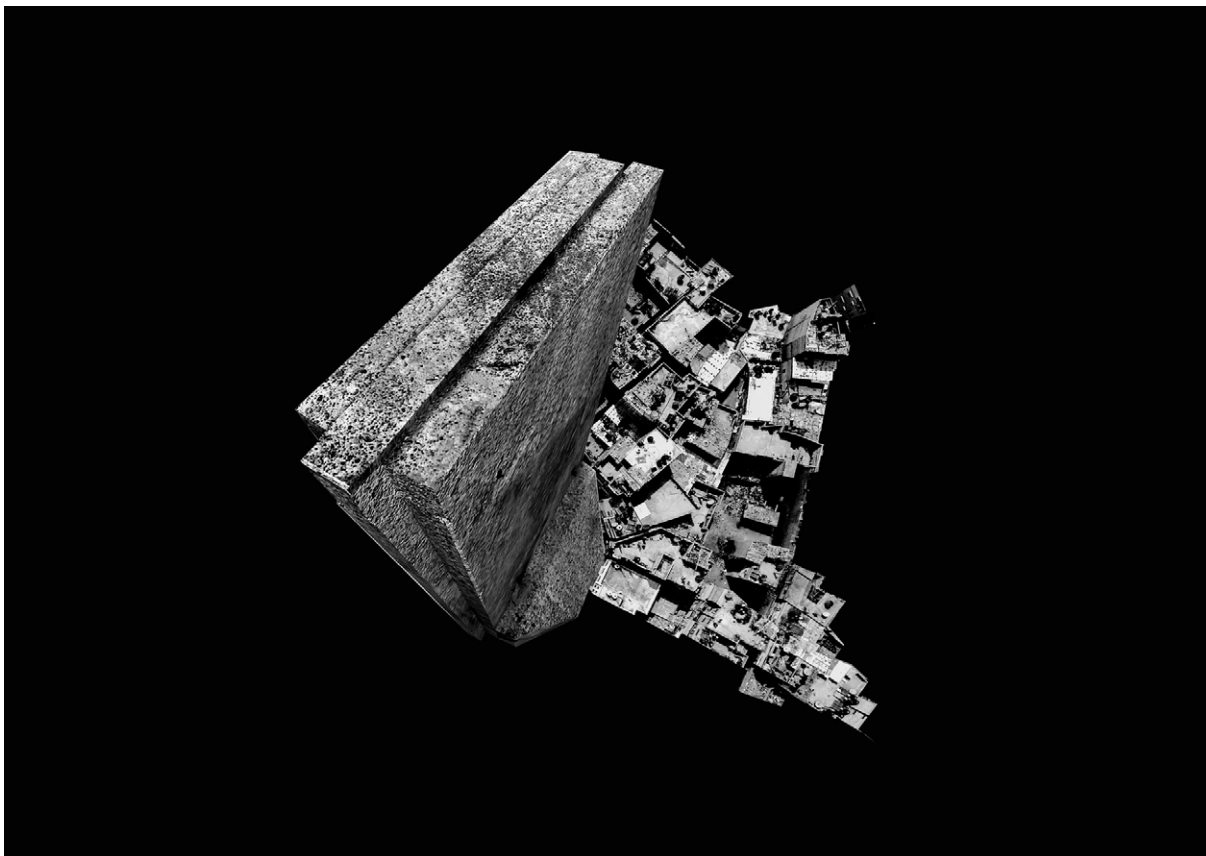




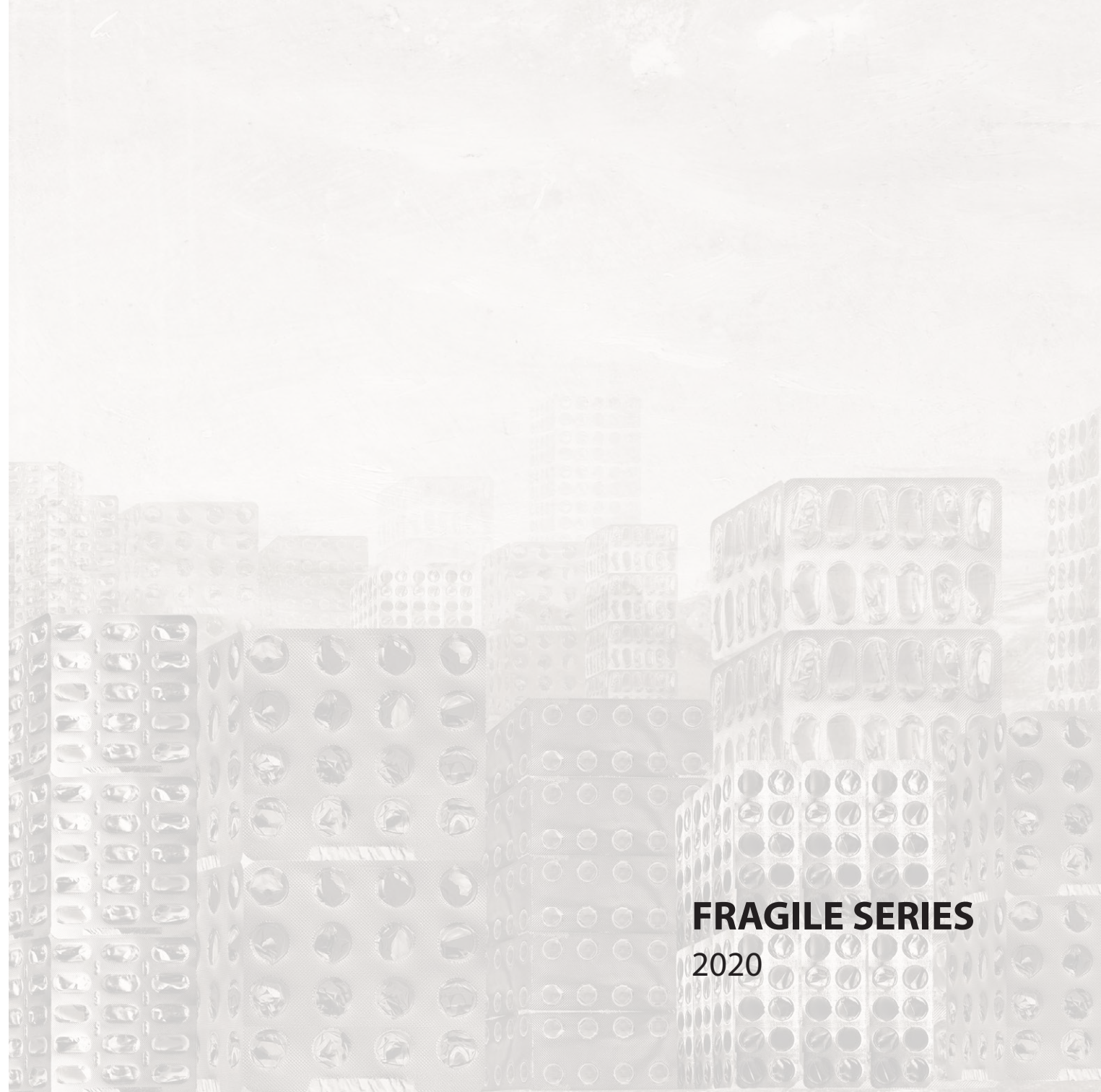
402 of Grey Project - Barrier architecture Series, 2020 - digital/ photography/ palestinian archive 100x60cm



402 of Grey Project - Barrier architecture Series, 2020 - digital/ photography/ palestinian archive 100x60cm



402 of Grey Project - Barrier architecture Series, 2020 - digital/ photography/ palestinian archive 100x60cm



**FRAGILE SERIES**

2020



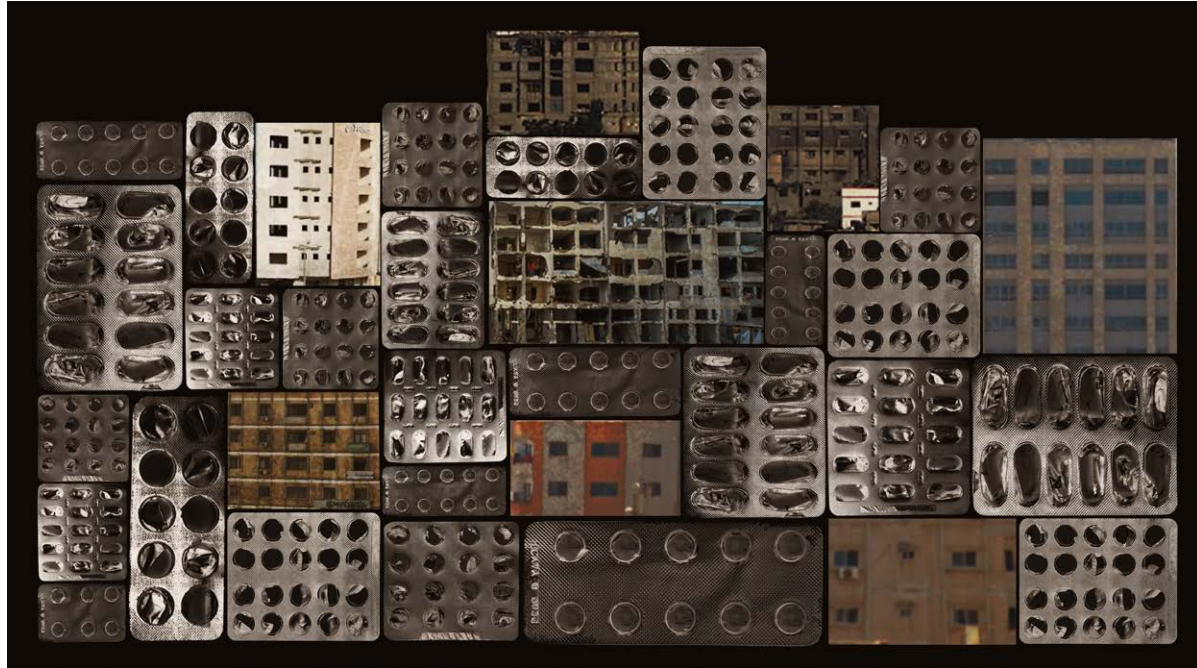
# FRAGILE

Responding to the conflict in Gaza, the works from my "Fragile" series employ empty blister sheets from various medications. Superimposed with images of buildings and open windows, the sheets themselves take on a sculptural quality and exhibit deeply rooted pain and anxiety in war-torn urban centers. Palestine has been in a military quarantine state for decades due to the pandemic has been increasingly ignored on the global stage.

For me, this intense isolation has created a need to escape reality by creating alternate worlds through found materials. In these images, I explore the use of easily accessible medication to sedate those experiencing constant distress, and imply the need for intentional mental and physical healing on a global scale.



Digital photography - 80x40 cm

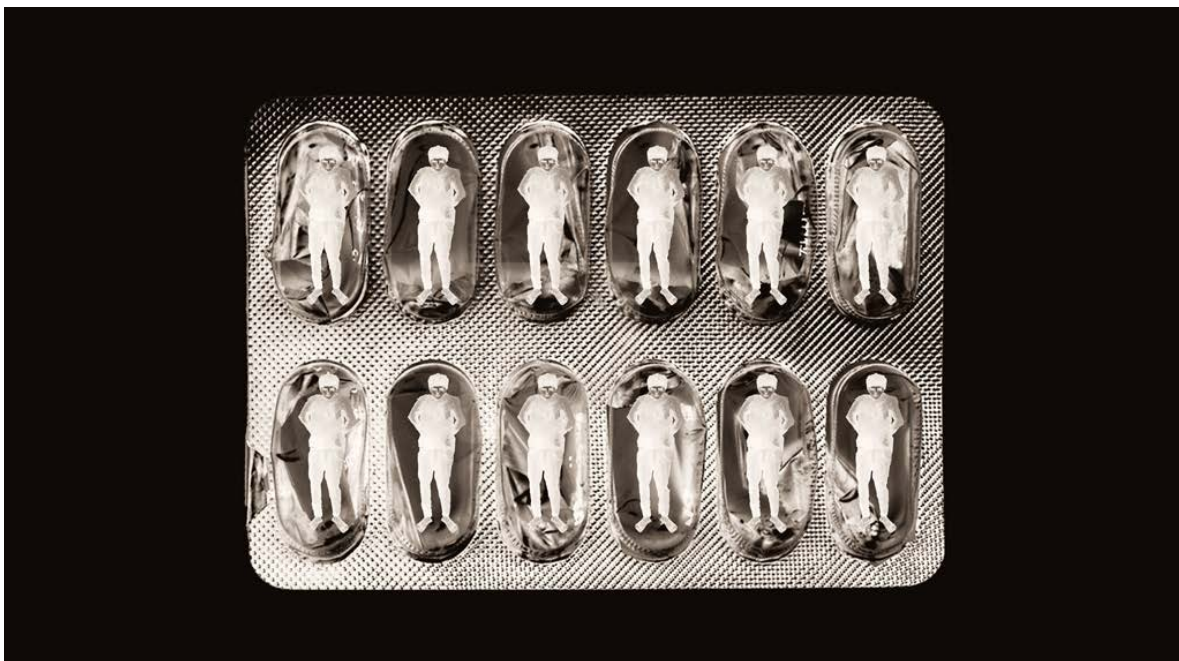


Digital photography - 80x45 cm

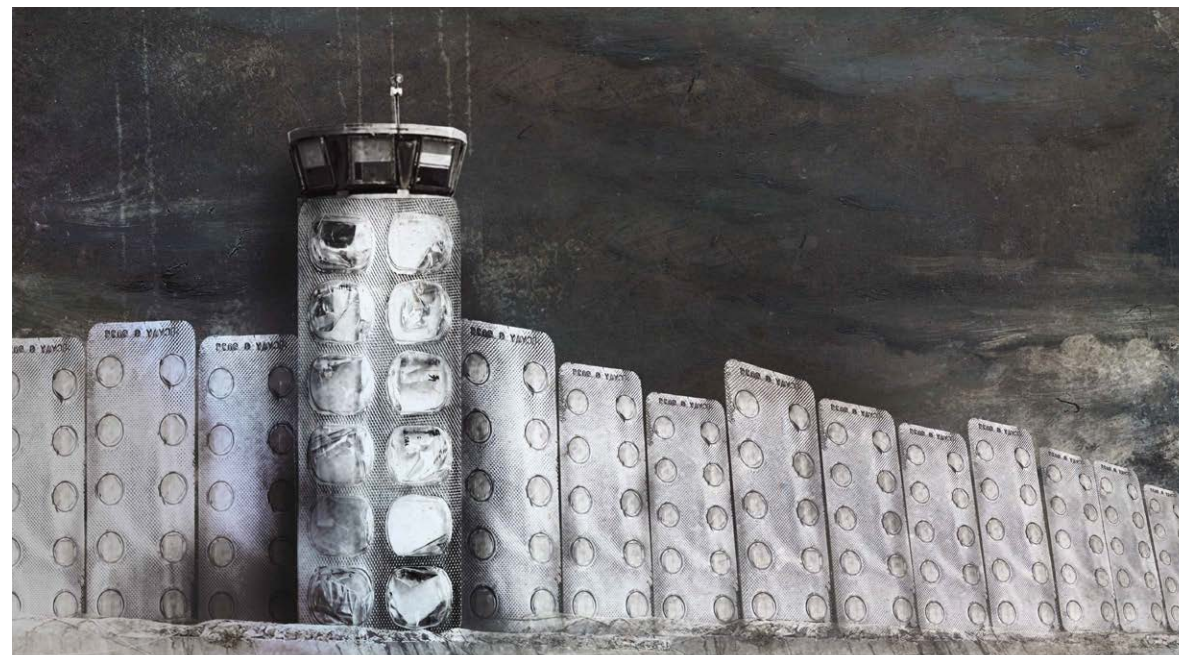


Digital photography - 80x45 cm





Digital photography - 80x45 cm



Digital photography - 80x45 cm







## Solo Projects & Exhibitions

- **2021 [The Right to see Exhibition](#)** with Rob Voerman- Plaatsmaken Gallery, Arnhem, Netherlands.
- **2021 [402 of Gray - Digital art project](#)**- with Shababek for Contemporary Art - Gaza strip - palestine.
- **2020 [Fragile - Digital art project \(series A\)](#)** with A.M. Qattan Foundation, Ramallah, palestine.
- **2018 [Endless storeis Digital art project \(group A\)](#)** with HOPE foundation - Netherlands.
- **2016 Another history exhibition** - Digital art project with Bunian Association - khanyounis.
- **2014 51 Days exhibition - Digital art project** - communicate forum association- Nusairat.
- **2014 Angels exhibition** - Digital art project with Al amal association- Rafah.
- **2013 Life exhibition** - photography project with Culture and free thought association- khanyounis.

## International & local - Group Exhibitions

- **2022 Focal Point**- Shababek for Contemporary Art - Gaza strip - palestine.
- **2022 Fenced Off**- By ICRC , Gaza, Palestine.
- **2021 ART NOW** - Gallery ONE , Ramallah, Palestine.
- **2021 [Etre Vivant](#)** - Institut Français de Gaza, Gaza strip - palestine.
- **2020 [Art in Isolation exhibition](#)** - / Middle East Institute (MEI) in Washington, D.C
- **2020 The Art of Hope exhibition** - Shababek for Contemporary Art - Gaza strip - palestine.
- **2019 [Within the vaccum exhibition](#)**- Shababek for Contemporary Art - Gaza strip - palestine.
- **2019 [Contemplative Contrasts exhibition](#)** - Gaza Art- A.M. Qattan Foundation- Gaza strip - palestine.
- **2019 [Let it light up exhibition](#)** - The Gallery at The Walled Off Hotel - Beetlahem - palestine
- **2017 [Orient 2.0 exhibition](#)** - Pulchri studio Den Haag -The Hague, Netherlands.
- **2016 Stories from GAZA exhibition** -Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, Berlin- Germany.
- **2015 Dream Festival** - Gaza strip - palestine.
- **2013 [ART Garage photography exhibition](#)** -Culture and free thought association - Gaza strip - palestine.

## Artistic cooperations

- **2020 I.D. of inequality project** - with the Dutch artist [Hans Overvliet](#) - photographer .
- **2019 Intimate Terrains - land art workshop** with the artist Suzanne Groothuis, ( [I feel something beautiful film](#))  
Palestinian museum with HOPE Foundation - Ramallah - khanyounis - palestine.
- **2018- now [PHOENIX Project](#)** - Shonen company / Ballet national de Marseille, FRANCE) Video creation - Technical Assistance.

## Residences

- **2023 Cité internationale des arts**, Paris- France.
- **2021 Royal Spanish Academy in Rome**, Dialogue Program - Rome - Italy ( 1 Month).
- **2021 Royal Academy of art (KABK)**, Interactive/Media/Design department - The Hague - Netherlands( 2 Month).

## Film Festivals

- **2022 The Right To See - Experimental film**- The 35th Festival Les Instants Video in Marseille.
- **2021 [The Right To See - Experimental film](#)**- Cairo Video Festival - Cairo- Egypt.

## International Panels & Seminars

- **2020 Speaker in Panel "[Art as Resilience](#)" / INSOMNIA FESTIVAL**- Tromso -Norway.
- **2020 Sperkter in Panel "[Art in Isolation: Creativity in the Time of Covid-19.](#)"** / Middle East Institute (MEI) in Washington, D.C