

# UNDYING CITIES:

Narratives of Erasure and Liberation

**Tina Sherwell**

## Maps

1990. Prints, fabrics, embroidery, pins and needles, 70\*110 cm.

This work can be read as a means of revealing the multiple layers of meaning embedded within natural landscapes, thereby uncovering the mechanisms of power at play. Many maps continue to undergo processes of deconstruction and reformation, signifying the existence of two contradictory operations closely tied to the concept of the passage of time. For this reason, we find pins, unfinished stitches, or a suspended needle, indicating the ongoing—often violent—transformations experienced by the place. Meanwhile, the blurred lines and reconnected fragments point to the processes of erasure and destruction that we witness and endure daily over decades, as well as our continuous efforts to cling to the land.

## About the Artist

Art Historian, educator, writer, artist and curator. Sherwell won the Alexandria Biennale Prize in 2001 for her series Maps of Palestine, and has written numerous articles on Palestinian art and visual culture. She participated in numerous conferences, including From B to X, Making History after John Berger, held at the University of Lausanne and the Musée de l'Élysée, and The Curriculum: The Summit of Creative Time, held in Venice in 2015. Sherwell curated a number of exhibitions, including the graduation exhibitions at the International Academy of Art - Palestine between 2011-2018, the exhibition "Obstructive Specificities" held at the French-German Cultural Center in Ramallah in 2015, and a retrospective of the artist Suleiman Mansour held at the Palestinian Art Court in Jerusalem in 2011, and Intimate Terrains: Representations of a Disappearing Landscape at the Palestinian Museum, 2019. Sherwell was Head of the Visual Arts Programme at Birzeit University 2017 - 2021, Director of the International Academy of Art Palestine (2007-12 and 2013-17), Director of the Fine Arts Programme at Winchester College of Art (2005-07), Executive Director of the Birzeit University Virtual Gallery, and worked on the Tate Online digital archive (2004-06).

