

UNDYING CITIES:

Narratives of Erasure and Liberation

Vera Tamari

Living and Lived Memories

2024. Video installation, 22 minutes.

Reading Voice: Tania Tamari Nasir

Video Production: Majd Darwish

Inspired by my book “Returning: Palestinian family memories in clay reliefs, photographs and text”, the video is based on photographs from the archive of my father Faik Tamari. The same photographs had earlier instigated me to create between 1989 and 1996, a series of clay relief works entitled “Family Portraits”.

In this work now, I attempt through voice recordings (readings) and image manipulation, to channel images and texts from the book to another dimension, to another realm- more vivid and more intimate. In doing so, I try to narrow the distance between those personal and collective events and memories, once lived and remembered by my family in Palestine, particularly before the Nakba of 1948 and now.

About the Artist

A Palestinian visual artist born in Jerusalem, a historian of Islamic art and a curator. She received her BA in Fine Arts from Beirut in 1966, then specialised in ceramic art at the National Institute of Ceramic Arts in Florence, Italy in 1974, and obtained an MA in Islamic Art and Architecture from Oxford University in 1984. Tamari has been actively involved in promoting arts and culture in Palestinian society. For over two decades, she has been a lecturer in Islamic art, architecture and art history at Birzeit University. During her tenure, she founded the university’s museum and directed it in the years 2005 and 2010. She continues to play an important role in the Palestinian art scene, serving as a consultant and member of several cultural institutions and councils. Tamari is distinguished by her ceramics, sculpture and conceptual art, which she has exhibited widely in Palestine, the Arab world, Europe, the United Kingdom, Japan and the United States.

