

# UNDYING CITIES:

Narratives of Erasure and Liberation

## Shuruq Harb

### In the Presence of Absence

2022. Video with sound 16 minutes 9 seconds.

By referencing and reflecting on Mahmoud Darwish's eponymous long lyrical series of meditations, Harb revisits the notion of absence, love, longing, Palestine, history, friendship, and the relation between life and death through a poetic and sensorial reading of a massive stone in the outskirts of Ramallah hills. In an exercise in reading the multiple layers and sedimentation that form stones, the video speculates on the political implications of absence. The work is based on research material gathered during a residency with Sakiya Art/Science/Agriculture, French Institute in Jerusalem and La Ferme du Buisson in Ein Qinya 2021 and was commissioned by A.M. Qattan Foundation.

### About the Artist

A multidisciplinary artist, educator, filmmaker and writer based in Ramallah, Harb draws inspiration from folk, popular and digital culture in her videos and conceptual artwork, often addressing the ways in which images are collected, archived and circulated, creating new narratives.

