UNDYING CITIES:

Narratives of Erasure and Liberation

Izz Al Jabari

What is Unseen

2024. Fabric, Threads, Acrylic Panels. 122*100 cm (each panel).

At the core of the relationship between colonizers and the land lies the map, an abstract instrument wielded to impose control and division. This elevated perspective reduces landscapes to mere shapes and lines, obscuring the deep connections that bind people to their land. The colonizer, viewing from above, disregards the land's true essence, using a metaphorical "eye of God" to fragment geography into disconnected territories.

In this art project, the map serves as a critical tool to unveil this enforced abstraction. Through threads that echo invisible divisions, we deconstruct the concept of control, revealing what remains unseen: the essence of place and the collective memory of its people. Here, maps and archives transform into instruments that deepen the chasm between humanity and the land, inviting reflection on the consequences of this disconnection.

The artwork uses maps as a critical tool to expose the forced abstraction of the relationship between people and their land, resulting from the colonizer's division of the land and its transformation into fragmented geography. It highlights how maps tear apart real connections with invisible boundaries.

About the Artist

Artist and cultural manager, managing various arts and cultural projects, working to integrate visual and performing arts to create impactful cultural experiences, with a focus on archival preservation and making the arts accessible to the public.

