

UNDYING CITIES:

Narratives of Erasure and Liberation

Alaa Badran

Permanence

**2023. 3 Photographs 50*70 cm (each photograph),
and 3 audio recordings 3:00 minutes (each recording).**

Badran seeks to revive moments from his family's archive by freezing time in three still images, captured from an old video filmed by his mother. He meticulously processed this video, selecting specific frames and transforming them into photographic prints developed in a darkroom using chemical materials. His goal is to breathe life back into these frozen moments.

Accompanying the images are three audio recordings that form layers of memory. The first features his father's voice reciting three verses from the Quran, addressing themes of death, the body, and the soul. The second recording captures a conversation between Alaa and his grandfather, discussing family photos and archives that existed before the displacement from the Old City of Jerusalem. The third recording consists of ambient sounds from locations tied to the family's past, with Badran attempting to eavesdrop on history and link it to memory and place.

This work is part of a broader collection that highlights the family archive and confronts its erasure before displacement, reflecting identity, memory, and the fear of disappearance faced by Palestinian families in Jerusalem.

About the Artist

Visual artist and photographer born and based in Jerusalem, holds a BA in Fine Arts and Photography from Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem. He is currently an MA student in Visual Communication, and a lecturer at Dar Al-Kalima University. His works have been exhibited widely. Badran's artworks delve into the conceptual side of expression, raising questions in response to a variety of influences that deeply impact his personal life, stemming from political, social, religious and personal spheres. Through photography and video, he seeks to convey his experiences and imagination as an artist, while exploring and questioning their long-term effects.

