

UNDYING CITIES:

Narratives of Erasure and Liberation

Abed Alrahman Shabaneh

As to Forbidden Fruit

2024. Video, 01 min 33 seconds.

Participants: Moatasem Siam, Noor Elayan, Dalal Odeh, Samer Sharif, Ala Badran, Abed Alrahman Shabaneh

This video presents interpretations by participants of the Silent Translation Workshop, held on July 27, 2024. During the workshop, the artists deconstructed a text of the same title from Shabaneh's art book *The Golden Warrior*. The group discussed the history of art institutionalization in Palestine, its impact on the artistic field, and how these dynamics have shaped their individual practices. Through the experience of video production, the workshop aimed to explore the possibilities of collective artistic creation, highlighting the resilience of Palestinian artists and institutions in the face of ongoing genocide.

As to forbidden fruit

As to the gods

my pain is ancient,

I'm the son of Adam.

like a buried ship,

the sea doesn't register my name, nor my color.

Guilty since the forbidden fruit,

I only bear the devil's whispers among my branches.

I'll gather the night from the god's paradise.

I'm voided, a mundane being amongst the praying voices

infinite, denouncer of the past, monk-like,

self-deprived

I sow the land; flowers and stones,

without whispering,

in anyone's ear.

About the Artist

Art curator and writer interested in tracing social fabric dynamic, and observing the impact of its members' artistic contributions. He published his first poetry collection, "The rumination of space" in 2015, and his art book, "The Golden Warrior," won the AFAC Grant for Creative Writing for 2019. His novel, "Heaps of Metal," was published in 2023 by Dar Al-Mutawasit. He participated in developing many cultural and artistic exhibitions and events, and currently works as a librarian for the Laila Al-Maqdadi Library at the A.M Qattan Foundation.

