

Here and Perhaps Elsewhere

Lamia Joreige

Born in 1972 in Beirut, Lamia Joreige studied painting and cinema at the Rhode Island School of Design. In addition to the video installations *Objects of War*, *Objects of War 2*, *Untitled 1997-2003*, *Replay*, and *The Displacement*, she made the short fiction video *Replay (bis)* and *Houna Wa Roubbama Hounak (Here and Perhaps Elsewhere)*, a feature documentary on the subject of the disappeared during the Lebanese war. She also wrote a short story on the same subject, *Ici et peut-être ailleurs*, published in 2003. Her most recent publication is *Time and the Other*.



Sodeco passage
Photo: as-Sajir



Ring checkpoint
Photo: as-Sajir



"My grandfather: Not here. In Karantina, he disappeared. Some say he was killed. Some say he was left for dead. His name was Mustafa Ahmad Daou".

"If you want precise names, you should go directly to the source, to the militias. They each have lists. But unfortunately, three-quarters of those kidnapped...no one ever admitted having them. So as not to admit their crime, they committed an even bigger one. They liquidated them, killed them".

"His name was Mustafa Daou. He took down the mill wall, and helped about 70 percent of the Arabs from Maslakh to escape. But finally, they caught him. His mother was on his shoulders. He was carrying his mother on his shoulders. They made him put down his mother. They let his wife, the children, and his mother go. And they took him".

"Here, in this neighbourhood, I don't know of anyone who was kidnapped."

"Would you know in other places?"

"In other places, I know... Yes. But here, I don't know of anyone".

"Where, for example?"

"I know in Dora, for instance. I know in the mountains. I know my son, killed during the troubles... They slaughtered my son. These things I know. He was at my sister's. They slaughtered him. They drew him out and slaughtered him".

"Who? Why?"

"I don't know. I don't know. We smuggled him out of here, from Achrafieh. We sent him up to Beit Mellet in Akkar. And they killed him up there. Because he was from a different sect. That's the whole story".

"How old was he?"

"Fifteen years old".

"I don't remember. I don't remember. I forget a lot".
 "How could there be no kidnappings? There were so many. Here in Achrafieh so much happened...so much...so much. But as to remember who kidnapped who!"



"I have a brother who was kidnapped. He was about 23 years old".
 "He was a civilian?"
 "Yes, a civilian... Look, there wasn't anyone who wasn't involved in a militia. But he was a civilian, not a soldier or such".
 "You and your family still have hope?"
 "Of course we have hope. No one ever gives up. Look at Imam Moussa Sadr, how long has he been missing? People still have hope. Who ever gives up? Our hope is with God, not with the kidnappers. What God wants will happen".

"There are many stories, but I can't tell you here".
 "You're scared of them being recorded?"
 "No. I'm not scared of them being recorded. But there's no reason to record them, because they may be true or they may not. You see? Because they won't give you the answer you're looking for".



"He was kidnapped during the troubles, during the Israeli attack. His family name is...his father's name is Abbas. His house is over there, at the bridge. One of my brothers went missing as well. It was during the days of the resistance. He was in the resistance".
 "What's this about?"
 "She's asking if you have anyone who went missing".
 "No...no".
 "I told her I lost my brother".
 "What channel are you filming this for? Television? Television?"
 "No, it's an independent film".
 "Ah. Okay. When are you going to broadcast it? It's not going to be broadcast on TV? Ah. Okay".

Video, 54 minutes, 2003