

MUSÉE CANTONAL DES BEAUX-ARTS LAUSANNE Emily Jacir. We Ate the Wind



26.5 – 27.8.2023

Press kit

Musée cantonal
des Beaux-Arts
Plateforme 10

Place de la Gare 16
1003 Lausanne
Switzerland

Espace Projet
Free admission
mcba.ch



Press release

The Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts de Lausanne (MCBA) is pleased to announce a new solo show devoted to the work of multimedia artist Emily Jacir featuring a two-channel film installation created especially for the MCBA Espace Projet gallery. *We Ate the Wind* explores a recent aspect of Switzerland's immigration policy and its consequences on individuals and communities. The piece addresses questions of visibility and invisibility, proximity and distance, hospitality and exclusion.

A committed art

The works of Emily Jacir (b. 1972 in Santiago de Chile, lives and works in Rome and Bethlehem,) draw on archival and historical research as much as subjective or biographical narratives. They unearth and lend form to histories that have been silenced, focusing mainly on exchange, translation, resistance, and movement. Based in the Mediterranean, the artist uses a wide range of media and methodologies that include film, video, photography, sculpture, installation and performance to investigate personal and collective movement through space and time. Many of her works are made in response to particular contexts and deal with issues of kinship networks, migration, and cross-border lives; the artist is especially interested in the way historical memory is inscribed over time or across geographies.

Emily Jacir has been actively involved in teaching in Palestine since 2000. She is deeply invested in the creation of alternative spaces for learning and the production of knowledge. She is the founding director of Dar Yusuf Nasri Jacir for Art and Research in Bethlehem.

Swiss immigration policy at the heart of a new work of art

For her intervention in the Espace Projet, Emily Jacir presents a two-channel film installation made up of recent images as well as archival documents that addresses questions of visibility and invisibility, proximity and distance, hospitality and exclusion, in order to explore a recent aspect of Swiss immigration policy and its impact on individuals and communities. Indeed, in the aftermath of World War II, Switzerland devised a policy largely based on recruiting "guest workers" who were not meant to settle permanently in the country, including over two million Italians. This led to the development of a status (abolished in 2002) that would become emblematic of immigration in Switzerland, that of seasonal workers, a condition that excludes family reunification and in certain cases, for the children of immigrants, lead to hiding, invisibility, and silence. Today these thousands of "closet children" are seeking reparations and acknowledgment by the Swiss government of this violation of human rights.

In collaboration with her community of dancers and musicians, Emily Jacir addresses questions of family separations and fragmented communities, public and private space, and more broadly questions of acknowledgment and reparations. Drawing on rituals such as dance, processions, and games, the artist traces the way space, community and social affiliations foster collectivity and memory. Echoing her own personal history (like many Palestinians, she grew up in the Gulf the daughter of guest workers and was forced to leave her family at the age of fourteen), Emily Jacir summons images of community dances from the Salento region of Southern Italy, in

particular the *pizzica*, from the family of *tarentelle* dances, which have links to healing rituals, and which the artist has practiced for over a decade.

Thus, the silence imposed on children is contrasted with sound, solitude and confinement with the joy of rhythm and movement, living apart and in the shadows with gathering together in public spaces. Between those who are forced to whisper and those who can scream, between proximity and distance, between personal history and collective trauma, Emily Jacir gives form to historical memory through the fragmentary montage of images and sound.

With the participation of:

cinémathèque suisse



Lausanne, May 2023

Biography

Born 1972 in Santiago de Chile, lives and works in Rome and Bethlehem.

Emily Jacir is the founder and Director of Dar Yusuf Nasri Jacir for Art and Research in Bethlehem, Palestine. She teaches at NABA – Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti in Rome and The Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation in Abu Dhabi.

Education

- 1994 M.F.A., Memphis College of Art, Memphis, TN.
1998–1999 Whitney Independent Study Program, New York.

Recent solo shows (selection)

- 2021 *Not So Long as the Night*, Galleria Peola Simondi, Turin
2019 *Where We Come From*, Jaffe-Friede Gallery, Dartmouth College, Hanovre
2018 *La Mia Mappa*, Alexander and Bonin, New York
2015–2017 *Europa*, Whitechapel Gallery, Londres; The Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA), Dublin
2014–2015 *A star is as far as the eye can see and as near as my eye is to me*, Darat al Funun – The Khalid Shoman Foundation, Amman
2014 *intervals*, Alexander and Bonin, New York
2010 *affiliations*, Beirut Art Center, Beyrouth
2009 *Hugo Boss Prize*, Guggenheim Museum, New York

Recent group shows (selection)

- 2023 *Signals: How Video Transformed the World*, MoMA, New York
2022 *Manifesta 14*, Pristina
2021–2022 *Statements*, Palazzo della Ragione, Bergamo
2021–2022 *Church for Sale. Works from the Haubrok Collection and the Nationalgalerie Collection*, Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart, Berlin
2021 *L'altro, lo stesso*, ZACentrale, Palermo
2020 *PUSH THE LIMITS*, Fondazione Merz, Turin
2019–2020 *Crossing Lines, Constructing Home: Displacement and Belonging in Contemporary Art*, Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge Mass.
2019 *There'll Never Be a Door. You're Inside*, Sala de Arte Santander, Madrid

- 2019 *ÜberMauer, BAM – Biennial of the Mediterranean Archipelago*,
Palerme
- 2018–2019 *A Group Exhibition*, Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art,
Rotterdam
- 2018 *Nothing Stable Under Heaven*, San Francisco Museum of Mo-
dern Art, San Francisco
- 2017 *Together Apart, BIENALSUR: International Biennial of Contem-
porary Art of South America*, Cúcuta, Colombie
- 2017 *documenta 14*, EMST collection at the Fridericianum, Cassel
- 2016 *In the Belly of the Whale*, Witte de With, Rotterdam
- 2016–2017 *A Slow Succession with Many Interruptions: Art of the 21st
Century*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco
- 2014 *Ravaged: Art and Culture in Times of Conflict, M–Museum Leuven*
- 2012 *When Attitudes Became Form Become Attitudes*, CCA Wattis
Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco; Museum of
Contemporary Art, Detroit
- 2012 *dOCUMENTA (13)*, Cassel
- 2011 *Inshallah: The Future of a Promise*, 54^e Biennale de Venise, Venise
- 2011 *Plot for a Biennial*, Sharjah Biennial 10, Émirats arabes unis
- 2010 29^e Biennale de São Paulo, Brésil

Awards (selection)

- 2023 American Academy of Arts and Letters Award
- 2015 Rome Prize, The American Academy in Rome
- 2011 Alpert Award in the Arts, The Herb Alpert Foundation and Cali-
fornia Institute for the Arts, Santa Monica, California
- 2008 Hugo Boss Prize, Guggenheim Museum, New York
- 2007 Golden Lion, 52^e Biennale de Venise
- 2007 Prince Claus Award, Prince Claus Fund for Culture and
Development, La Haie

Curators of the exhibition

Nicole Schweizer, curator of contemporary art, MCBA

Publication

Nicole Schweizer (ed.), *Emily Jacir. We Ate the Wind*, with a text by Julia Bryan-Wilson (Fr./Eng.), 40 p., 20 ill.

Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts de Lausanne, 2023

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CHF 5.–

at the MCBA Book- and Giftshop:

shop.mcba@plateforme10.ch



Public engagement – Public outreach services

Reservation required for all events

→ www.mcba.ch

Guided tours for the Amis·es du MCBA (in French):

Tuesday 6 June at 12:30pm

Thursday 24 August at 6:00pm

With Nicole Schweizer

Guided tours (in French):

Thursday 15 June at 6:30pm

Tuesday 22 August at 12:30pm

With Nicole Schweizer

Press images

For download → mcba.ch/presse

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Portrait of Emily Jacir
Photo: John McRae



Emily Jacir, We Ate The Wind, 2023
Two-channel film installation, sound, 31'

Views of the exhibition



Captions to be reproduced:
View of the exhibition *Emily Jacir. We Ate the Wind*
at the Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts de Lausanne,
2023
© Emily Jacir
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All our press releases and press kits are available under:
→ mcba.ch/presse/

Press visit:
By appointment → presse.mcba@plateforme10.ch

Hours :
Tuesday-Sunday: 10am – 6pm
Thursday: 10am – 8pm
Monday: closed
1 August: 10am – 6pm

Admission:
Free
Tickets online → mcba.ch/billetterie

Access:
SBB Lausanne train station, 3 minutes on foot
Bus: 1, 3, 20, 21, 60, Gare stop
Bus: 6, Cecil stop
Metro: m2, Gare stop
Car: Montbenon parking, Reduced fee

Further information:
Access, hours → www.mcba.ch

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