

Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme: *May amnesia never kiss us on the mouth*

The multipart project *May amnesia never kiss us on the mouth* (2020–ongoing) examines how communities bear witness to violence, loss, displacement, and forced migration. Since the early 2010s, Abbas and Abou-Rahme have collected online videos of everyday people singing and dancing in communal spaces across Palestine, Iraq, Syria, and Yemen. Assembled in an online archive, these videos form the basis of *May amnesia*, which takes its title from the writer Roberto Bolaño’s 1976 “Infrarealist Manifesto.” According to the artists, through song and dance “these fractured communities are resisting their own erasure and laying claim to space, self, and collectivity once more.”

This multichannel sound and video installation, titled *Only sounds that tremble through us*, brings together samples from the archive with footage of new performances conceived by the artists with a dancer and a group of musicians in Palestine. This work considers performance—whether in the form of song, spoken word, dance, or gesture—a political act that responds to myriad forms of violence against entire communities.

May amnesia never kiss us on the mouth is co-commissioned by The Museum of Modern Art, New York, and Dia Art Foundation, New York.

Organized at MoMA by Martha Joseph, The Phyllis Ann and Walter Borten Assistant Curator of Media and Performance. Performances produced by Lizzie Gorfaine, Producer, and Ginny Benson, former Assistant Performance Coordinator, with the support of Olivia Rousey, Production Assistant, Performance and Live Programs.

Hyundai Card

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