

Not About Bombs—Artist Bios



Sama Alshaibi is an artist born in Basra, Iraq. Alshaibi's works evoke the language of suffering, displacement and loss. She often uses her own body as both a protagonist and a site, linking struggles and the way that nations have affected and twisted lives in bodily performances. Her auto-ethnographic approach is informed by her own history of living in war, the double negation to her familial homelands and her countless encounters with those policing borders from the undesired.

A photographer, video artist and accomplished filmmaker, Alshaibi has exhibited in over 20 countries.



Dena Al-Adeeb is an artist/scholar born in Baghdad, Iraq. Forced out of Iraq just before the Iraq/Iran War in 1980, she and her family escaped to Kuwait until the beginning of the 1991 Gulf War, when she was forced to relocate to San Francisco, California. She works in a variety of media including installation, performance, painting, sculpting, video, photography, sound, and writing. Her work explores the mappings of imagined and real memories, architecture objects and cityscapes.

Her work has been presented in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Oakland, Michigan, Sweden, Cairo, Dubai, Tunisia.



Julie Adnan is from Kirkuk, Iraq. She is a documentary photojournalist and artist producing both news images and conceptual images for exhibit. Adnan has worked for a number of agencies newspapers and websites including The New York Times, Reuters, National Geographic, Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, The Washington Post, Jordan Times, Taw photography magazine, Kakh magazine, Kurdistan New, Aso newspaper, Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR), Driknews agency, World News Network, BBC

World Website, IO Donna magazine of Italy and L'Express of France.



Sundus Abdul Hadi was born to Iraqi parents in the UAE in 1984 and raised in Montreal, Canada. As a painter and multi-media artist, Abdul Hadi works around the concepts of media representation, and subverting existing images. Her frequent stays in the Middle East inform much of her work, in juxtaposition to her critical consumption of Western media.

Her work has been featured and exhibited in the UAE, Palestine, Iraq, Australia, Canada and the US, with solo shows of her multimedia series “Warchestra” held in Toronto, and Ottawa.



Tamara Abdul Hadi was born to Iraqi parents in the UAE and raised in Montreal, Canada. After graduating with a Bachelor of Fine arts she moved to Dubai, UAE and began her photography career. Working at Reuters News Agency as a photojournalist and photo editor in 2005, she then went on to work for the New York Times, based out of the UAE. She continued working as a photojournalist in the Middle East region and has been published in The Guardian, The Wall Street Journal and The Financial Times to name a few.

Alongside her photojournalism work, Abdul Hadi created and gave photography workshops in Lebanon and Palestine, with the goal of giving empowerment to women and children through the creative arts. She chooses to focus on social change photography, to shed light on injustice, and document the details of the world around her. Abdul Hadi is a founding member of the photography collective, Rawiya, which consists of 6 women photographers based in the Middle East.