

1) Project/curatorial statement

Distant Divides (East and West: Beirut to Berlin)

Research Newspaper Publication

Beirut and Berlin share a history of interior division. From 1975-1990, Lebanon endured 15 years of civil war that saw the capital Beirut split into East and West by the 'Green Line', named after the vivacious plant life growing along it after heavy conflict made the area uninhabitable. Germany's version of this physical separation was the stark concrete wall running through its capital that came to symbolise the global disharmony at play during the Cold War.

Although both countries were experiencing their independent unrest, a route of exchange was established between them. This exchange was formed of social, economic, technological, and cultural components, the latter of which led to a number of artists embarking on the route from one divided land to another. In some cases, the reasons to leave were enforced, others were a personal rather than political choice. In the situation when bodies were not able to travel but objects were, a situation that persists today, artworks would venture alone. The artistic exchanges that prevailed throughout these moments of war, whether cold or violent, have entrenched a cultural dialogue between the two countries ever since.

The research project **Distant Divides (East and West: Beirut to Berlin)** documents the artistic exchange between Lebanon and Germany from the periods 1960-1990 and 1990 to today. By taking two specific geopolitical periods, the project questions the notion of exchange in and beyond a political vacuum: how can past cultural exchange between nations be compared and expanded upon? To what extent is artistic exchange in the context of migration a balanced process? How are independent experiences of division artistically shared?

To mark a point in the research process a newspaper publication has been created. Newspapers traditionally mark a day by rounding up prominent events and thoughts. By the next day, they have become a document of the past. This newspaper acts in the reverse, it takes moments from the past to create a document for the future.

The newspaper was produced for October 2020 to mark 30 years since German Reunification (Oct 3, 1990) and the implementation of the Ta'if agreement in Lebanon, which is observed as the ending of the Civil War (Oct 13, 1990).

2) List of artists and curators/organisers

Project initiated by Clementine Butler-Gallie

Artists featured:

Lotti Adāimi
Chaza Charafeddine
Mahmoud Dabdoub
Elisabeth Kraus
Martin Giesen
Arthur Laidlaw
Ghassan Salhab
Siska

Publication design by Taïs Bean

Read more: <https://www.clementinebutlergallie.com/east-and-west-beirut-to-berlin>

Read more about the research process published in an editorial by Arts Cabinet: <https://www.artscabinet.org/editorial/clementine-butler-gallie>

3) Image Captions

Please find each image saved under its image caption