

In Ramallah, Running

Guy Mannes-Abbott

Edited by Guy Mannes-Abbott and Samar Martha

Introduction by Jean Fisher

Contributions from Jananne al-Ani, Francis Alj's, Najwan Darwish, Emily Jacir, Olaf Nicolai, Paul Noble, Khalil Rabah, Adania Shibli, Mark Titchner, Sharif Waked.

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"I read it in one breath. A cunning simplicity of writing the complexity of today's Palestine, through the alleys, roads, streets, hills, valleys, days and evenings in and around Ramallah, charged me with love of the art of writing, of Palestine... You showed me my place and made me hear my story. I loved the piece without limits."

Mourid Barghouti, Palestinian Poet and author of classics memoirs; *I Saw Ramallah & I Was Born There, I Was Born Here*.

In Ramallah, Running represents Guy Mannes-Abbott's uniquely personal encounter with Palestine, interweaving short, highly condensed texts with longer, exploratory essays at the place. International artists and prominent writers have responded to the texts with newly commissioned works.

The principal text is a series in 14 parts, alternating running within the limits of the city and walking out from it to, along, beyond and off limits, discovering how insidiously mobile those limits are under Occupation. With singular style and compelling force, Mannes-Abbott generates a very special intimacy with a rarely seen or experienced Palestine; the actual place itself, the people in their place.

Jean Fisher contributes a substantial introductory essay, while the poet and critic Najwan Darwish and novelist Adania Shibli have written further captivating responses. Visual contributions include a project linked to a pair of paintings by Francis Alj's, drawings of stoney aridity with ambiguous structures by Paul Noble, and a searingly intimate journal-based piece by Emily Jacir.

Jananne al-Ani, Khalil Rabah and Mark Titchner contribute varying photography-based projects focused on the place and its relationship to the body and word. Olaf Nicolai contributes an angular text-based project and Sharif Waked highlights the abysmal ambiguities of the political context.

Special thanks are due to Charles Asprey, Zina Jardaneh and Rana Sadik.

For interviews/images/queries please contact:

Guy Mannes-Abbott guy@g-m-a.net and/or Samar Martha samar@artschoolpalestine.com

For press/review copies please contact:

Black Dog's press office on +44 [0] 207 713 5097 or via email press@blackdogonline.com

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