

Editor's Note

This book is unique in its approach and construction in an attempt to reflect the multilingual, multicultural world we live in. Acknowledging the three languages of Lebanese artists and filmmakers Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige, it is written in English, French and Arabic.

We have made every effort to present each language on its own terms – illustrating the essays with different images, assuming the multilingual reader will flip back and forth – while still enabling the languages to coexist as a cohesive whole. Although numbered sequentially from left to right, it is essentially a circular book with two beginnings, the Arabic section reading from right to left and meeting the French in the middle, which follows the English. The fourth language present in this book is the universal image. Images without captions are presented in two sections: one of bodies of the artists' work and one of works included in the travelling exhibition *Two Suns in a Sunset*. A detailed index can be found at the very end of each language section.

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Foreword

A substantial part of the work of Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige, as artists and filmmakers, consists in tracing out the obscure areas in the heart of images. Aware that each image consists both of what one sees and of blind spots or invisible liabilities, Hadjithomas and Joreige focus their investigations on highlighting this cohabitation of regimes of visibility and opacity, revealing their frictions and deficiencies and their consensuses or anomies, in order to activate other ways of seeing and feeling the reality around us.

Setting out from personal stories or narrations of micro and macro histories, mainly of their own country, Lebanon, they construct a work of montage and threading together of images, obtained from archives or filmed material and photographs taken by the artists themselves, inviting the viewer to pursue his or her own route between the seams of this new narrative corpus, which combines images with words, objects and cartographies. The coexistence of these different elements in the artists' work – considered as a whole – offers the possibility of connecting stories of the past with those of the present and thus discovering many contemporary resonances related to themes such as the marks and wounds of conflicts in territories, the limits of utopia, the writing of contemporary history and the fabrication of imaginaries and representations.

The Sharjah Art Foundation; Jeu de Paume, Paris; Haus der Kunst, Munich and Institut Valencià d'Art Modern take pleasure in presenting a monographic exhibition of the work of Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige, entitled *Two Suns in a Sunset* in English, *Se souvenir de la lumière* in French and شمسان في المغرب in Arabic. The book accompanying this

exhibition is voluntarily trilingual (Arabic, French and English) to reflect the languages used by the artists. It is a journey which presents some of the most significant works in their artistic and cinematographic oeuvre, including a detailed tour of those works presented in the exhibition. On behalf of our four institutions we wish to express our special gratitude to Joana and Khalil for their enthusiastic involvement in the coproduction of this show. Our deepest thanks also go to the authors of this catalogue, Philippe Azoury, Omar Berrada, Boris Groys, Nat Muller, Anna Schneider and Brian Kuan Wood, and to the institutions, galleries and collectors whose loans have made this exhibition and its presentation in these four cities possible.

Hoor Al Qasimi

Director of the Sharjah Art Foundation

José Miguel G. Cortés

Director of the Institut Valencià d'Art Modern

Okwui Enwezor

Director of the Haus der Kunst, Munich

Marta Gili

Director of the Jeu de Paume, Paris

Translated from the Spanish by Karel Clapshaw