



**LEEDS
ARTS RESEARCH
CENTRE**

SEWING BORDERS

DR MOHAMAD HAFEDA,

READER IN ARCHITECTURE

OUTPUT INFORMATION

Title:
Sewing Borders

Output Type:
Q - Digital or visual media

Publisher:
Ashkal Alwan

Year:
2017

Research Groups:
Participatory Practice



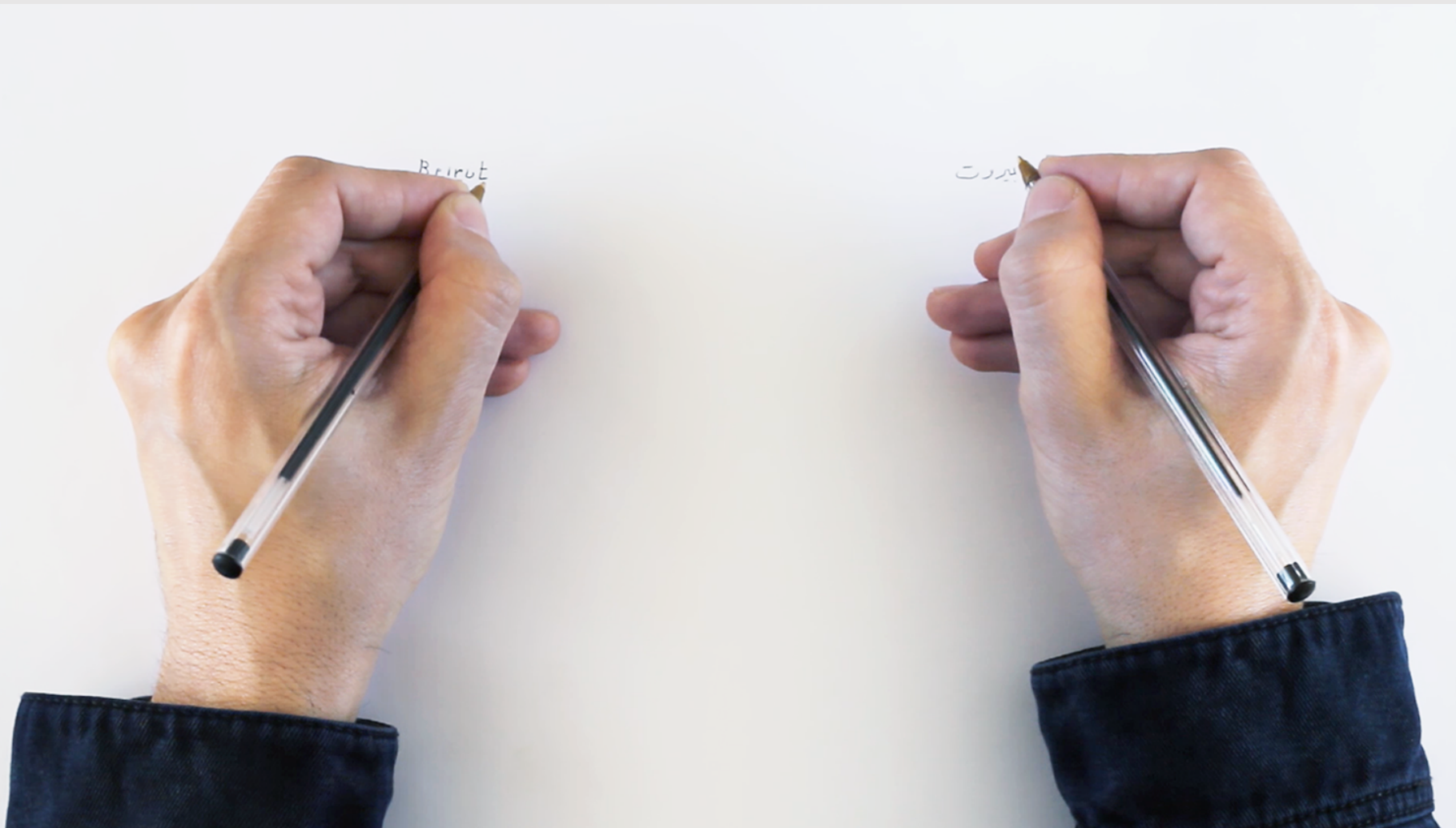
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION STATEMENT

'Sewing Borders' explores the representations of borders in the form of drawing techniques and political procedures as well as individuals' narratives of borders. It responds to the continuous displacement of people in the Middle East and the perception of refugees in the media and formal politics as an 'attack' on the host countries. The film asks: What are the current and historic mechanisms that sustain borders and the displacement of communities?

The film works with a group of displaced people in Lebanon and employs the participants' skill of sewing to add their own borders onto political maps. It uses colonial documents and treaties that are significant to the making of today's Middle East, addressing the temporal dimension of its borders.

Commissioned by Ashkal Alwan as a result of Hafeda's substantial research on borders, 'Sewing Borders' reached international audiences through its invitation to the International Film Festival Rotterdam (2018), Queer Lisboa International Film Festival (2018), art galleries (Beirut Art Center, 2017), screenings and panel discussions (Mosaic Rooms, London, 2017).

The film's significance is in allowing the protagonists, often silenced, in taking part in the construction of their own representation. It has been shaping international art curatorial programmes such as the 'Living Room' exhibition at ISCP, New York (2019), and 'Screening: Horizon/tal' at City Gallery Wellington, New Zealand (2019). Notable praise for 'Sewing Borders' includes: 'This is an extraordinary piece of work.. an immensely complex [film] which does quiet justice to this complex subject' (Michaela Crimmin, Curator and educator at RCA); 'The way [the film] relates to the day-to day-life of an entire community is amazing' (Laila Alodaat, Director at Women's International League for Peace and Freedom); 'the film's narrative is not only poetic but useful.. it is absolutely timely' (Professor Camillo Boano, Director of the UCL Urban Laboratory).



Film still from *Sewing Borders*

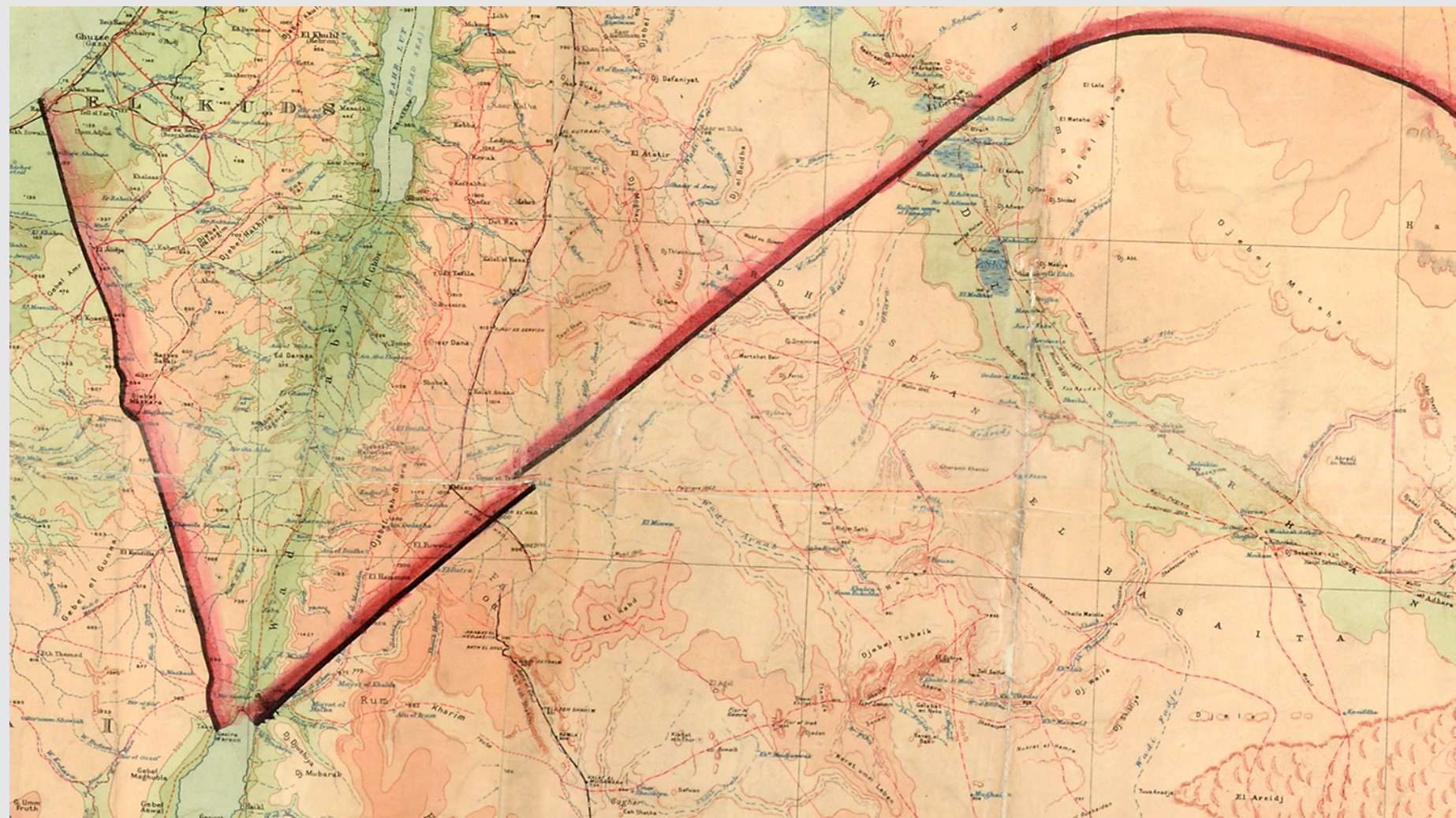
Film still from *Sewing Borders*



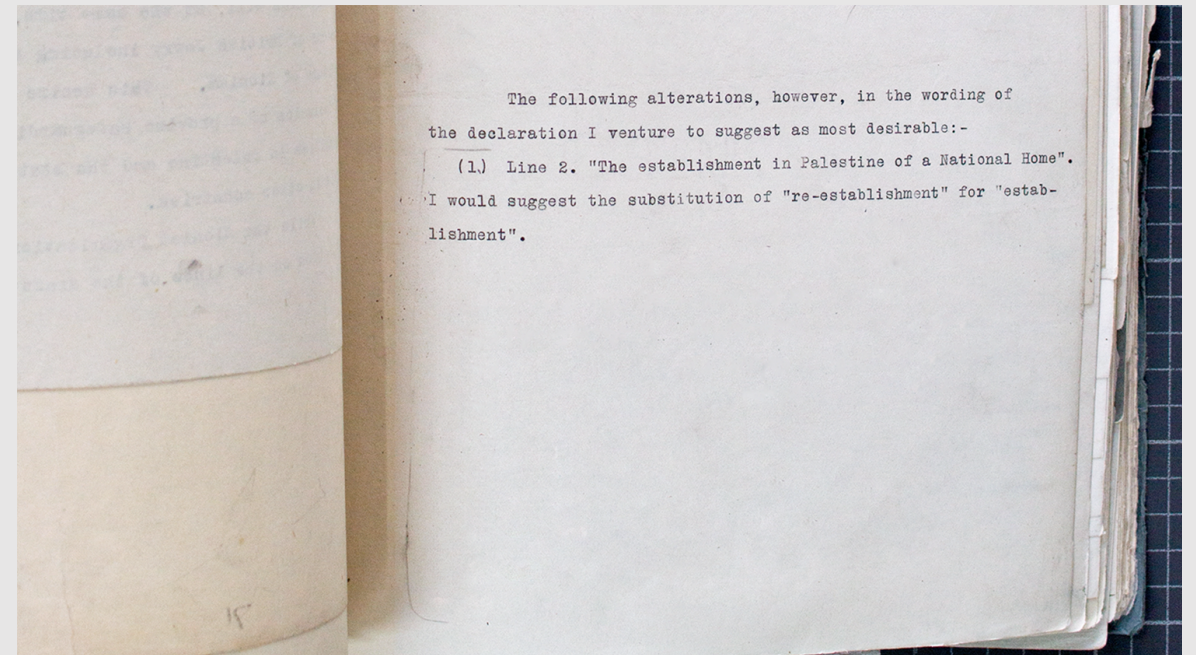
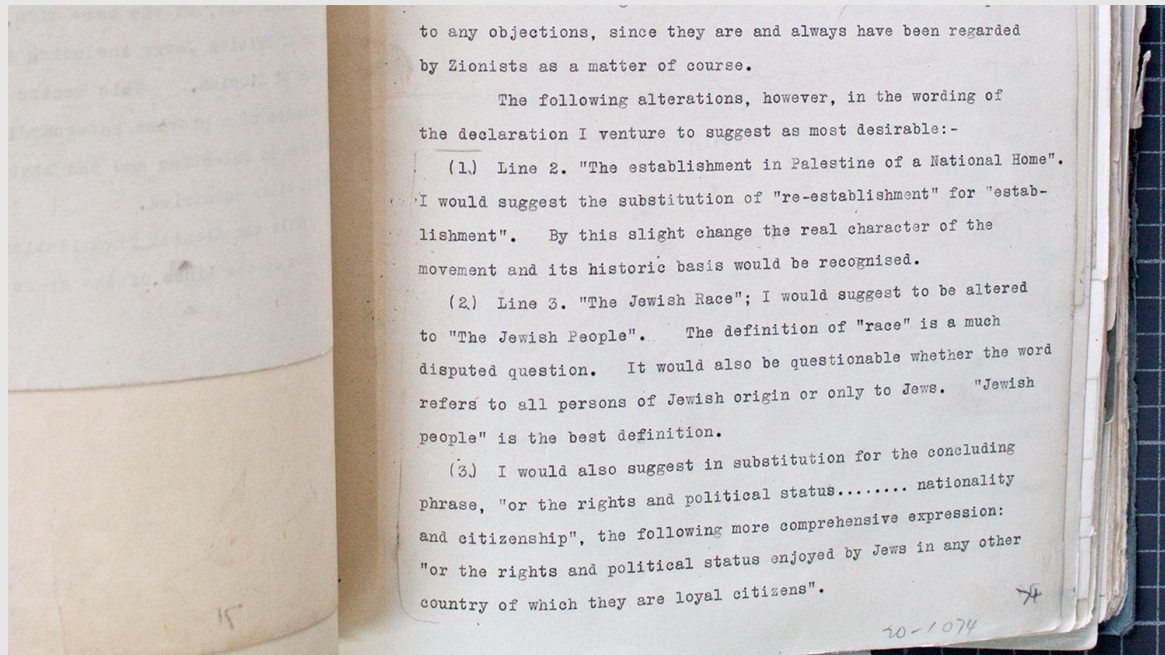


- Do you recognize these countries?
- Yes

Film stills from *Sewing Borders*



Film still from *Sewing Borders*



Film stills from *Sewing Borders*

Film still from *Sewing Borders*



And it is on the road to Damascus that I come and go

Keywords:

Bordering Practices

Middle East

Participatory Practice

Links:

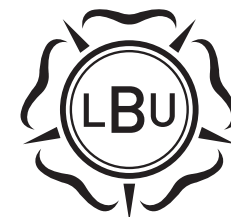
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