

Imagining Absence

Film and the Politics of
Disappearance in
Colombia and Lebanon



No one will see this photo?!

© 2018 Ghassan Halwani

Z hdk
Zürcher Hochschule der Künste
Zürich University of the Arts

CONTESTED
AMNESIA
TYPACOSIS
EIN TÄUSCHUNG

Post-positiv
Choreografie
ART
Archives

Collegium
Helveticum
Epistemologien ästhetischer Praktiken

Universität
Zürich

Latinamerika-Zentrum Zürich | Zentrum Künste und Kulturtheorie

Film Screening and Discussion
March 7, 2020, 3–7pm

Kino Toni, ZHdK
Toni-Areal, Pfingstweidstrasse 96
8005 Zurich

A disappearance is real only when it is apparitional.
(Avery Gordon)

Whenever something can be seen in an image, something else disappears. And yet, its absence remains present. How is it that we sense something not only despite, but precisely because it keeps being concealed? How can something be unseeably visible?

Making people disappear is a common, violent practice in the context of past and present armed conflicts in Lebanon and Colombia. Not only people, but also their traces, recollections, and landscapes holding their bodies have been made invisible as a strategy of erasure and oblivion, leading to an all-encompassing concealment of information, images, archives, meanings and layers of reality.

Claudia Salamanca (Colombia) and Ghassan Halwani (Lebanon) propose artistic interventions in this void. Their essay films challenge the fragile balance of absence and presence in visual representation, unsettling scars and memories. They provide different figurations and transformations of visible absence, understanding imagination as a gesture of thinking the absence as image.

Saturday, March 7, 2020, 3-7pm

Film Screening

ERASED, __ASCENT OF THE INVISIBLE

Ghassan Halwani, Lebanon 2018, 76'

30 SECONDS

Claudia Salamanca, Colombia 2010, 8'

MATERIAL EVIDENCE

Claudia Salamanca, Colombia 2010, 8'

ECONOMÍAS DE IMÁGENES DE LA GUERRA

Claudia Salamanca, Colombia 2019, 9'

Discussion with the filmmakers, Fabienne Liptay (UZH)
& Eduardo Jorge de Oliveira (UZH)

Free entry.

Organized by

Iris Frauneder and María Ordóñez (UZH, SNSF-project:
"Contested Amnesia and Dissonant Narratives in the Global South")

Imagining Absence

Film and the Politics of
Disappearance in
Colombia and Lebanon