

Hush

Israel Palestine 2000-2014

Noa Ben-Shalom

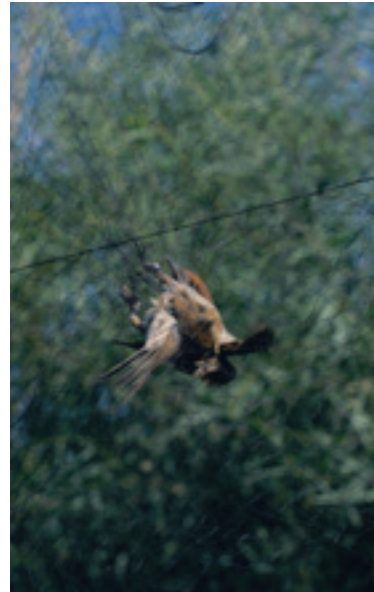
Sternthal Books is proud to celebrate the launch of Noa Ben-Shalom's *Hush: Israel Palestine 2000 - 2014* with a reading and launch party which will be hosted on July 9th at 8PM at The Migdal-Or, Tel-Aviv's renowned art book shop. The launch is open to the public, and will feature a brief artist talk, readings from the book in Arabic, Hebrew, and English, as well as drinks and a multimedia photography presentation.

Hush is the eleventh edition to be published by the Montreal based art book press, and it features over 130 photographs documenting the Israeli-Palestinian conflict made by Ben-Shalom over a fourteen year period. Ben-Shalom turns her camera away from the more obvious scenes of direct violence in order to focus on the subtle ways this conflict has permeated all aspects of life in Israel.

The images are accompanied by letters and emails written by the photographer, printed in Hebrew, English, and Arabic. The correspondence provides both a socio-political context for the images, as well as a window into the emotional experience of the artist as witness. Hush enables a quiet moment of introspection within a landscape in which the absurd has become the norm.

The resulting compendium tells the story of a society living through a recurring loop of violent outbursts, in which, time and again, life is shattered into pieces and reconstructed. It is a photo book that deals with the long lasting effects of an apparently never-ending conflict, passed on by generations.





October 2012

Dear Robin,

I think I can relate to practically every word you write. I force myself to work, and besides that there are, of course, my lessons in Hungarian with Esther the teacher, for my application for a Hungarian passport. I'm reading a book about Communists in Hungary during World War 2. The author, Sandor Marai, writes of how he became indifferent: "I realized I had become indifferent to everything. Indifference is a dangerous thing. It is immoral and a contradiction to life. Until then, I had never been indifferent. I lived one thing or another, in my own way, but I had never known indifference. I looked at myself and then looked around, and was amazed at what had happened to me. Only later did I realize: I had become indifferent because I was constantly surrounded by evil, stupidity, and injustice."

I read that and thought about life here, about the people surrounding me, and about myself. I thought about how the evil, the stupidity and the injustice surrounding us affect us, and how, if at all, I can protect myself from them.

Noa