

## Seminar 6: Art & Memory in Lebanon



Saloua Raouda Choucair (b 1916):  
Composition in blue. 1947



Paul Guiragossian (b 1926):  
Mother and Child, 1955



**Lebanese classical and  
modern painting  
before the war was  
oriented towards  
Westernized audiences**



# The Lebanese Civil War



1975-1990: 120 - 150.000 people killed, 1.000.000 flee abroad

Country falls apart in religious communities

occupied by Syria and Israel, Hezbollah remains armed

1991: Amnesty law for all crimes committed during the war

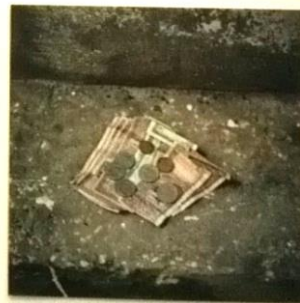
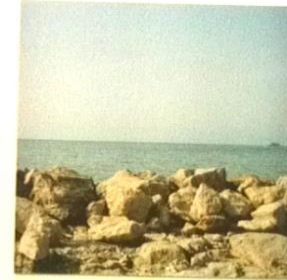
Leftist forces have been decimated; new government, with Saudi, WB and diaspora business community funding, embarks on a neoliberal reconstruction drive (Solidere) privatizing the economy

⇒ *Tabula rasa and national amnesia*

⇒ *Tensions (Syria, Israel, Hezbollah, etc) remain, ready to erupt*

**Palestinian Fatah militias, 1979**

Dalia Khamissy:  
*17000 missing:*  
*a Nation in*  
*Denial*



Thousands of people were kidnapped during the Lebanese civil war. In 1982 Christian militants rounded up four of Amina's sons – the youngest was just 13 years old. She never saw them again.

How does Dalia capture Amina's chaotic memories, and the relentless hope and fear that she's had since the day they disappeared?



Raed Yassin, 2012







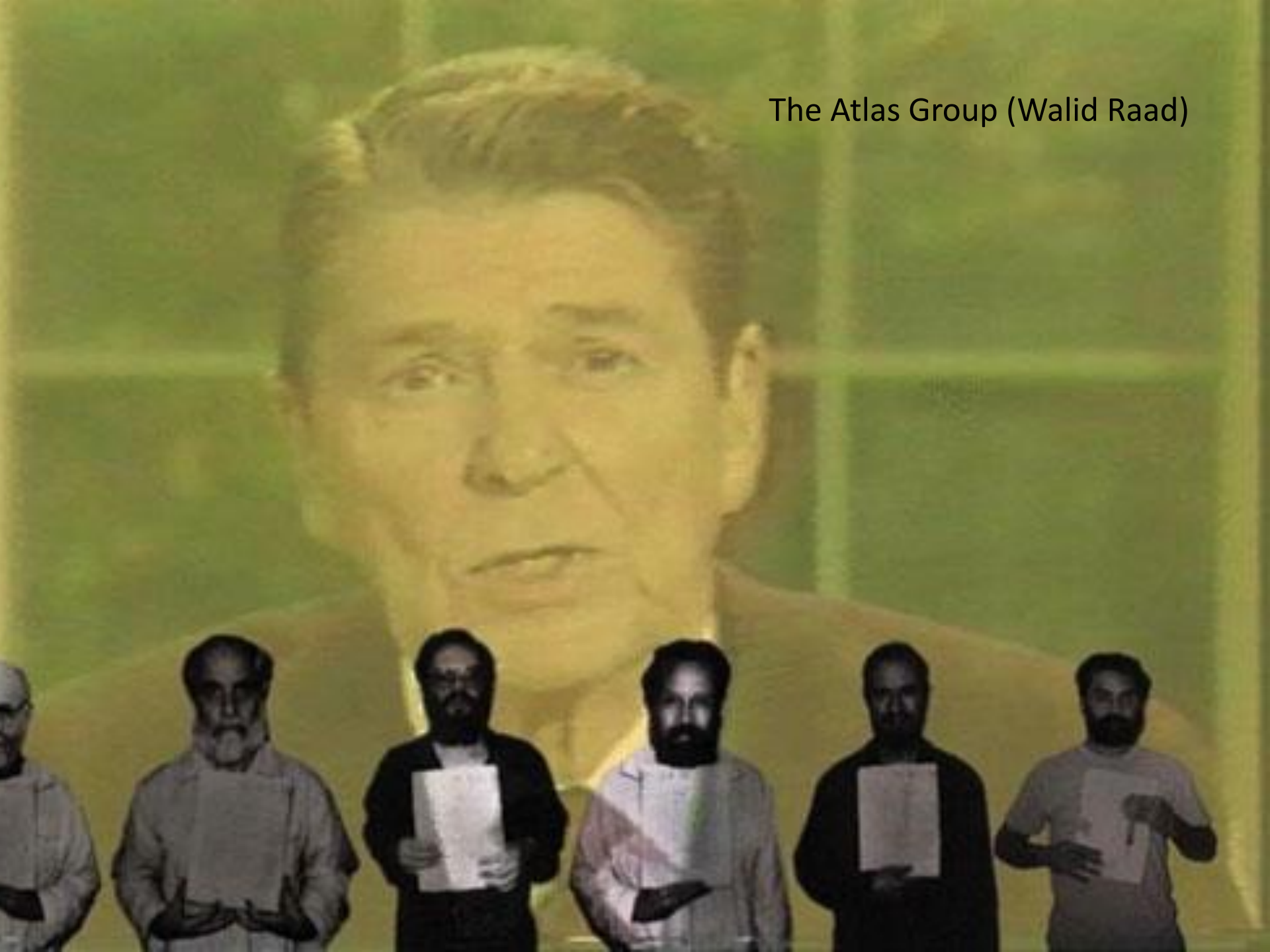
Akram Zaatari: [Letter to a Refusing Pilot](#)



# The Atlas Group Archive (1989+)

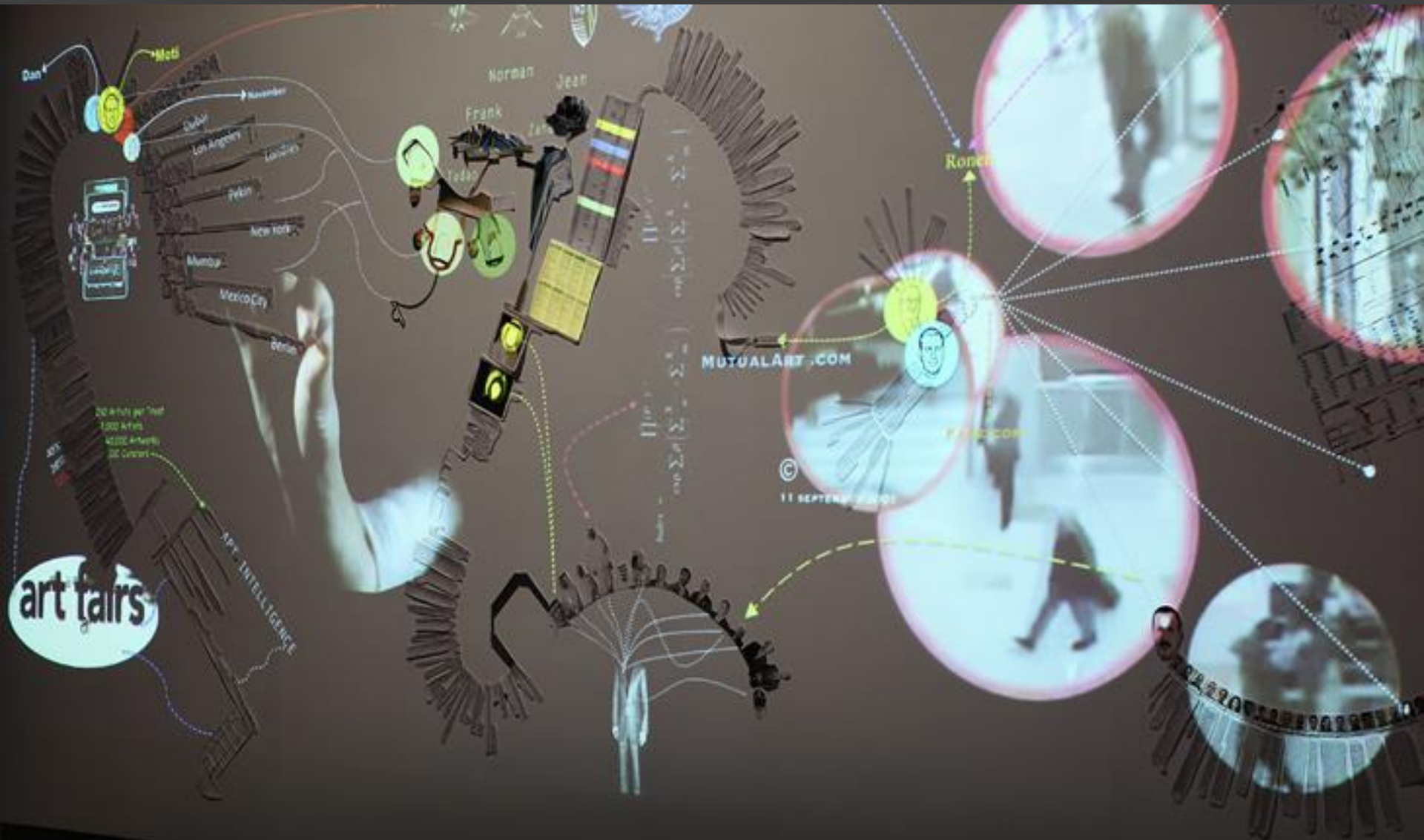


# The Atlas Group (Walid Raad)





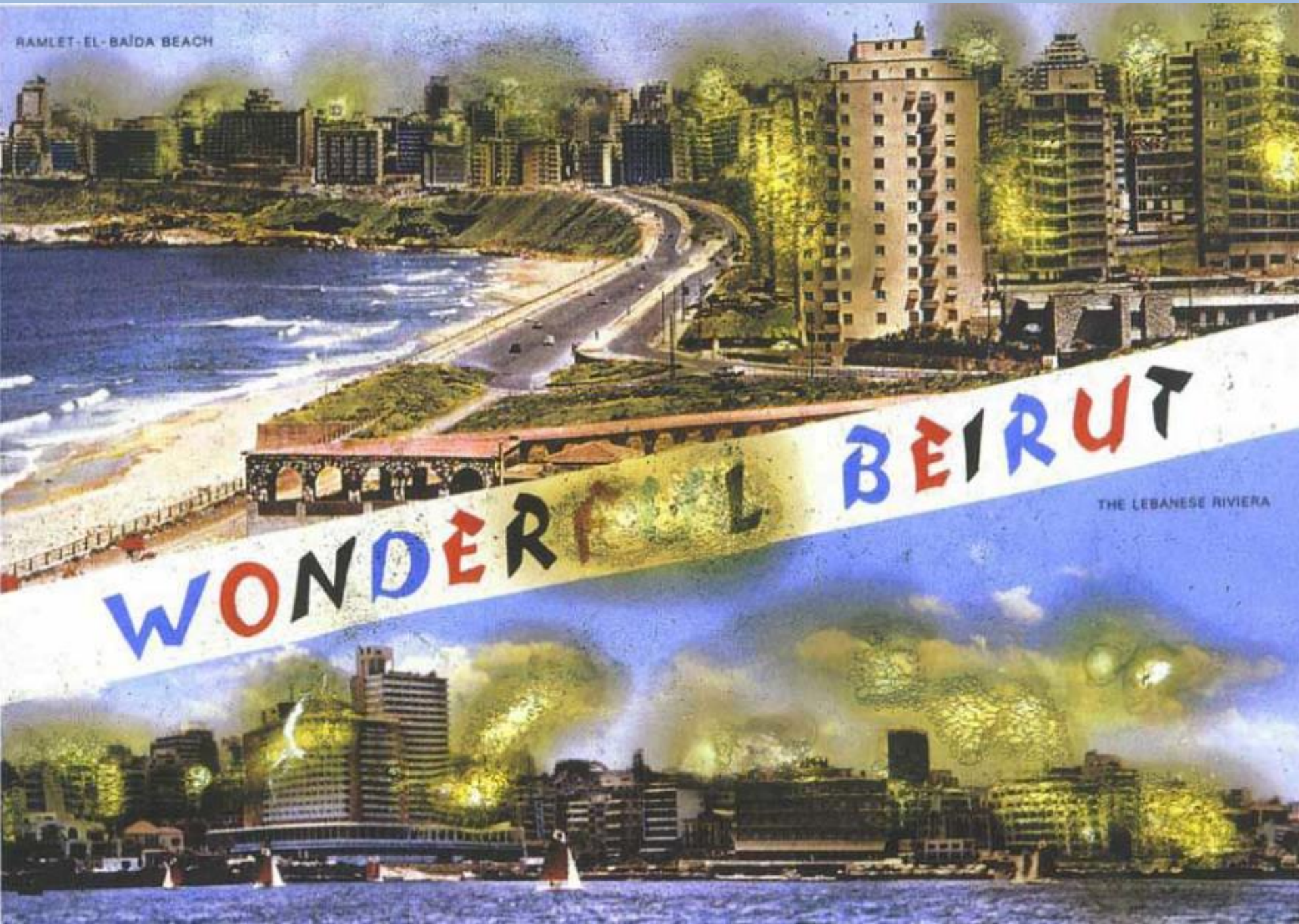
# Walid Raad: Scratching on things I could disavow: a history of art in the Arab World (2007+)



Walid Raad, Scratching on Things I Could Disavow;  
Index XXVI: Blue and Green and Yellow and Red and Orange







RAMLET-EL-BAIDA BEACH

WONDER

BEIRUT

THE LEBANESE RIVIERA



# The Battle of the Hotels (Beirut, 1975-76)





The fictional photographer then starts burning his negatives according to his own desires



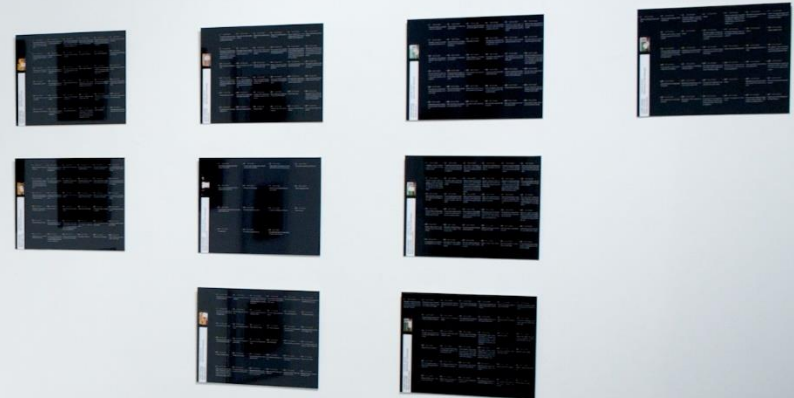


## Wonderful Beirut, part 2: The Postcards





## Wonderful Beirut, part 3: Latent Images



## Joreige & Hadjithomas: FACES



*Photographs of martyrs at varying stages of disappearance, then using graphic techniques to reconstitute some of the traits*







# The lecture-performance





*Rabih Mroue: The Pixelated Revolution  
(lecture performance, 2012)*



## Rabih Mroue: Je veux voir (2008)





Ziad Antar



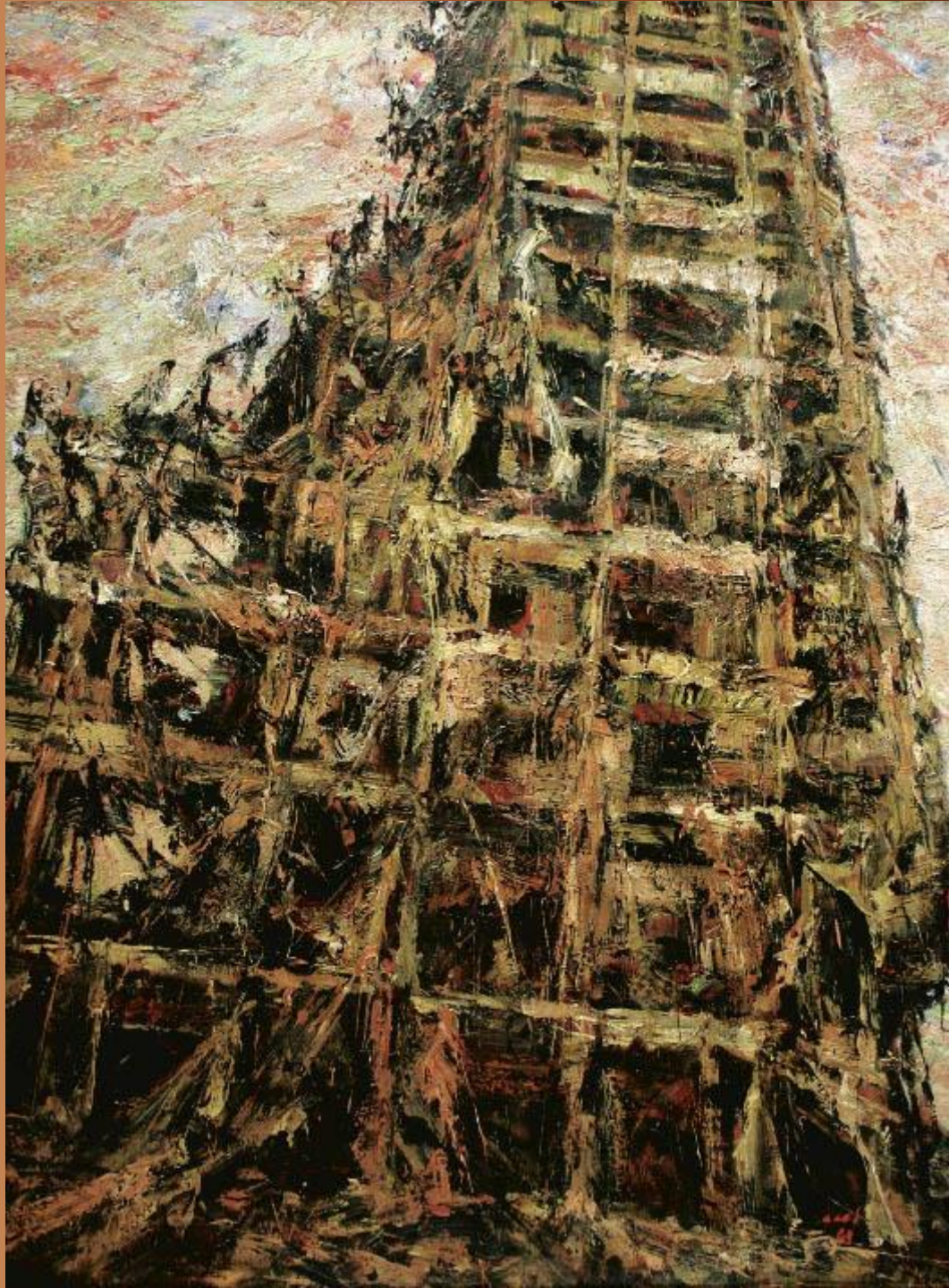
Lata and Shandima, August 4, 2006

Products of War

# Rania Matar: the Child-Woman







Let A Thousand Flowers Bloom sold in an auction for over 200.000 USD at Christies in Dubai in 2011