

Aperture Spring 2015

Sama Alshaibi: Sand Rushes In

Edited and with an interview by Isabella Ellaheh Hughes

Foreword by Salwa Mikdadi and essay by Alfredo Cramerotti



Sama Alshaibi: Sand Rushes In

Edited and with an interview by Isabella Ellaheh Hughes

Foreword by Salwa Mikdadi and essay by Alfredo Cramerotti

- Strong, original female voice, at the forefront of contemporary photography from North Africa and West Asia
- Includes Alshaibi's groundbreaking photographs presented at the 2013 Venice Biennale
- Compelling art object for contemporary art enthusiasts

Sama Alshaibi: Sand Rushes In, the first book by this rising artist, presents work from *Silsila*, a video and photographic installation that premiered at the 2013 Venice Biennale, as well as other series. Alshaibi's lyrical multimedia work explores the landscape of conflict: the ongoing competition for land, resources, and power in North Africa and West Asia, and the internal battle for control between fear and fearlessness. Additional material, selected from the artist's series *Negative's Capable Hands*, *Collapse*, and *Thowra*, is presented in the context of *Silsila*, meaning "chain" or "link" in Arabic. The artist uses the desert, borders, and the body as overarching symbols of the geopolitical and environmental issues and histories linking the Arab-speaking world.

Alshaibi operates between the United States, western Asia, and North Africa. Much of her work is inspired by and shot onsite in distinct natural landscapes, from the Western Sahara of North Africa to the eastern Arabian Desert on the edges of Iraq—highlighting the jarring contrast between desert and fertile oasis. Alshaibi is often a protagonist in the work, taking on the guise of distinct yet interrelated characters. Edited by Isabella Ellaheh Hughes, a writer and curator based in Abu Dhabi and Honolulu, this book includes an interview between Hughes and Alshaibi, a foreword by Salwa Mikdadi, and an essay by Alfredo Cramerotti.

Sama Alshaibi (born in Basra, Iraq, 1973) has exhibited in numerous biennials, museums, and institutions, including at the Maldives Pavilion of the 55th Venice Biennale, 2013; Museum of Modern Art, New York; FotoFest, Houston; and the Arab World Institute, Paris. She is a Fulbright Scholar, has been an artist-in-residence at various locations worldwide, has been awarded two national teaching awards, and was granted the title of University of Arizona's 1885 Society Distinguished Scholar. Alshaibi is the chair and associate professor of photography and video art at the University of Arizona. She is represented by Ayyam Gallery.

Isabella Ellaheh Hughes (editor and interview) is an independent curator, critic, and contributing editor to *ArtAsiaPacific*. She has curated many shows internationally and is the cofounder of the Honolulu Biennial Foundation.

Salwa Mikdadi (foreword) is an art historian and independent curator. She is the coeditor of *New Visions Arab Contemporary Art in the 21st Century*, and was the curator for the first Palestinian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2009.

Alfredo Cramerotti (essay) is a writer, curator, editor, and artist based in Wales. He is director of MOSTYN, the largest art gallery in Wales, and editor of the *Critical Photography* series published by Intellect Books.



9 ½ x 12 ½ in. (24.1 x 31.8 cm)

112 pages

102 four-color photographs and video stills

Clothbound with jacket

ISBN 978-1-59711-308-3

\$80.00/£50.00

March 2015

Exhibition Schedule:

Art Dubai, March 2015

Ayyam Gallery, London, March 2015

Arab American National Museum, Dearborn, Michigan, May 2015

For Sales and Marketing, please contact:

Kellie McLaughlin

+1.212.946.7130

kmclaughlin@aperture.org

For Media, please contact:

Barbara Escobar

+1.212.946.7123

bescobar@aperture.org

Distributed in the U.S. and Canada by:

artbook | D.A.P.

155 Sixth Avenue, 2nd Floor

New York, N.Y. 10012

T: +1.800.338.2665

F: +1.212.627.9484

orders@dapinc.com

www.artbook.com



Aperture Foundation 547 West 27th Street, 4th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10001

212.505.5555 aperture.org