



*Reflections on
Palestinian Art*

Art of Resistance or Aesthetics

By:

Faten Nastas Mitwasi

Since artists are visual historians, they visualize history and offer those visualizations as art to be contemplated and interpreted by others. In this book, Faten Nastas Mitwasi views Palestinian history through the lens of art. She presents an excellent overview of Palestinian art and, more importantly, she analyzes it in the context of the different historical phases in which it was produced. Nastas presents a brief account of the development of Palestinian art throughout history, but her primary focus is on Palestinian art produced during the 20th century and beginning of 21st century. This book offers in-depth reflections and examines the works of contemporary Palestinian artists in relation to the poetry of Mahmoud Darwish, the art theory of Jacques Rancière and other theories that raise questions about aesthetics, resistance, history, nationality, identity, belonging and hybridity. A special emphasis is given to four young Palestinian artists who work through photography and new media; Steve Sabella, Sharif Wakid, Larissa Sansour and the author herself.

Art is a mode of understanding. It visualizes what often cannot be said in words. Nastas has provided Palestinian art as another way of knowing about what is happening to the Palestinian people. That alone makes this important reading.

Faten Nastas Mitwasi

Born and lives in Bethlehem, Palestine, she is the chairperson of the visual arts department at Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts & Culture in Bethlehem. She lectures extensively on Palestinian Art; and is the author of numerous articles as well as the book *An Artist from Palestine: Sliman Mansour (1918-88)*. She is an installation artist who utilizes both hand-made and ready-made objects. Past works have incorporated texts, rare diary pages, and delicate pieces involving embroidery and crafted paper, as well as photographs, audio and video films. Her main concepts are around "home", "identity" and "fragmentation". Her work has been exhibited in Sweden, Scotland, Germany, Japan, U.S.A, and throughout the Middle East.



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