

Basma al-Sharif

Semi-Nomadic

Dept-Ridden

Bedouins

May 24 — July 19, 2025
Opening: May 24, 3pm-8pm



Imane Farès

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Basma al-Sharif

Works and lives in Berlin



Basma al-Sharif (b. 1983) is a Palestinian artist working in cinema and installation. She developed her practice nomadically between the Middle East, Europe, and North America and is currently based in Berlin. Her practice looks at cyclical political conflicts and confronts the legacy of colonialism through satirical, immersive, and lyrical works.

She received an MFA from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2007, was a resident of the Fondazione Antonio Ratti in 2009, and the Pavillon Neuflyze OBC at the Palais de Tokyo in 2014-15. She received a Jury prize at the Sharjah Biennial in 2009, the Visual Arts Grant from the Fundación Botín in 2010, Mophradat's Consortium Commissions in 2018, and is currently a fellow of the Berlin Artistic Research Grant Programme for 2022-2023. In 2024, Basma al-Sharif was nominated for the Aware Award.

Al-Sharif's major exhibitions include: The Hannah Ryggen Triennial, *The Place I was Condemned to Live*, de Appel Amsterdam, the 5th edition of Kochi-Muziris Biennale, the Ruttenberg Contemporary Photography Series for the Museum of the Art Institute of Chicago, *Modern Mondays* at MOMA, CCA Glasgow, the Whitney Biennial, *Here and Elsewhere* at the New Museum, Berlin Documentary Forum, and Manifesta 8. Her films have been screened in the international film festivals of Locarno, Berlin, Mar del Plata, Milan, London, Toronto, New York, Montreal, and Yamagata amongst others. Her first exhibition at Imane Farès, *On Love & Other Landscapes*, with Yazan Khalili, was held in 2013.

In 2025 Basma al-Sharif will be part of the Göteborg Biennial. Her monograph *Semi-Nomadic Debt-Ridden Bedouins* will be published by Lenz in May 2025.

Semi–Nomadic Debt–Ridden Bedouins

May 24 — July 19, 2025

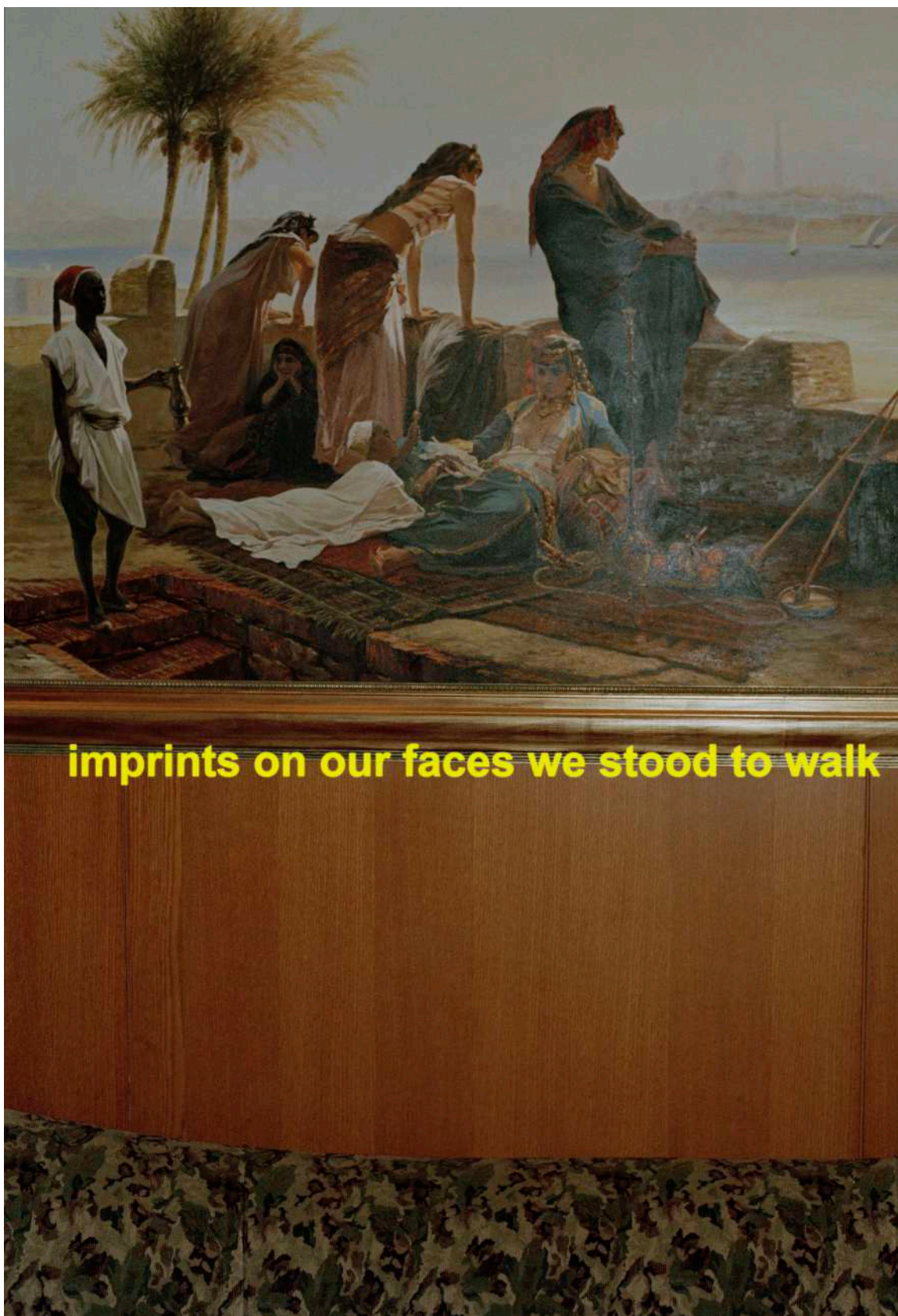
I came across the phrase “Semi-Nomadic Debt-Ridden Bedouins” in Zionist propaganda, as a description of Palestinians that was meant to legitimize colonizing our land and ethnically cleansing us. {...} I used those same five words: “Semi-Nomadic Debt-Ridden Bedouins” at the end of a long sentence, superimposed over a series of images, as part of a work I produced while I was a student in Chicago in 2006. Back then, I was obsessed with the idea that the way a story is told is the story itself. This led me to think that I could change the way the story of my people was being told. {...}

Basma al-Sharif, *Semi-Nomadic Debt-Ridden Bedouins*, Lenz Press, 2025

Spread across 12 images, *Semi-Nomadic Debt-Ridden Bedouin* (2006) abstractly recounts the massacre of a young girl’s entire family on a beach in Gaza in 2006. Throughout the series, the artist invited viewers to make sense of a story without a clear beginning or end. Over the following two decades, Basma al-Sharif has continued to develop her artistic practice between the United States, Europe, and the Arabic-speaking world — always in orbit around Palestine. She approaches her country of origin from elsewhere, through other narratives, other voices, and at times from within, shifting the struggle beyond its immediate urgency and inscribing it into a broader memory, woven with echoes and resistance. Rather than fixing violence in images, she conveys its breath — a subterranean, intimate violence, marked by loss, silence, and a refusal to yield.

On the occasion of the publication of her first monograph, Basma al-Sharif revisits this initial series and introduces a new collection of images. Titled *After Image* (2025), it brings together smaller, domestic, and transportable photographs that serve as a starting point for reflecting on the future. Composed from her personal archives and expanded with new photographs, this narrative suite — akin to a travel album — documents the architectures, seas, scents, tastes, and cities that have shaped the artist’s life, and reinterprets the myth of the semi-nomadic, debt-ridden Bedouin in the present day.

For the opening, a conversation will take place on May 24 at 5pm with Basma al-Sharif, Eyal Weizman (founder of Forensic Architecture), and author Karim Kattan.

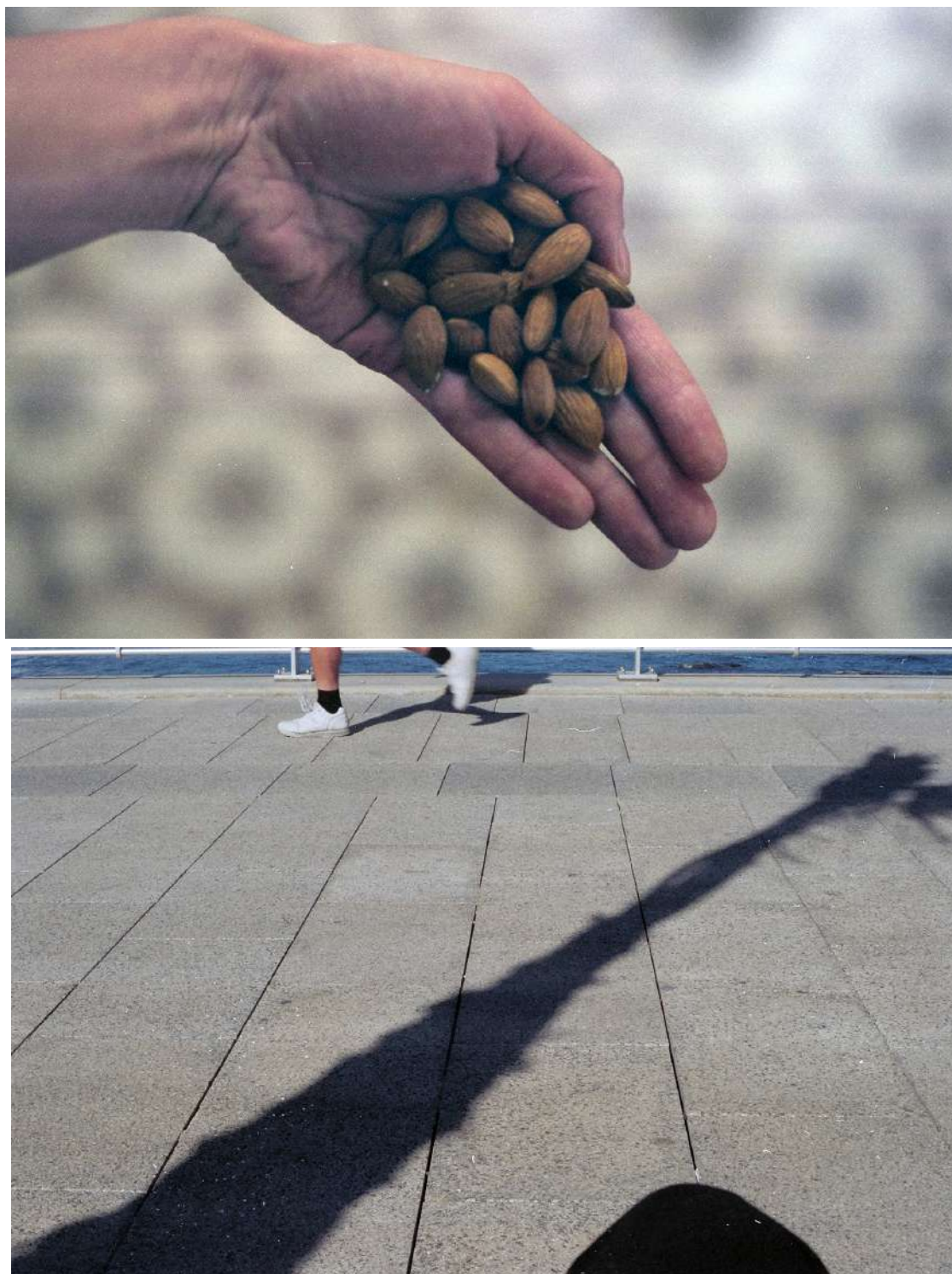


imprints on our faces we stood to walk

Basma al-Sharif, *Semi-Nomadic Dept-Ridden Bedouins*, 2006

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Basma al-Sharif, *After Image*, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

Imane Farès represents Sinzo Aanza, Basma al-Sharif, Sammy Baloji, Minia Biabiany, Ali Cherri, Emeka Ogboh, Younès Rahmoun, James Webb.

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Galerie Imane Farès
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Tuesday to Saturday, 11am to 7pm.