



FROM PALESTINE TO ISRAEL

A Photographic Record of Destruction and State
Formation 1947-50

Curated by Ariella Azoulay

04.11.11 - 25.11.11



IDF and Defense Archive (Source: IDF Maps and Photographs Service), November 9, 1948

From Palestine to Israel

A Photographic Record of Destruction and State Formation 1947-50

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The Mosaic Rooms are pleased to present **From Palestine to Israel, A Photographic Record of Destruction and State Formation 1947-50**, an astonishing photographic exhibition curated by acclaimed visual theorist and curator Ariella Azoulay. The exhibition documents a critical four year period in the history of Palestine/Israel, 1947-1950 and features over 200 photographs mainly from the Israeli State archive, many of which have never been seen outside of Israel. This collection offers further insight into the first years of the Israeli state and its relationship with the remaining Palestinians.

The images are accompanied by in depth textual analysis. At times referencing the official descriptions issued for the photographs in the state archives, the images are re-contextualised based on Azoulay's extensive research into the period. Often providing contrasting or probing interpretations, this body of work presents a record of the period previously ignored or only partially acknowledged by the West. It also reveals the power of documentary photography and its associated narrative in the (mis) representation of historical events and in the creation of political entities.

This unique exhibition coincides with the publication of Azoulay's accompanying book, **From Palestine to Israel: A Photographic Record of Destruction and State Formation, 1947-1950**, by Pluto Press.

Ariella Azoulay comments: "The constituent violence recorded in photos from these years should not be mistakenly and anachronistically read as signs of unavoidable national conflict. What was and still is truly unavoidable is not national conflict, but rather co-existence of Jews and Palestinians in a shared territory and the open space for a variety of forms to shape, practice, express and represent this co-existence. The past cannot be changed perhaps, except in this sense: it can be shown to be incomplete, the closures it seemingly imposed can be reopened, dormant potentialities can surface again and transform the present horizon of the political imagination, for the sake of moulding a still indeterminate future."

Ariella Azoulay directs the Photo-Lexic project at the Minerva Humanities Centre at Tel Aviv University, Israel. She is the author of **Civil Imagination: Political Ontology of Photography** (forthcoming, 2012), **The Civil Contract of Photography** (2008), **Once Upon a Time: Photography Following Walter Benjamin** (2006) and **Death's Showcase: The Power of Image in Contemporary Democracy** (2001). She won the 2002 Infinity Award for Writing, presented by the International Centre for Photography, for excellence in the field of writing on photography.

Pursuing the path that she has uniquely laid down in relation to the civil contract of photography, Ariella Azoulay turns her attention to the formation of the State of Israel and its devastating consequences for the Palestinian people. From deep inside the archive of Israel's own historical records, she brings to light the photographic documents of that moment, eliciting from them their violent unspoken histories. Her readings will be debated and contested, but there can be no question that she has written a new chapter in the history of what she calls the civil imagination, the ability of the excluded, oppressed and exiled to seize a potential future out of the regime-made disasters of the modern world. From Palestine to Israel will confirm Azoulay's status as one of the politically boldest theorists at work in the field of visual studies today. **Professor Jacqueline Rose**

Parallel Programme of Talks

The exhibition will be accompanied by this series of talks on the relationship between archival photography, film and the writing (or re-writing) of history.

- **Saturday 5 November, 12pm:** Curator's talk- **Ariella Azoulay**
- **Friday 11 November, 2-3pm and 7pm:** 'Out of the Archive: a case study from Mandate Palestine'- **Dr Francis Gooding**
- **Wednesday 16 November, 12-1pm:** 'Photography and Power'- **Adam Broomberg and Oliver Chanarin**
- **Monday 21 November, 12-1pm and 7pm:** 'The uses and abuses of archive film'- **Michel Khleifi**
- **Wednesday 23 November, 7pm:** 'Married to another man: Israel's dilemma in Palestine'- **Ghada Karmi**
- **Thursday 24 November, 7pm:** Film Screening 'Jaffa: The Orange's Clockwork' in the presence of the filmmaker **Eyal Sivan**

All talks are free but places are strictly limited. Please RSVP to info@mosaicrooms.org / 020 7370 9990
School visits welcome by prior arrangement.



IDF and Defense Archive, June 10, 1949

Photographer not identified, IDF and Defense Archive, October 28, 1948

Exhibition open Mon-Fri 11-6pm, Sat 11-4pm

The Mosaic Rooms
 226 Cromwell Road
 London SW5 0SW
www.mosaicrooms.org



Nearest Underground station: Earl's Court (Earl's Court Road exit). Buses: 74, 328, C1, C3
 Parking: One disabled parking space is available by prior arrangement. Parking meters are available in Lexham Gardens behind the building.

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