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Islam Safiyyudin Mohamed

ACAPELLA

A prison-scene: Men in small cubicles - exhausted, withdrawn into themselves, beaten down. They hold their heads down at first, but then they are handed a message on a thread. Communication starts, knocking on the walls, then chanting begins – and with it their liberation.

“One true moment of awareness carries the potential to counteract a lifetime of complacency. To conceive a different way to known, run-down models; an automated existence; systems that fail because they are based on a game that is fixed from the get go. For most of us who remain asleep, the cruelties of such systems are either missed completely or are strengthened by our silence. And only when all man-manufactured instruments and devices are removed from the symphony of existence do the masses have a chance at reaching harmony through a true and resonating Acapella.”

(Islam Safiyyudin Mohamed)

2014, colour & black/white, QuickTime ProRes, 13 min., Arabic.
Director Islam Safiyyudin Mohamed.

Islam Safiyyudin Mohamed, born in Heliopolis, Cairo in August of 1976, is an Egyptian author and artist. He lives and works in Cairo.

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Asem Naser

FROM RAMALLAH

Legend has it that a Roman woman used to run the largest brothel in the region on the current site of al-Moqata'a – President Abbas's Office. The Roman army commanders would meet there and discuss army matters. Eventually, the mistress and the women of the brothel learned all the army secrets. The Roman governor ordered the brothel to be destroyed and all the women were brutally killed. The legend goes on to say that for a long time shrieks and voices could be heard coming out of the site of the massacre. No one dared to go near it.

2014, colour, QuickTime ProRes, 5 min., Arabic. **Written and directed by** Asem Naser. **Production** Mohanad Yaqubi. **Director of photography** Sami Said.

Asem Naser is an artist, filmmaker, photographer, and graphic designer living and working in Palestine. He is a student of Visual Arts at the International Academy of Art, Palestine.

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