

© Idioms Film & Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung



Mahdi Fleifel

20 HANDSHAKES FOR PEACE

September 13, 1993: Two national leaders reach out and shake hands, while a third one watches. Yasser Arafat, Yitzhak Rabin, and Bill Clinton in the garden of the White House. A historic moment, repeated 20 times, tainted by countless shattered hopes. On the soundtrack Edward Said expresses his outrage at the Oslo Peace Accord which was settled by this handshake.

"I remember the handshake very clearly. My dad recorded the ceremony on video and would play it over and over again. He could not believe what had happened. In fact, none of us could. One time he threw his shoe at the TV and shouted so loud, the next door neighbors complained about him. Listening to the last interview with Edward Said while watching the ceremony made me realize that father's anger was because chairman Arafat was the first one to reach out his hand." (Mahdi Fleifel)

2014, colour, QuickTime ProRes, 5 min., English. **Director** Mahdi Fleifel. **Production** Mohanad Yaqubi.

Mahdi Fleifel, born in Dubai in 1979, was raised in Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp in Lebanon and later in the suburbs of Elsinore in Denmark. In 2009, Fleifel graduated from the National Film and Television School in London. His first-year film, *Arafat & I*, screened at festivals around the world and won numerous awards. Fleifel's first feature-length documentary *A World Not Ours* screened in the Berlinale Panorama section and received awards all over the world.

Contact: info@idiomfilm.com <http://www.idiomfilm.com/>



© Mohammad Shawky Hassan

Mohammad Shawky Hassan

WA ALA SAEEDEN AKHAR

And on a Different Note

A text-image montage with empty apartments, lonely rooms, of views from windows and street scenes in New York and Cairo. In the background: an uninterrupted soundtrack of news and talk shows. Self-proclaimed pundits make their appearance, want to be heard.

"Today in this house nothing happens, nor does it in the homes of others. Time and place stand on parallel lines, refuting the co-ordinates of existence. The chronology of events is obscured, subversive noise is obliterated, elucidation impossible and language futile. All that remains is a soundscape perpetually occupied by self-proclaimed patriots, and scattered spaces carved by the rhythm of everyday life, all conspiring to maintain the status quo while hiding the humming background noise of the world.

And on a Different Note is a navigation of an attempt to carve out a personal space amid an inescapable sonic shield created primarily by prime time political talk shows with their indistinguishable, absurd, and at times undecipherable rhetoric/ noises. Equally repulsive and addictive, these noises travel across geographies gradually constituting an integral part of a self-created map of exile." (Mohammad Shawky Hassan)

2015, colour, QuickTime ProRes, 24 min., Arabic, English. **Director** Mohammad Shawky Hassan. **Director of photography** Michael Kennedy. **Editor** Louly Seif.

Mohammad Shawky Hassan is a filmmaker, writer, cinematographer, editor, and programmer. He lives and works in Cairo.

Contact: m.shawky.hassan@gmail.com