Featured Artist: Steve Sabella, Beyond Palestine

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Steve Sabella, "Great March of Return," 2019 — a collage including over 1,000 photographs captured by five Palestinian journalists from Gaza of the crowds who have gathered every Friday from March 2018 to end the Israeli occupation. These images are contrasted with photos taken of outer space merging the hermetically sealed Strip with infinity, creating a monumental "present-day fresco" demonstrating a nation's eternal

fight for liberation.

An artist, photographer, writer and world citizen, Steve Sabella is our featured artist for <u>TMR 2 · STORIES</u>, as his phenomenal range of inquiry and expression transcends borders and identity, reaching the universal.

Born in Jerusalem, Palestine, he is a Berlin-based international artist using photography and art installation as his primary forms of expression. His research focuses on the genealogy and archaeology of the image. He is the author of the award-winning memoir, *The Parachute Paradox*, published by Kerber Verlag (Berlin, 2016), tackling the colonization of the imagination. The book won the 2017 Eric Hoffer Award and the 2016 Nautilus Book Awards for best memoir.



Steve Sabella in his Berlin studio.

In 2008, Sabella received the Ellen Auerbach Award by nomination from the Akademie der Künste in Berlin, leading to a monograph covering twenty years of his art published by Hatje Cantz (Berlin, 2014) with texts by Hubertus von Amelunxen, president of the European Graduate School in Switzerland, and a foreword by artist and art historian Kamal Boullata who described Sabella's work as a dream to discover.

Sabella studied three years art photography at the

Jerusalem School of Photography Musrara (1994–1997). He received a BA in Visual Studies from the State University of New York in 2007. Through a Chevening Scholarship in 2008, he earned a master's degree in Photographic Studies at the University of Westminster, London, graduating with a Caparo Award of Distinction, granted to the highest achieving scholar in the art university. In 2009, he earned his second master's in Art Business at Sotheby's Institute of Art, London.

Sabella's art is in the British Museum collection in London. MATHAF, The Arab Museum of Modern Art in Doha, where he was one of the 23 artists commissioned for its inauguration in 2010. The Arab World Institute in Paris has twenty artworks in their permanent collection. Bahrain National Museum upon a commission to interpret the country visually. Ars Aevi Museum of Contemporary Art in Sarajevo. Claude & France Lemand, Ramzi & Saeda Dalloul Art Foundation, Salsali Private Museum in Dubai, Barjeel Art Foundation, Contemporary Art Platform Kuwait, the Samawi Collection, among other museums & prominent private collections.

Sabella exhibited with curators Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath, directors of Hamburger Banhof Museum in Berlin, in *Told, Untold, Retold* for the opening of MATHAF. With Bartomeu Mari, Marco Bazzini and Christine Macel, curator of the 2017 Venice Biennale, in *Nel Mezzo del Mezzo* at Museo Riso in Palermo. With Venetia Porter, in Contemporary Art of the Middle East and North Africa at The

British Museum in London. Sabella participated in art biennales, including the First Biennial of Photography from the Arab World at the Maison Européenne de la Photographie and Institue du Monde Arabe, Paris (2016). FotoFest Biennial, View from Inside, Houston (2014) curated by Karin Adrian von Roques; and at Les Rencontres d'Arles (2013), France.

Sabella's many solo exhibitions include a major retrospective at the International Center for Photography Scavi Scaligeri Museum in Verona (2014), <u>Archaeology of the Future</u>.