

6 Points of Resilience

Exile is often studied from the point of view of suffering. This project frames the subject to embrace the moments of joyful survival when the uprooted are received in the hosting context. Memory is manipulative. A playful dialogue is undertaken, oscillating between drawing, writing and making to discover and reframe the experience of forced displacement that is often anchored in longing into conditions of receiving. Making, drawing, writing are the ways of expelling the memories in the body. They are the means to distort, to dilute; not as a weakness of something strong, but as a strengthening of something weak.

6 points of resilience. 6 women, some men, create a dialogue between the foreign and the local. 6 intersections, 6 views, 6 moments that tell stories where the conditions for roots to sprout occur. Part autobiographical, part biographical, parts are imagined realities. 6 threads, they will be woven by one into 6 frames; part drawing, part painting, part stitching. *To draw a stitch is an idea. To make a stitch is an action.*

Stories often have beginnings, middles and ends. This weaver's voice likes to seep out of this contained order. It often gets confused and relishes, indulging in the loss. It gets bored with the restrictions of words and the restraint of the channel from which it has to emerge. It deviates. It withholds in silence. Annoyed, it avoids. It shuns words and draws. It shuns drawing and makes. It shuns making and dances.

These stories cannot be accurately told, but constantly attempted. They are about lives misremembered. There is safety in speaking the intimate to a public, the public that never knows if it is revelation or imagination. How a story changes when it is told. How it changes and is rediscovered when it is re-told; when it is written; when it is scripted to be performed; when it is intellectualized; danced in the dark; told to a lover. It changes most when it is told to an indifferent lover...

These stories live in memory, in bodies and are slowly unraveled as they are discovered, rediscovered, remembered and misremembered. These are a few excerpts of these stories; a move, a nervous gesture, a mischievous push; a playful pull to displace and replace the details. They are stories retold with a different highlight, from a different angle, with different forgetfulness.

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