

## Arriving Elsewhere

Live online presentation by Parastoo Anoushahpour, Faraz Anoushahpour, Ryan Ferko in collaboration with Batool Elhennawy, Batoul Ibrahim, Bayan Kiwan, Mahshid Rafiei, Kari Rosenfeld, Mounir Soussan, Francisco Rodríguez Teare, Merve Ünsal  
Presented by Mercer Union, Toronto as part of isthmus collaborative research commission  
November 15, 2020

For more information about Arriving Elsewhere visit: <https://www.mercerunion.org/isthmus-summer-2020/>

### Excerpts & works cited in presentation:

- *Poem by Marina Tsvétaiéva, 1913, emailed to group by Francisco Rodríguez Teare, read by Mounir Soussan, Amman, April 2019*
- *Tent in Wadi Rum, filmed by Kari Rosenfeld, April 2019*
- *Pickup truck at night, filmed by Ryan Ferko, Wadi Rum, April 2019*
- *Audio from sound performance, lead by Bayan Kiwan, Wadi Rum, April 2019*
- *Narcissism group reading, filmed by Mounir Soussan, Wadi Rum, April 2019*
- *Hand covering dialogue, filmed by Batool Elhennawy and Bayan Kiwan, Wadi Rum, April 2019*
- *Wadi Rum photos, Batool Elhennawy, posted July 6, 2020*
- *"It's like I'm lying on the beach right now", screenshot by Mounir Soussan, posted July 9, 2020*
- *First footnote writing, by Parastoo Anoushahpour, read by Merve Ünsal, Izmir & Toronto, Tuesday, July 14, 2020*
- *Reading footnotes from room, Mounir Soussan, Los Angeles, July 14, 2020*
- *Reading footnotes from room, Ryan Ferko, Toronto, July 14, 2020*
- *Reading footnotes from room, Batool Elhennawy, Cairo, July 14, 2020*
- *Reading footnotes from room, Merve Ünsal, Izmir, July 14, 2020*
- *Reading footnotes from room, Kari Rosenfeld, Berlin, July 14, 2020*
- *Audio from Arriving Elsewhere meeting, July 21, 2020*
- *Kari & Faraz cooking, Berlin & Toronto, July 28, 2020*
- *Desert to Room video, Bayan Kiwan, shared August 18, 2020*
- *40-minute simultaneous filming, Francisco Rodríguez Teare, Trafaria, August 22, 2020*
- *40-minute simultaneous filming, Mahshid Rafiei, Toronto, August 22, 2020*
- *40-minute simultaneous filming, Batool Elhennawy, Alexandria, August 22, 2020*
- *40-minute simultaneous filming, Bayan Kiwan, New York, August 22, 2020*
- *40-minute simultaneous filming, Parastoo Anoushahpour, Toronto, August 22, 2020*
- *40-minute simultaneous filming, Ryan Ferko, Toronto, August 22, 2020*
- *40-minute simultaneous filming, Faraz Anoushahpour, Toronto, August 22, 2020*
- *40-minute simultaneous filming, Kari Rosenfeld, Amsterdam, August 22, 2020*
- *editing-for-arriving-elsewhere.pdf, Batool Elhennawy, emailed on Sept 26, 2020*
- *Burning candle, Parastoo Anoushahpour, Faraz Anoushahpour, Ryan Ferko, Toronto, November 15, 2020*
- *Writing a list, Parastoo Anoushahpour, Faraz Anoushahpour, Ryan Ferko, Toronto, November 15, 2020*
- *Interior of apartment, Parastoo Anoushahpour, Faraz Anoushahpour, Ryan Ferko, Toronto, November 15, 2020*
- *Setting up apartment for reading, Parastoo Anoushahpour, Faraz Anoushahpour, Ryan Ferko, Toronto, November 15, 2020*
- *Syntaxes of a Native Beach Speaker, written by Faraz Anoushahpour, Parastoo Anoushahpour, Batool Elhennawy, Ryan Ferko, Batoul Ibrahim, Bayan Kiwan, Mahshid Rafiei, Kari Rosenfeld, Mounir Soussan, Francisco Rodríguez Teare, Merve Ünsal during second footnote writing on Tuesday, July 14, read by Parastoo Anoushahpour, Toronto, November 15, 2020*
- *Time After Time (live), Miles Davis, Tokyo, July 28th, 1985*
- *Documents from Arriving Elsewhere Miro board, July-Sept 2020*
- *Untitled sculpture by Mahshid Rafiei, 2020*

## Biographies

**Parastoo Anoushahpour, Faraz Anoushahpour and Ryan Ferko** have worked in collaboration since 2013. Their shared practice explores the tension of multiple subjectivities as a strategy to address the power inherent in narrative structures. Foregrounding the idea of place as a central focus, their work seeks to both decode their surroundings and trouble the production of images through speculative narration and dialectical imagery. Shifting between both gallery and cinema contexts, recent projects have been presented at Viennale, Punto De Vista International Documentary Festival, New York Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, and others internationally. [www.p-f-r.com](http://www.p-f-r.com)

**Batool Elhennawy** is a writer and artist. She worked at the Cairo Institute of Liberal Arts and Sciences between 2015 and 2019 in Cairo and Alexandria. She currently works with film and is interested in inter-subjective narratives, as well as possibilities of privacy within community based work dynamics. She was born in Cairo, Egypt and currently lives there.

**Batoul Ibrahim** is a creative producer and co-founder of Writers' Cell. She leads the production department which is responsible for the business labor behind the company's original series and films. She is currently producing 'Bethesda' (dark-comedy, short film) and 'She Who Lives', a bilingual existential dark-comedy feature film that is the directorial debut of writer/director Aysha El-Shamayleh.

**Bayan Kiwan** is a multidisciplinary artist whose work mostly explores female sociality and intimacy. Predominantly a painter, she seeks unaccounted for possibilities of relation and desire within preexisting square codes. Her work has been showcased as part of several group shows and residencies in Amman, Abu Dhabi, Berlin, and New York. Kiwan holds a BFA in Fine Arts from the University of Jordan, and is currently an MA candidate at NYU Gallatin School of Individualized Study. She also makes a mean cup of tea.

**Mahshid Rafiei's** work considers the ways a process, a material and an image can become so inextricable that they ossify projections of the imaginary. Her work has been presented at Fri Art Kunsthalle, Fribourg (2018); Rheum Room, Basel (2018); and she participated in March Meeting at Sharjah Art Foundation (2019), among other discursive projects.

**Kari Rosenfeld** is an artist based in Berlin. She was a facilitator and co-founder of the Cairo Institute of Liberal Arts and Sciences in Alexandria during 2018-2019 academic year and is currently studying at Dutch Art Institute.

**Mounir-Aicha Soussan** is a Moroccan-American filmmaker from California. Their films explore the space in which grief can become ritualized and conceived as a (re)birth. Finding a liminal space between life and death, bios and geos, and their two homelands, they work to make these interstices habitable. Apart from their film practice, Mounir advocates for indigenous rights and migrant justice, primarily within the framework of US settler colonialism. They are currently completing their undergraduate degree at Bard College in New York.

**Francisco Rodríguez Teare** is an artist working in video, film and installation. He has directed the films Samanta (2014), Appels téléphoniques (2015), Una Luna de Hierro (2017), Why are They Equipped With Eyes? (2018), Gois (2020), amongst others.

**merve ünsal** is a visual artist based in Istanbul. In her work, she employs text and photography, extending both beyond their form. She is the founding editor of the artist-driven initiative [m-est.org](http://m-est.org)

**Arriving Elsewhere** was first hosted in April 2019 by Spring Sessions, an experimental learning program and residency based in Amman, Jordan. [www.springsessions.org](http://www.springsessions.org)

**isthmus** is a connection; a site forged between places. This collaborative research commission invites artists whose thinking and work are bolstered by peer exchange and participatory forms of knowledge assembly. Presented on the Mercer Union website and using Miro, commissioned projects bridge geographies and temporalities between artists, their collaborators and publics; gathering a multiplicity of voices and artefacts while architecting new connections through virtual workshops, tours, screenings and live conversation.