



Guide to the "From Fallujah" exhibit photographs and supporting materials, 2013, 2018-2021

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Summary

Collection Title:

"From Fallujah" exhibit photographs and supporting materials, 2013, 2018-2021

Creator:

Bechtold, John; Ghazi, Noor; al-'Anī, Muḥammad, 1996- ; Jamāl, Muḥammad; 'Alī, Ḥārith khalīl; Jāsīm, Şūrah 'Abbās

Source:

Archive of Documentary Arts (Duke University)

Abstract:

"From Fallujah" was a group photography exhibit held in Durham, N.C. in October 2021; it was curated by artist and documentarian John Bechtold. Collection consists of 58 inkjet color exhibit prints, 74 proof prints, one digital video of a photographers' panel discussion, and related materials such as correspondence between the curator, translator Noor Ghazi, and the photographers; two exhibit panels; a comment book; and a publicity card. The exhibited images explore the city of Fallūjah, Iraq (#####, al-Fallūjah) from the perspective of four emerging photographers - three men and one woman - from Fallūjah: Harith Khaleel Ali / #####, Mohammed Jamal Ali / #####, Mohamed Al-Ani (also listed as Mohamed Mahmoud Kazem) / #####, and Sura Abbas Jasim / #####. Images are chiefly of the city's street life during the day and at night, children in the city, the Euphrates River, and green spaces just outside the city. Acquired as part of the Archive of Documentary Arts at Duke University.

Extent:

2.5 Linear Feet (4 boxes)

11.8 Gigabytes (1 video file (mp4 format))

The 58 exhibit-quality inkjet prints range in size from 6 7/8 x 9 3/4 inches to 10 3/8 x 15 3/8 inches, and were printed from digital negatives on fine art cotton rag paper. The largest items in the collection are two exhibit panels which measure approximately 18x24 and 18x30 inches.

Language:

Materials are chiefly in English; some materials are in Arabic.

Collection ID:

RL.12013

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1xq7j>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], "From Fallujah" exhibit photographs and supporting materials, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

The core of the collection consists of 58 color inkjet exhibit prints from the work of four emerging photographers - three men and one woman - from Fallūjah, Iraq (#####, al-Fallūjah); supporting materials include proof prints and exhibit materials. The photographers are: Harith Khaleel Ali / #### ####, Mohammed Jamal Ali / #### ####, Mohamed Al-Ani (also listed as Mohamed Mahmoud Kazem) / ##### ####, and Sura Abbas Jasim / ### ####. The photographs were shown in Durham, North Carolina from October 1-November 6, 2021 as part of the Click Photography Festival; the project was conceived and co-ordinated by documentarian John Bechtold, with translation support by Noor Ghazi. The materials are chiefly in English but some correspondence and exhibit materials are in Arabic.

The exhibited photographs and other materials explore the city of Fallūjah from the perspectives of the four photographers. Images are chiefly of the city's street life during the day and at night; settings include thoroughfares and boulevards; mosques and minarets; markets, malls, and shops; children in the city; the Euphrates River, its promenades, and bridges; and surrounding rural and green areas. The prints range in size from 6x9 to 10x15 inches.

Supporting materials include 74 color proof prints; two exhibit panels; an exhibit comments book; a publicity postcard; and many emails between the organizers and photographers which provide context on the project and document the complexities of organizing it. Two small prints reproduced by the curator from a Wikipedia site about Fallūjah were used in the exhibit as a means of juxtaposing militarized images of the city. A one-hour digital video of a panel discussion with the photographers, held in conjunction with the exhibit and with the Click Photography Festival, rounds out the collection.

Biographical/Historical

"From Fallujah" was a group photography exhibit held from October 1 to November 6, 2021 at the PS118 art gallery in Durham, North Carolina, as part of Durham's Click Photography Festival. It was conceived of and curated by artist and documentarian John Bechtold with support from translator Noor Ghazi.

From the exhibit statement: "Featuring the work of four emerging Iraqi photographers, the ['From Fallujah'] exhibit proceeds from the idea that the best way to learn about a place is through the people who live there. Our purpose is to make another story about Fallujah visible to American audiences, one that departs from its militarized meaning in public memory. Fallujah is not an Iraq War battlefield. It is a place where people work, attend school, and frequent public spaces wanting what we all want, a chance to peaceably choose our lives."

Biographical/Historical

Harith Khaleel Ali #####

Harith Khaleel Ali (Ḥārith khalīl ‘Alī) holds a B.A. in Biology and is a photographer and artist living in the Fallujah countryside.

Mohammed Jamal Ali #####

Mohammed Jamal Ali (Muḥammad Jamāl ‘Alī) is a student studying chemistry at the University of Anbar. He aspires to become a wildlife photographer and hopes to make photography his livelihood.

Mohammed Al-Ani (also listed as Mohamed Mahmoud Kazem) #####

Mohammed Al-Ani (Muḥammad al-‘Āni) was born in Fallūjah in 1996 and returned to live there in 2017. His photography has been exhibited widely in the Middle East.

Sura Abbas Jasim ### #####

Sura Abbas Jasim (Şūrah ‘Abbās Jāsīm) holds a master's degree in agricultural economics. She has been practicing photography since 2012 and remains one of the few women photographing in Al-Anbar province.

Biographical/Historical

John Bechtold is an artist, documentarian, and academic working in North Carolina. After a 21-year career in the Army which took him to Lebanon and Iraq and other countries, he earned a Master's degree at Duke University

Guide to the "From Fallujah" exhibit photographs and supporting materials, 2013, 2018-2021 and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in American Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill. His dissertation explores the representation of warfare in American cultural memory.

Noor Ghazi, born in Baghdad, Iraq, is a peace activist, research lecturer, translator, and author on the faculties of UNC-Greensboro and UNC-Chapel Hill. She is based in North Carolina.

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Arrangement

Arranged in three series by format: "From Fallujah" photographers' panel video; exhibit photographs; and exhibit materials and correspondence. The exhibit prints are organized by photographer, in alphabetical order by Romanized last name. Within, photographs are arranged in original order as listed in the print inventory.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Access note. Collection contains electronic records in the form of a digital video that requires special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the Rubenstein Library's Citations, Permissions, and Copyright guide.

Acquisition Information

The "From Fallujah" exhibit photographs and supporting materials were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase in 2022.

Processing Information

Processed and described by Craig Breaden, Paula Jeannet, July 2022.

Accessions described in this collection guide: 2022-0085, 2022-0086, 2022-0087.

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Related Materials

Related Material

[Benjamin Lowy photographs, 2003-2008](#) David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University

[Photographs by Iraqi civilians collection, 2004 April-May](#) David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University

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Names and Subjects

- Children -- Iraq -- Fallūjah -- Portraits
- Documentary Photography -- Iraq -- Fallūjah
- Photographers -- Iraq -- Exhibitions
- Street life -- Iraq -- Fallūjah -- Photographs
- Euphrates River -- Photographs

- Fallūjah (Iraq) -- Buildings, structures, etc.
- Fallūjah (Iraq) -- Economic conditions
- Fallūjah (Iraq) -- Photographs
- Fallūjah (Iraq) -- Social life and customs
- Iraq -- Photographs
- Color photographs
- Digital moving image formats
- Inkjet prints
- Archive of Documentary Arts (Duke University)

Collection Inventory

"From Fallujah" exhibit photographers' panel video, recorded at the Click Photography Festival

Physical Description: 11.8 Gigabytes
1 video file (mp4 format)

Access Restrictions:

Access note. Series contains electronic records in the form of a digital video that requires special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

Photographers' panel video, 2021 October

Digital-materials RL12013-SET-0001 > Video-file from Fallujah Artists Panel.mp4

Physical Description: 01:30:19

Scope and Contents

Digital video From Fallujah artist panel recorded as part of the Click! Photography Festival in October 2021

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"From Fallujah" exhibit photographs, 2013, 2018-2021

Physical Description: 1.0 Linear Feet
2 boxes 58 photographic prints

Harith Khaleel Ali / ##### # ### #, 2020
Physical Description: Portfolio consists of 4 exhibit-quality color inkjet photographs printed from digital negatives on fine art cotton rag paper.

Portrait of a boy's left eye, 2020	Box 1 > Print RL.12013-P-0001
Physical Description: 13 1/2 x 10 1/4 inches	
Sheep grazing near palm trees, 2020	Box 1 > Print RL.12013-P-0002
Physical Description: 10 3/4 x 8 1/4 inches	
Sheep grazing on grass, 2020	Box 1 > Print RL.12013-P-0003
Physical Description: 9 3/4 x 7 3/4 inches	
Sheep grazing on grass near shrub, 2020	Box 1 > Print RL.12013-P-0004
Physical Description: 9 1/4 x 7 1/4 inches	
Mohamed Al-Ani (also listed as Mohamed Mohmoud Kazem) / # # # # # # # # # # # # # # , 2018-2021	
Physical Description: Portfolio consists of 26 exhibit-quality color inkjet photographs printed from digital negatives on fine art cotton rag paper.	
Man walking on a street carrying bread, 2021	Box 1 > Print RL.12013-P-0005
Physical Description: 8 x 13 1/8 inches	
Yellow taxi and traffic officer, 2021	Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0006
Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 16 1/4 inches	
Two men drinking tea on the sidewalk, 2021	Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0007
Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 16 1/2 inches	
Boy feeding gulls from bridge, 2021	Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0008
Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 16 inches	
Horizon view of Fallujah with flock of birds, 2018	Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0009
Physical Description: 9 3/4 x 14 1/4 inches	

Two men fishing in a green boat, 2018 Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0010

Physical Description: 10 3/4 x 15 7/8 inches

Street median bench at night, 2020 Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0011

Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 16 3/4 inches

Traffic on highway at dusk, 2020 Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0012

Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 17 1/4 inches

Aerial view of congested, lighted street at night, 2019 Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0013

Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 16 5/8 inches

View of mosque at dusk from balcony, 2019 Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0014

Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 16 3/8 inches

Boat and bridge at dusk, 2020 Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0015

Physical Description: 10 3/4 x 16 3/8 inches

One car and lighted maxi-mall at night, 2020 Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0016

Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 15 5/8 inches

Curved bench on a promenade, 2020 Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0017

Physical Description: 9 3/4 x 15 1/4 inches

Bed of wildflowers next to a street, 2020 Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0018

Physical Description: 9 3/4 x 15 1/4 inches

Dead palm tree in river at dusk, 2021 Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0019

Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 15 1/8 inches

Truss bridge at dusk, 2019 Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0020

Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 16 7/8 inches

Man riding bicycle, 2018	Box 1 > Print RL.12013-P-0021
Physical Description: 8 3/4 x 12 3/4 inches	
Boy riding bike on dirt road, 2019	Box 1 > Print RL.12013-P-0022
Physical Description: 8 1/8 x 13 inches	
Man sewing in shop, 2019	Box 1 > Print RL.12013-P-0023
Physical Description: 10 7/8 x 8 3/8 inches	
Man pushing bike in alley, 2021	Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0024
Physical Description: 10 1/2 x 16 1/2 inches	
Man buying fruit in market, 2021	Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0025
Physical Description: 10 1/2 x 16 inches	
Man walking in black sweatshirt near mosque minaret, 2021	Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0026
Physical Description: 10 1/2 x 16 1/2 inches	
Euphrates River at dusk with "Upper Bridge" in background, 2020	Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0027
Physical Description: 10 1/2 x 17 1/8 inches	
View of Old Iron Bridge, 2018	Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0028
Physical Description: 9 3/4 x 13 3/8 inches	
View of Fallujah skyline, 2018	Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0029
Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 16 3/8 inches	
Congested highway at night, illuminated ferris wheel in background, 2019	Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0030
Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 16 1/4 inches	

Mohamed Jamal Ali / # # # # # # # # # #,

2020-2021

Physical Description: Portfolio consists of 15 exhibit-quality color inkjet photographs printed from digital negatives on fine art cotton rag paper.

View of promenade and river from bridge,
2021

Box 2 > Print RL.12013-
P-0031

Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 15 1/4 inches

Truss bridge and clouds, 2020

Box 1 > Print RL.12013-
P-0032

Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 13 1/2 inches

Boy sitting on traffic median, 2021

Box 1 > Print RL.12013-
P-0033

Physical Description: 10 3/4 x 9 3/4 inches

Small parade of children, 2021

Box 2 > Print RL.12013-
P-0034

Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 15 1/8 inches

Iraq flag on pedestal, 2021

Box 2 > Print RL.12013-
P-0035

Physical Description: 10 1/2 x 15 1/4 inches

Men walking up highway on-ramp, 2021

Box 2 > Print RL.12013-
P-0036

Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 15 1/4 inches

Large yellow teapot by roadside, 2021

Box 2 > Print RL.12013-
P-0037

Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 15 1/8 inches

Arched entry to market, 2021

Box 2 > Print RL.12013-
P-0038

Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 15 1/4 inches

Mosque with turquoise domes, 2021

Box 2 > Print RL.12013-
P-0039

Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 15 1/4 inches

Man preparing fishing line near bridge, 2021

Box 2 > Print RL.12013-
P-0040

Physical Description: 9 3/4 x 15 1/4 inches

Boy squatting (wearing a surgical mask), 2021 Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0041

Physical Description: 9 3/4 x 11 1/4 inches

Two men sitting on grass median, 2021 Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0042

Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 15 1/4 inches

Girl wearing an orange dress squatting in alley, 2021 Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0043

Physical Description: 10 1/2 x 15 1/4 inches

Bicycle in alley, 2021 Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0044

Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 15 3/8 inches

Man driving a motorboat on Euphrates River, 2021 Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0045

Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 15 1/4 inches

Sura Abbas Jamin / ### #### ####, 2013, 2020-2021

Physical Description: Portfolio consists of 13 exhibit-quality color inkjet photographs printed from digital negatives on fine art cotton rag paper.

Green and blue steel carriage at night, 2021 Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0046

Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 15 1/4 inches

Angular light pole with two lamps, 2021 Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0047

Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 15 1/4 inches

Yellow building with arched windows, 2021 Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0048

Physical Description: 10 3/4 x 15 1/4 inches

Man in blue shirt buying ice cream, 2021 Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0049

Physical Description: 10 3/4 x 15 1/4 inches

White car in front of ice cream store, 2021	Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0050
Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 15 1/4 inches	
Boys playing soccer on dirt field, 2013	Box 1 > Print RL.12013-P-0051
Physical Description: 8 3/4 x 12 7/8 inches	
Farm field in Al-Anbar province, 2021	Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0052
Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 15 1/8 inches	
Bike and sky, 2020	Box 1 > Print RL.12013-P-0053
Physical Description: 9 x 11 3/4 inches	
Boy in candy stall, 2021	Box 1 > Print RL.12013-P-0054
Physical Description: 6 7/8 x 9 3/4 inches	
Man walking with balloons, 2021	Box 1 > Print RL.12013-P-0055
Physical Description: 13 3/8 x 9 3/4 inches	
Orange sunset with palm trees, 2013	Box 1 > Print RL.12013-P-0056
Physical Description: 8 7/8 x 12 7/8 inches	
Man in tractor plowing a field, 2021	Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0057
Physical Description: 8 1/4 x 14 1/8 inches	
People shopping for textiles in market, 2021	Box 2 > Print RL.12013-P-0058
Physical Description: 10 3/8 x 15 1/4 inches	

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"From Fallujah" exhibit materials and correspondence, 2021

Physical Description: 1.5 Linear Feet

2 boxes

Color proof prints, 2021 Box 3

Physical Description: 4 x 6 inches; 74 items

Scope and Contents

The proof prints include handwritten notes on the backs by exhibit coordinator John Betchold indicating the maximum size a photograph could be printed. Getting high resolution photographs out of Iraq was a challenge for the project team, and sometimes only smaller resolution files could be obtained; this limited the size a photograph could be printed for exhibition.

Two photographs of U.S. military presence in Fallūjah, 2021 Box 3

Physical Description: 2 items

Scope and Contents

These two 4x6-inch color prints were reproduced by exhibit coordinator John Bechtold from images on a Wikipedia site about the city of Fallūjah. The images were used in the exhibition as a means to underscore the widespread militarized meaning of Fallūjah.

Exhibit comment book, 2021 Box 3

Exhibit publicity card from gallery PS118, Durham, N.C., 2021 Box 3

Scope and Contents

Card and other publicity was designed and printed by Horse & Buggy Press of Durham, N.C.

Correspondence (email print-outs), 2021 Box 3

Scope and Contents

File contains email correspondence in hard copy format between John Betchold, translator Noor Ghazi, the Iraqi photographers, and others, primarily in English but with some emails and other papers in Arabic. Contents and topics include: notes from a meeting with the photographers; exhibition planning; a grant application; a translation guide in English and Arabic; call for photographers for the exhibition, in English and Arabic; responses to the call for participants, in English and Arabic; and emails with host gallery PS118 about the exhibition.

Exhibit panel with introductory text, 2021 Box 4

Physical Description: 18 x 30 inches

Exhibit panel with project statement, 2021

Box 4

Physical Description: 18 x 24 inches

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