

Marfa' is pleased to announce Lamia Joreige's *Uncertain Times*, her second solo exhibition at the gallery, opening on the 8th of November, 2022.

The exhibition *Uncertain Times* involves the research, writing and production of a body of work covering the period between the end of the Ottoman Empire and the beginning of the French and English mandate in Lebanon, Syria and Palestine (1914-1920). The Sykes-Picot Agreement, the Balfour Declaration, as well as the First World War and the famine of Mount Lebanon, which caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people, led to a geographic, social and political transformation of this region, and had major consequences that still impact our lives today.

It is precisely today's feeling of anxiety and uncertainty in our region, which triggered the artist's interest in looking back at this turning point in history - a moment of rupture, of fragmentation and creation at once.

From the fragmentation of Iraq and Syria and the recent economic, social and political collapse of Lebanon, and the ongoing occupation of Palestinian territories, it was a continuous flow of conflicts that pushed ever further the barrier of extremisms, that of religion, violence, and images. How much of this situation is the result of actual divisions and how much is instigated by exterior forces whose interest is to destabilize the region?

Joreige's work on the Lebanese Wars (1975-1990) and the post-war period in Beirut, was the beginning of a reflection on history and its possible narratives. In this project, it is extended to a more distant period of our history, of which we have no direct experience but that nevertheless affect our present.

While the artist highlights some historical events, her aim is not to produce a historical account in itself, but rather to draw a reflection on historical processes, as well as on notions of temporality from which we understand the past, present, and the future—the uncertain times. For that, Joreige is interested in the different subjective stories of this period and wishes to express the tensions and anxieties, but also the expectations felt by the population of that time.

This exhibition comprises a series of mixed media artworks that revisit the notion of historical frieze and chronology by associating and assembling various elements (drawings, photographs, documents and texts). Such elements are not literal interpretations of historical facts or events, but their conceptual and visual translation. In following the same lineage of her previous works, the notion of montage is central. The form resulting from the editing of the material to create visual and textual correspondences.