



ROOTED

A COMMUNITY ARCHIVE
PROJECT

ROOTED

*A Community Archive
Project*

Esther Raushenbush Library Gallery

Sarah Lawrence College

This publication was created for the exhibit *Rooted: A Community Archive Project* including collaboration and wall labels at Esther Raushenbush Library Gallery, Sarah Lawrence College.

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Curatorial Statement

Rooted: A Community Archive Project is an exhibit featuring the work of four artists.

Haifa Bint-Kadi
Evan Bishop
Katori Walker
Sola Olosunde

The installation consists of multiple works in a range of media organized around themes of collaboration and storytelling. It includes quilts, sculpture, photography and paintings. There are couches for comfortable seating, books related to art and a sound track with multiple interviews, music and sound. In this space, history functions as a circular journey that brings you back to your site of origin. It exists in a liminal space that is survived by information and imagination.

This exhibit presents a multi-layered story about identity, community and history within Yonkers and the greater New York State. Contributions from the four corners of the Diaspora trace migration paths both old and new. The artwork created for this exhibition explores the synergy between movement and culture. Our project is a complex layering of stories, revealing the contradictions inherent in archival practices and their recovery by artists from the margins of racism, inequality and ancestral memory.

Art remains a conduit for the expression of deep feelings, souvenirs of images from the mind, and a means to reclaim our collective history.

Kishauna Soljour, Ph.D.
Visiting Assistant Professor of History
Mellon Public Humanities Fellow
Sarah Lawrence College

Collective Artist Statement

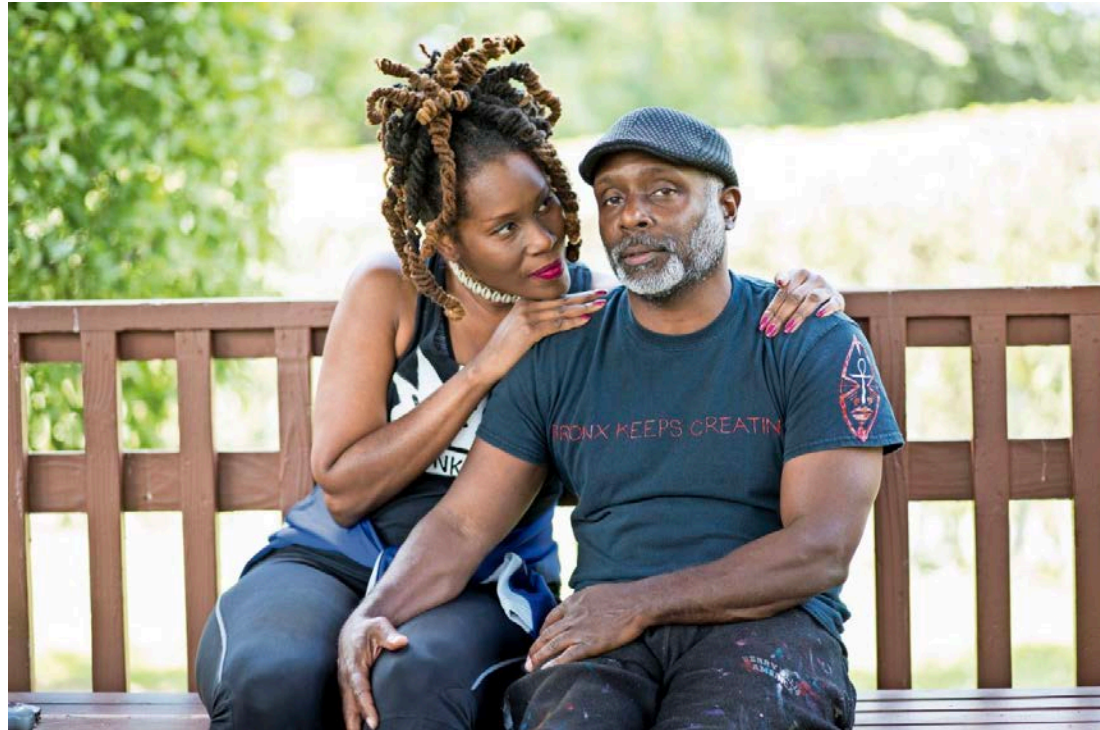
ROOTED

[The essential core : An origin or source : To establish deeply and firmly]

Drawn from the individual and the collective, we explore the essence of everyday people. Both poetic and retrospective, Rooted is inspired by the past, present and future. As visual archivists, our work captures things seen and unseen. By tracking the evolution of ourselves in relation to the communities we belong, this exhibit crosses geographic boundaries, defies linguistic barriers and disrupts historical timelines. This metaphysical journey unearths a myriad of ways to rediscover one's roots.



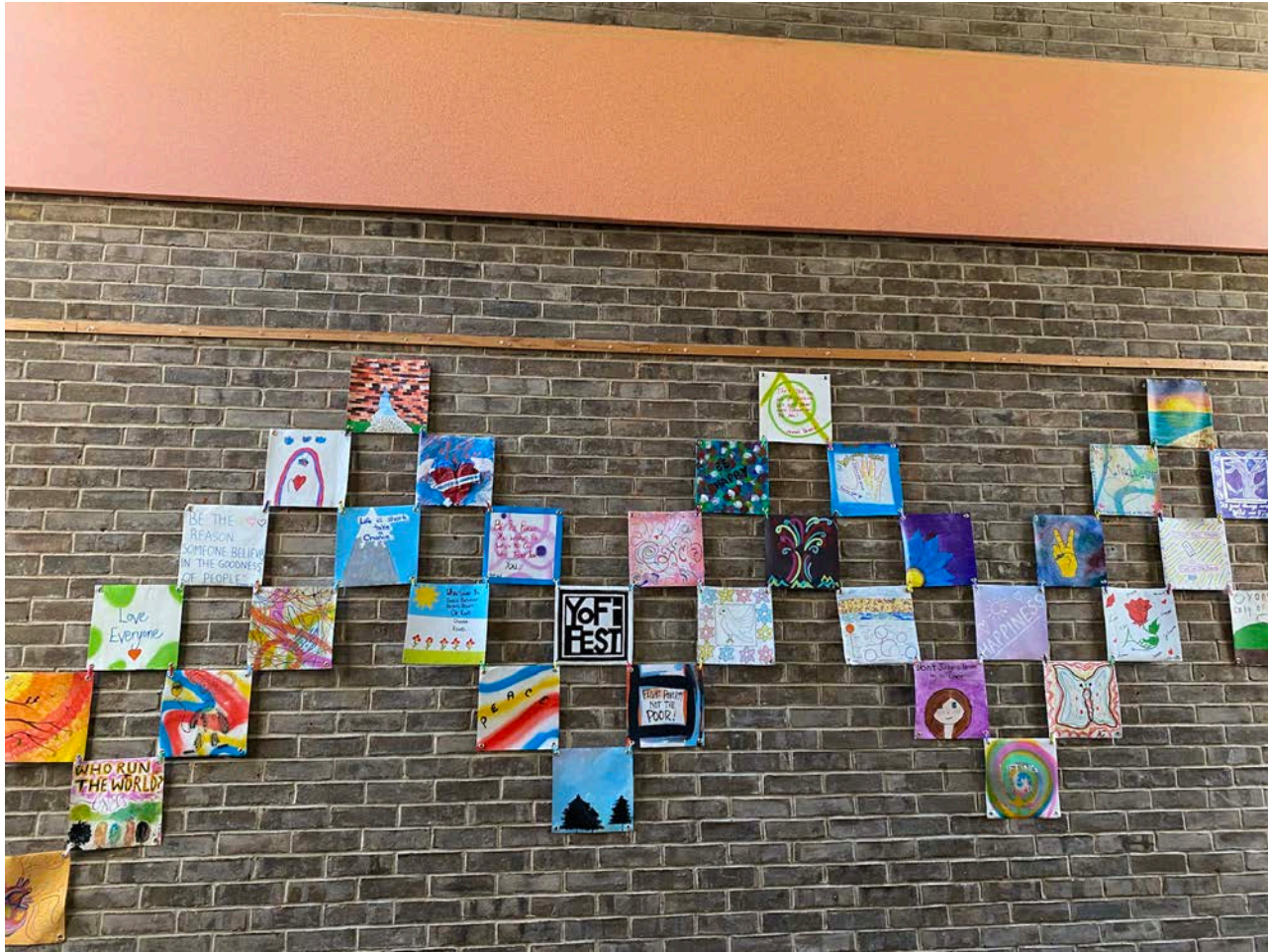
THE YES YONKERS! COMMUNITY QUILT PROJECT



Katori Walker and Evan Bishop are a Yonkers-based creative couple with a track record of producing fun and engaging public art projects. In 2017, they produced and curated a photo exhibition of 142 senior citizens adorned with graffiti-inspired body art. In 2019, they created the largest community art project in the history of Yonkers. In 2020, Evan designed and Katori organized the painting of Westchester's first Black Lives Matter asphalt mural in front of Yonkers City Hall. They collectively painted 8 street murals with more on the works.

Evan is a two-time ArtsWestchester grant recipient (2017 & 2018). He and Katori both sat on the board of the Blue Door Art Center (2018-2019) and are current board members of Yonkers Arts.

To learn about their current and upcoming community/public art projects, please visit www.320Arts.com



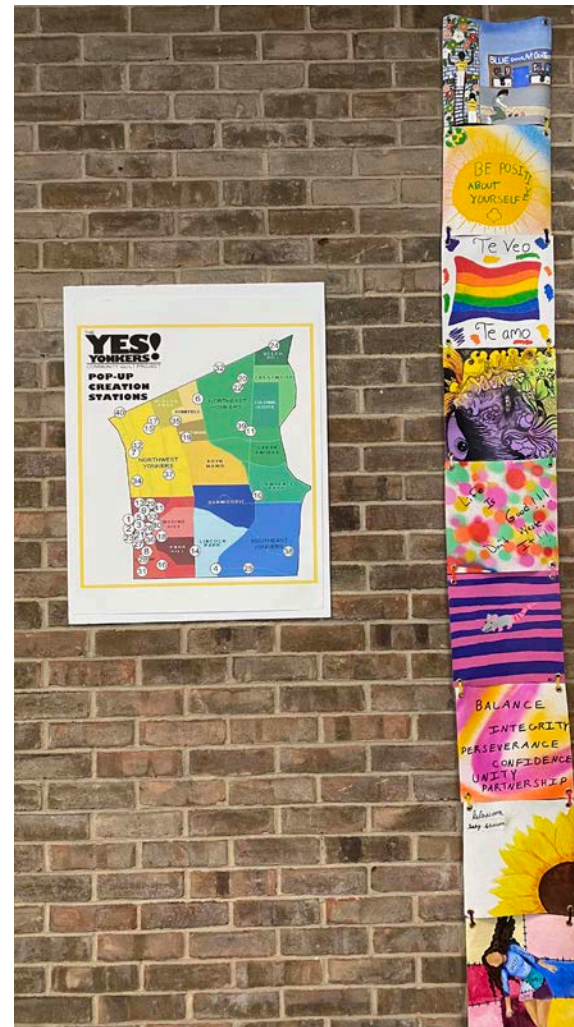
Katori Walker & Evan Bishop
The YES YONKERS! Community Quilt Project, May 2018
Acrylic marker on 150 individual hand-painted canvas swatches (10" x 10" each)





PLAY NOW

Swatch #1
 The YES YONKERS! Community Quilt Project, May 2018
 Acrylic marker on 10 individual hand-painted canvas swatches (10"x10"
 each)



PLAY NOW

Swatch #2
 The YES YONKERS! Community Quilt Project, May 2018
 Acrylic marker on 10 individual hand-painted canvas swatches (10"x10"
 each)

THE STORY BEHIND ROOTED

The vision behind these pieces is to celebrate the creative expressions and narratives of diverse people in Yonkers.

In 2018, Evan was awarded the Yonkers Arts Initiative Individual Artist Grant from ArtsWestchester to produce and exhibit The YES YONKERS! Community Quilt Project. That same year, Evan and Katori embarked on a mission to create the largest community art project in the history of Yonkers. Over a period of 9 months, they partnered with 40 local businesses and organizations to host “pop-up creation stations” throughout the city of Yonkers. They engaged over 1,200 participants in creating art based on the themes of; Peace, Love, Family and Community. These “10X10” individual hand-painted canvas swatches were created by people who live, work or visit the city of Yonkers. For the record, it’s not a traditional type of quilt that’s sewn together. Instead, it’s more like a colorful tapestry of swatches connected with pipe cleaners. This installation celebrates the diverse expressions of the participants. The vision is to install sections of the quilt in indoor public spaces throughout the city of Yonkers. To date, there is no known community art project larger than this one in the city’s history.



DOCUMENTING BLACK LIFE AND COMMUNITY

Sola Olosunde is a public historian and photographer born and raised in New York City. He uses social media to showcase 20th century New York and Black American history, along with his documentation of the present-day city. His work mainly consists of street and event photography, along with self-portraits.

To learn about his current and upcoming projects, please visit [@solaeclipse](#) on Instagram.

THE STORY BEHIND ROOTED

The vision behind these pieces is to document the Black life and community in New York City.

Over the course of his life, Sola saw neighborhoods throughout Brooklyn completely change in just a few years. It was heartbreaking for him to see people systematically pushed out of the same city they gave so much to in terms of culture. The main reason Olosunde picked up a camera was to document neighborhoods before the gentrification process. At the same time, he started taking self-portraits simply because he did not want to ask anyone else. Jamel Shabazz inspired him to ask strangers on the street for their portrait in addition to event photography. This summer, Olosunde was invited to lead a photography workshop at the Yonkers Public Library. He taught teens film photography and they took photos along the waterfront. These images capture people and places before they are erased. The rest is history, and hopefully will be history.



Group Self-Portrait in Yonkers
Yonkers, New York, August 2021
Crystal archival print
16x20



A Beautiful Afternoon
Yonkers, New York, August 2021
Crystal archival print
11x14





Self-Portrait with the Future
Yonkers, New York, August 2021
Crystal archival print
8x11



Mother and Child
Yonkers, New York, August 2021
Crystal archival print
11x14



Self-Portrait No. 3
Far Rockaway, New York, September 2017
Crystal archival print



Self-Portrait on the Shuttle
Rockaway Park, New York, May 2019
Crystal archival print



Heading home on Nostrand
Brooklyn, New York, September 2018
Crystal archival print



A scene from Litnic
Brooklyn, New York, July 2019
Crystal archival print
8x11



Self-Portrait with Sika Bonsu
Washington, DC, September 2019
Crystal archival print



A familiar face on Pitkin Ave
Brooklyn, New York, October 2018
Crystal archival print

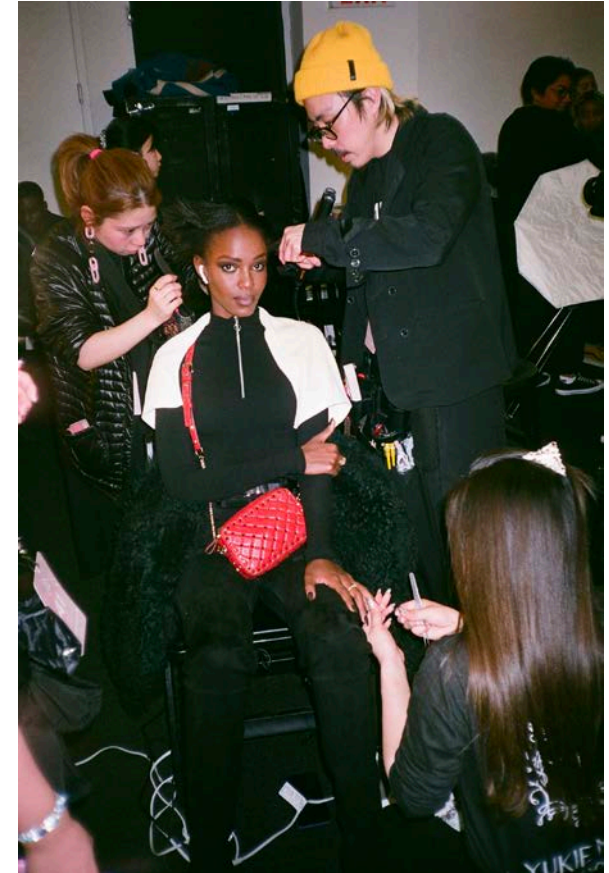


PLAY NOW

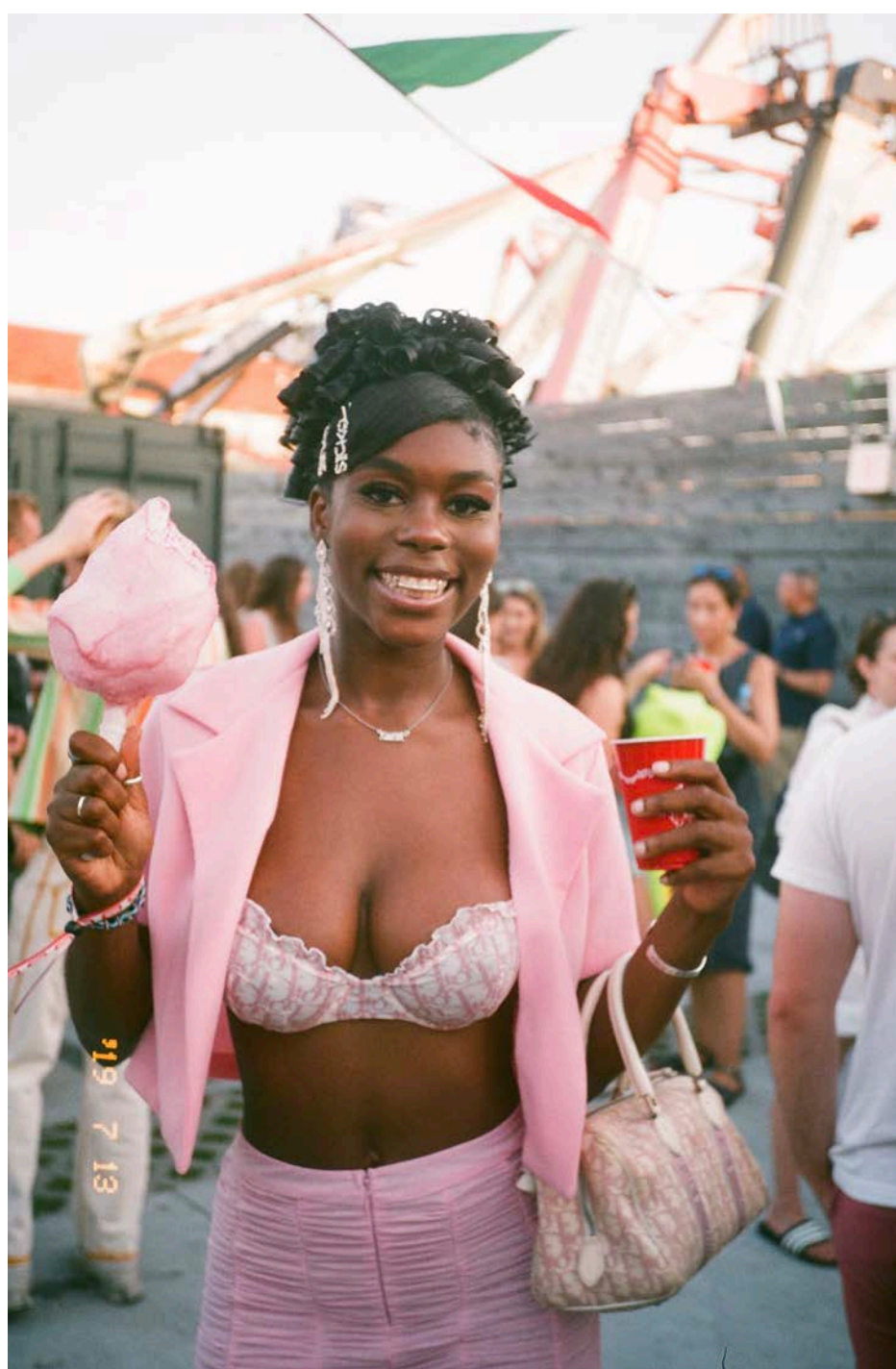
Men playing in the park
Manhattan, New York, April 2019
Crystal archival print
11x14



A Mannered Man and a Happy Woman
Brooklyn, New York, December 2018
Crystal archival print



Backstage at LaQuan Smith's FW 2019 show
Manhattan, New York, February 2019
Crystal archival print



A Carnival in Bushwick
Brooklyn, New York, July 2019
Crystal archival print



WHAT ONCE WAS STILL IS AND WILL FOREVER REMAIN



Haifa Bint-Kadi is a first generation Palestinian-Afro-Caribbean American, a daughter of refugees, a mother, and grandmother. She holds a B.A. and M.F.A. from Istituto d'Arte per il mosaico in Ravenna, Italy and has been designing and fabricating public art mosaics since 1993. Bint-Kadi was always drawn to the idea of public art as an index of lived experience. Using historical archives as a reference, she created over 24 public art mosaic and steel sculptures across New York state. Haifa is a full-time curator for the City of Yonkers Library System and an instructor. She connects children and adults through community-wide art programs. Bint-Kadi founded the first Thursday Gallery Hop by partnering with local galleries and businesses. Over the course of her career, Haifa received numerous awards, grants and recognition including the Kennedy Center's Steam Educator Award, and has given many workshops at venues including the Children's Museum of Manhattan, the Asia Society, the Hudson River Museum and more.

To learn about her current and upcoming community/public art projects, please visit <https://www.haifabint-kadi.com/>

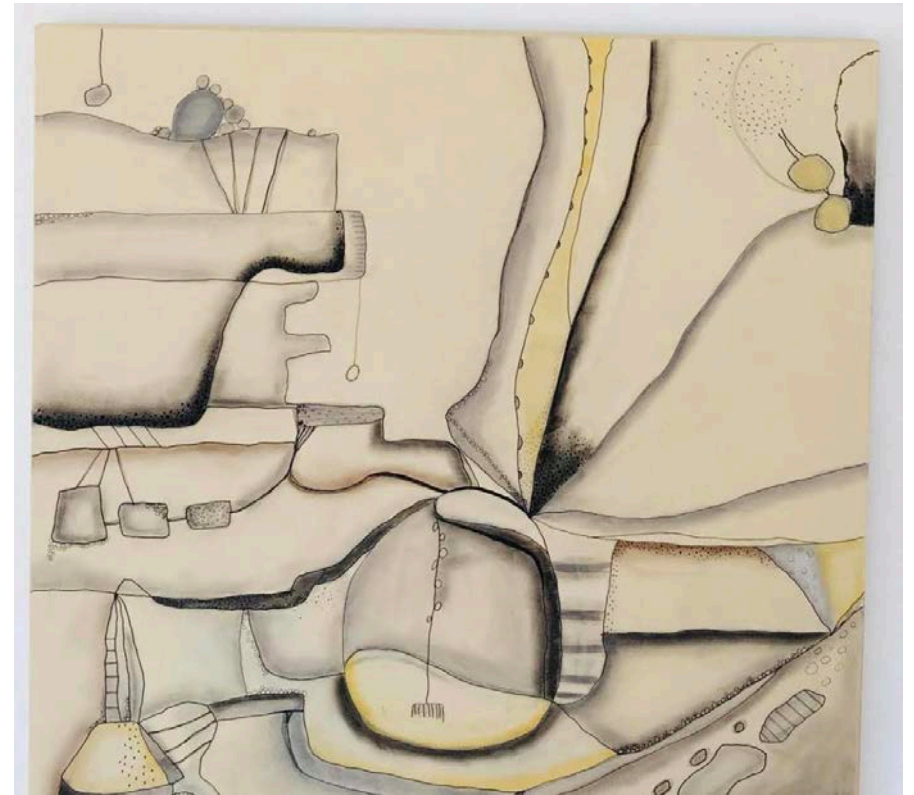
THE STORY BEHIND ROOTED

The vision behind these pieces is to firmly place the experiences of displacement in a discourse on human rights, forced migration, and the plight of indigenous refugees.

The series, *What Once Was, Still is and Will Forever Remain* takes a critical view on borders, the colonization of space, radical dislocation and displacement. It is a series of conceptually layered paintings which utilize a variety of cultural materials, like Turkish coffee, Henna and Rose water to evoke a visceral experience of disappeared places that only exist in memory. These rock paintings evoke the presence of absence in a homeland that has been cleansed of most of its indigenous sons and daughters. In the other pieces, Haifa investigates the cycles of displacement and the longing for home. When looking at her art, Bint-Kadi hopes that viewers learn from and reflect on the personal narratives of refugees. Her images metaphorically reunite the displaced indigenous inhabitants with the native homeland they have been denied.



Bayt Dajan
Acrylic, India ink, Turkish coffee, henna on canvas
36" x 36"
2019



Abu Kisha A
Acrylic, India ink, Turkish coffee, henna on canvas
36" x 36"
2019





Mapping Diaspora: Disbelief
Found Ephemera Papers, ink on wood panel
12" x 6"
2021



Mapping Diaspora: Refusal
Found Ephemera Papers, ink on wood panel
12" x 6"
2021



Mapping Diaspora: Panic
Found Ephemera Papers, ink on wood panel
12" x 6"
2021



Mapping Diaspora: Disruption
Found Ephemera Papers, ink
12" x 6"
2021





Remnants
16" x 8"
Found Ephemera, textiles on Wood
2018
(Back Cover)





Lost on the Way
18" x 10
Found Ephemera. textiles on wood panel
2018
(Front Cover)



PLAY NOW



Womb Comb
Encaustic, plaster
8" x 6"
2021





Womb Comb 2
Encaustic, plaster
8" x 6"
2021



Nazar Amulet
8" x 8"
Plaster Clay
2021



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Remnants
16" x 8"
Found Ephemera, textiles on Wood
Haifa Bint-Kadi
2018
(Back Cover)



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ESTHER RAUSHENBUSH GALLERY | SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE

ESTHER RAUSHENBUSH LIBRARY
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