

MENACA Pre-grouped Panel Individual Abstract

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As part of the pre-grouped panel proposed by Francisco Montero on Palestinian Dabke, I will present two projects of mine. First, “Ojalá: la vuelta al origen,” a documentary I filmed in 2015 after a month of research with the Palestinian diaspora in Chile. From the perspective of bellydance and Dabke teacher Anne Marie Lolas, the film creates a conversation between diasporic identities and cultural resistance through dance. Solidarity seeps through Anne Marie’s relationship with her students and my act of filming her.

In 2018, I screened the film in Palestine, in Bethlehem and Beit Jala, where I made a video installation titled “Chilean Visions of Palestine/Who owns Dabke,” an exploration of what the inherited nostalgia of what Palestine used to be, feels like when in Palestine. Part of the installation is a conversation with teenagers from Beit Jala about the ownership over Palestinian culture and Dabke.

Like in the film and installation, Dabke calls for a conversation, deeply rooted in Palestinian people’ history, present, and future, of. This talk will reflect on the spaces of resistance that Dabke offers and its participation as an embodied decolonial practice in transcolonial solidarity. My contribution to the panel will hopefully participate in rendering the complexities of our solidarities through dance, in particular in the context of the ongoing genocide in Gaza.