

Hamza Badran

If you Force it, it is no Dream

Liste Art Fair Basel 2024 | June 10-16

Booth n.65



## **If you Force it, it is no Dream**

*text by Hamza Badran*

In Basel.

I have struggled to understand why Zionism is a topic for celebration in Switzerland. When I arrived in Basel in 2018, I took a walk through the city and noticed a tourist gift store that I assumed had something to do with Basel. The gift store was in Stadtcasino Basel, where the first Zionist congress was held in 1897. When I went in, I noticed a bronze cast portrait of Theodore Herzl covered in glass. While I knew that the first Zionist Congress had been held in Basel, I didn't realize it was also a cause for jubilation.

When I asked about the bronze print in the Stadtcasino, the woman working there asked me if I was from Israel. I said no, I was from Palestine. She «Oh...»

In the Hotel Les Trois Rois in Basel, where Herzl stayed in 1901 during the fifth Zionist Congress, his room is still well preserved and named after him: River Room Herzl.

Not only that, but there is also a ceremonial text on the Hotel's website:

*“Das River Room Herzl besticht durch den einmaligen Charme seiner Ausstattung. Bis heute sorgt dieses schlichte und faszinierende Zimmer mit Rheinblick für Inspiration und Ruhe (ca. 22 m2).”*

*“The River Room Herzl impresses with the unique charm of its furnishings. To this day, this simple and fascinating room with a view of the Rhine provides inspiration and peace (approx. 22 m2).”*

I also wanted to experience that “Charm, Inspiration and Peace”. I thought this might help me understand where Herzl's five-star “bright” and “young” Ideas came from.

When the hotel receptionist asked me what PSE was after checking my B temporary Swiss residence permit? I told him it was the Swiss shortcut for Palestine.

He also «Oh...»

He asked if I knew who the room belonged to. I said, no, I don't know. He thanked God for my naivety.

The Herzl River room was the best bedroom I've ever had; it cost me about 735 Swiss francs for one night. With my name and ability to pay, they might have thought I was a rich Arab who wanted to buy the hotel. I heard that the ruler of Qatar had once wanted to buy the hotel and that the Times of Israel did not obviously like the idea. In any way, thanks to my production budget, I stayed there.

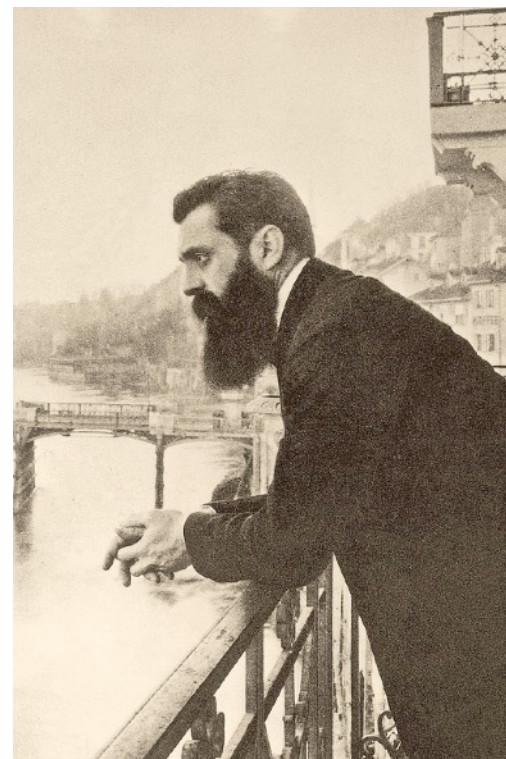
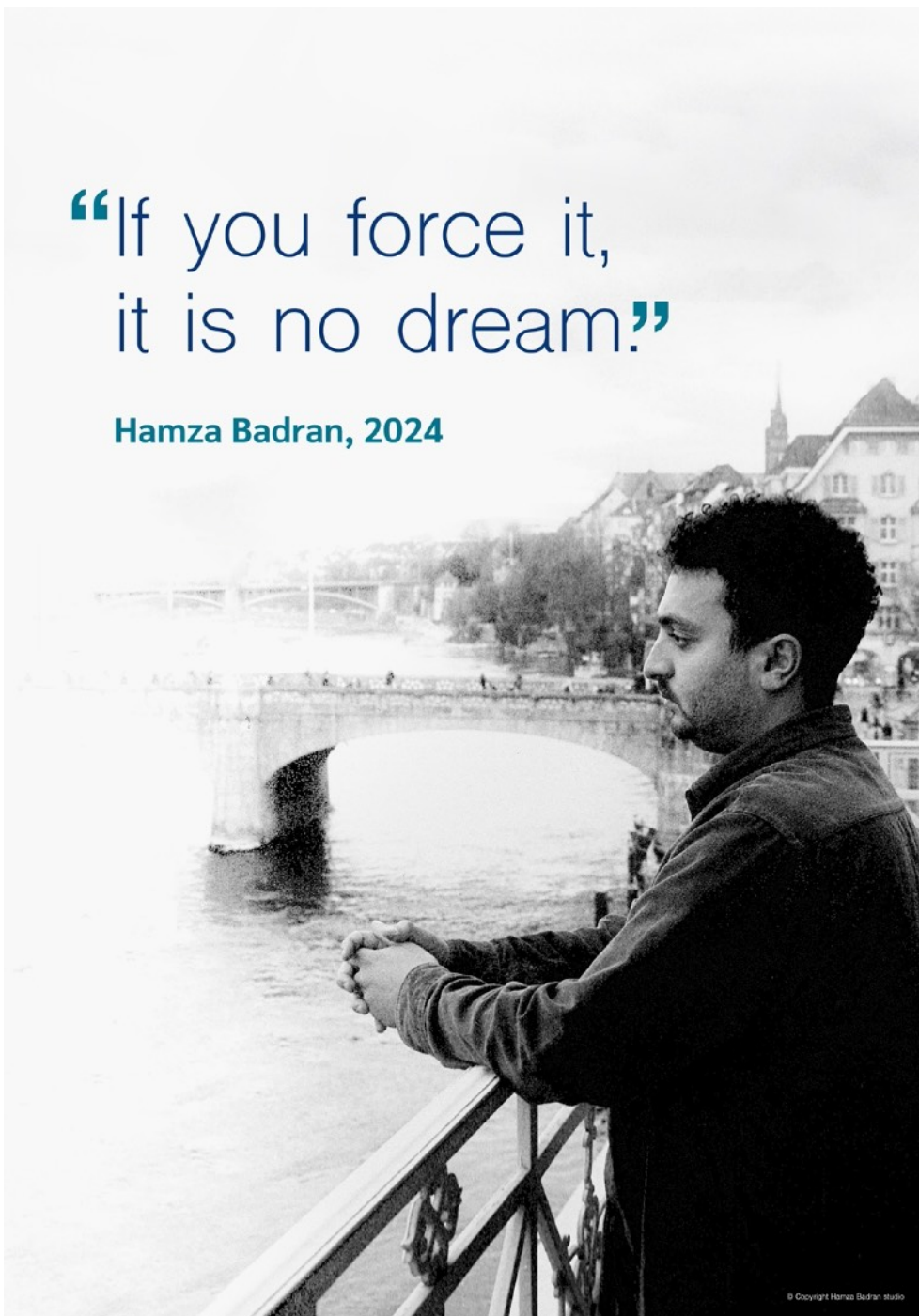
It was a very comfortable room with a classic bathtub and the best Swiss-quality perfumed hand soap, shampoo, and shower gel I have ever used for my dry skin. Standing on the balcony, looking at what some call «Herzl's inspiring view,» which is simply a view of Kly Basel, I also got some very inspiring ideas. For example, how can I earn money to pay next month's rent, and how could I get funded for my next art project? I was afraid that I might have to end up as a Palestinian tree-hugging artist in Switzerland.

The bed was also very comfortable; there was a sky painted on the ceiling that you see when you lie in bed; it gave me a Sistine Chapel feeling and another bronze portrait of Herzl hung on the wall of the room. Unfortunately, the room did not meet my high expectations, and I did not manage to have any dreams when I slept in that bed that night. I returned to the hotel late and drunk. In the morning, I was very disappointed that breakfast was not included in the room price; they charge 50 Swiss Francs for their luxury breakfast, so imagine that!!!!



“If you force it,  
it is no dream.”

Hamza Badran, 2024



Theodor Herzl in Basel, photographed during Fifth Zionist Congress in December 1901.

**Hamza Badran**

*If you Force it, it is no Dream*

2024

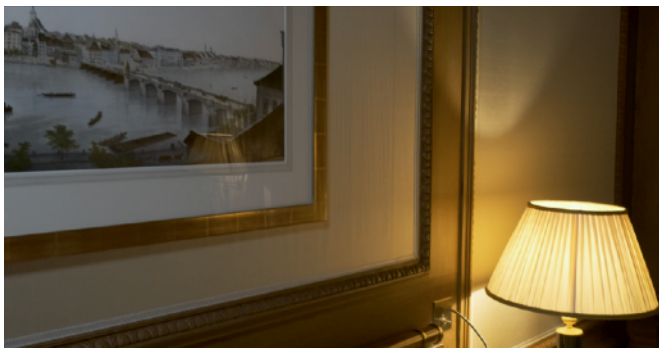
1000 posters on matte paper 100x70 cm each  
ed. unique

“If you force it,  
it is no dream.”

Hanna Bedini, 2024



© Hanna Bedini 2024



**Hamza Badran**  
*Herzl's Bed*  
2024

4k color video, sound, 07' 09"  
ed. of 3 + 2AP.







original bas-relief of Theodor Herzl

**Hamza Badran**

*Basel's Pride*

2024

bronze, wooden frame 40x30x5 cm

ed. of 3 + 1AP

## **Hamza Badran**

### **Bio**

Hamza Badran was born in 1993 in Nablus, Palestine. Lives and works in Basel, Switzerland.

### **Education**

#### **2021-2022**

Attended the master's program Critical Urbanism at the University of Basel, Faculty of History and Philosophy, Basel, Switzerland

#### **2018- 2020**

Master's Degree in fine arts from Institut Kunst-HGK-FHNW, Basel, Switzerland

#### **2016**

Exchange program for one semester at KONSTFACK School of Arts, Crafts and Design, Stockholm, Sweden

#### **2014-2018**

BA in contemporary visual art from the International Academy of Art- Palestine by Oslo national academy of the arts- Norway, Ramallah, Palestine

### **Awards**

#### **2023**

Winner of the Kiefer Hablitzel Göhner Kunstpreis -Swiss Art Awards- for the work *I am not Afraid of Nostalgia*, Basel, Switzerland.

### **Exhibitions, research & art residencies**

#### **2024**

I Never Meant a Single Apology, Gian Marco Casini Gallery, Livorno, Italy  
The River Room, Galerie d'art Forde , Geneva

#### **2023**

AMORE, Basel

Swiss Art Awards, Basel, Switzerland.

Lumbung Film, Co-curator with Iris Amleh, Lumbung Film Screenings at Amore Basel, Switzerland.

Lumbung Film, organized by Party Office, New Delhi, India

#### **2022**

Documenta fifteen, Kassel, Germany. Participating artist in the art collective "Jimmie Durham & A Stick in the Forest by the Side of the Road", Bahnhof Space "KAZimKuBa", Gloria-Kino by Lumbung Film.

Documenta fifteen, Kassel, Germany. Artist publication "Bite the Hand that Feeds You", published on the occasion of documenta fifteen, on September 15, 2022, it is part of the publication Jimmie Durham & A Stick in the Forest by the Side of the Road.

Lumbung Film, at Cultural Centre of Strombeek, organized by Subversive Film, Grimbergen, Belgium .

Lumbung Film, at Ateneo de Manila University, Ateneo, Philippines.

Research and production residency, supported by Documenta Fifteen and the art collective Jimmie Durham & A Stick in the Forest by the Side of the Road, Cape Town, South Africa.

THE TRUTH IS ELSEWHERE exhibition at Kunsthau L6.

REGIONALE 22, Freiburg, Germany.

#### **2021**

PARK PLATZ, Ausgezeichnet, Zurich, Switzerland.

#### **2020**

Life, love, Justice. Fine Arts Master degree graduation exhibition at Kunsthau Baselland, Curated by Prof. Chus Martinez Basel, Switzerland.

PEP, URBAN CHALLENGES, group show, Curated by Bénédicte Blondeau, Liesl Pfeffer, Rüdiger Lange, Berlin, Germany.

#### **2019**

Group Exhibition SPLENDED ISOLATION- NOT IN OUR NAME, at Kunst Raum Riehen, curated by Kiki Seiler-Michalitsi. Regionale 20, Basel, Switzerland.

Group Exhibition FUTURE PERFECT at Projektraum M54, curated by D. Isabel Balzer. Regionale 20, Basel, Switzerland.

Group Exhibition DRESS CODE, Stapflehus, curated by Martin Hartung. Regionale 20, Weil am Rhein, Germany.

Phenomenal Ocean, one week residency at TBA21 with Institut Kunst HGK in Basel, Venice, Italy.

Exhibition in collaboration with Artist M.B Pedersen at Der Tank, Institut Kunst Basel, Basel, Switzerland.

One research week at the Archeological site Delphi, by Institut Kunst HGK-Basel with Roman Kurzmeyer Delphi, Greece.

### **2018**

The Degree Show, BA degree graduation exhibition at Birzeit University Museum, Birzeit, Palestine.

Two weeks workshop on hostility and hospitality with Artist Michael Rakowitz at Dar Yusuf Nasri Jacir for art & research, Bethlehem, Palestine.

### **2017**

FID Marseille Film Festival, film screening and one-week residency, FID campus, Marseille, France.

Group exhibition Re Territories Challenging Borders, at Glassbox, L Horizon des Événements, Paris, France.

Sharjah Biennial, Desires into Fossils, Monuments without a State, Group exhibition, at Khalil Al-Sakakini Cultural Center curated by Reem Shilleh & Lara Khaldi, Ramallah, Palestine.

To Be Determined, Art and research residency at the Irish Museum of Modern Art, organized by Artist Emily Jacir & the International Academy of Art Palestine, Dublin, Ireland.

Indigenous Voices, Sound art exhibition at Goethe Institute Palestine, Curated by Prof. Rainer Krause Ramallah, Palestine.

### **2016**

Cities Exhibition, Qalandia International, group exhibition at the Birzeit University Museum, curated by Yazid Anani, Birzeit, Palestine.

Habibe I need a space, Group exhibition, French German institute, in collaboration with IAAP Students, curated by Jumana Emil Abboud, Ramallah, Palestine.

Event Horizon, Group exhibition, French German institute, Ramallah, Palestine.

Re:territories, workshop with Bourg University art students by the French-German Institute at BZU, Birzeit, Palestine.

### **2015**

This House Belongs to?, Photography group exhibition instructed by Eduardo Soteras Jalil Ramallah, Palestine.

Walter Benjamin in Palestine, attended a one-week philosophy conference at the IAAP, Ramallah, Palestine

## **Publications**

### **2023**

estetica. studi e ricerche, vol. 2/2023, ed. Il Mulino, Italia

### **2022**

documenta Fifteen Handbook, Kassel, Germany, Hatje Cantz ed.

Artist publication “Bite the Hand that Feeds You” released on the occasion of documenta fifteen, on September 15, 2022, it is part of the collective Jimmie Durham & A Stick in the Forest by the Side of the Road publication.