

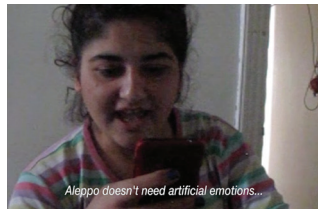


Greetings from Aleppo

Issa Touma

Film, Webapp





Greetings from Aleppo

Since 2014, photographer Issa Touma has returned to his hometown Aleppo, Syria on a regular basis. For more than two years, he has captured everyday encounters with fellow residents of a city torn apart by war. He has helped to clear an unexploded bomb from his parents' apartment and visited artist friends whose works he is collecting for an upcoming exhibition in Singapore. Getting to Aleppo is harder every visit: he initially travelled by bus from Beirut, Lebanon. The buses were forced to make numerous detours through the desert to avoid the front lines. When the buses stopped running because of sniper fire, he travelled by car, usually in a convoy.

Greetings from Aleppo is an homage to the resilience of the people who try – sometimes to an absurd degree – to continue living the lives they led before the war. From car lovers who drive their gleaming classic cars through the devastated streets, to the girls who giggle about the way the media reports on the situation in their city.

Greetings from Aleppo can be seen as a follow-up to *9 Days – From My Window in Aleppo*, shot by Touma from the window of his apartment in 2012, which depicts how the revolution was stolen by jihadists.

Issa Touma

Touma (1962) is a photographer and cultural animator based in Aleppo (Syria). In 1996, he established Le Pont, a photography gallery and workshop. He also founded the Aleppo International Photography Festival. In 2015, he made the short film *9 Days – From My Window in Aleppo*, together with the Dutch filmmakers Thomas Vroege and Floor van der Meulen. *9 Days* was awarded a European Film Award for Best Short Film in 2016.

Film 16'36" min, HD video, stereo. Camera and narration: Issa Touma. Story and editing: Thomas Vroege and Floor van der Meulen. Music: Darius Timmer. Sound design: Tom Jansen. Production: DeepFocus WebDocs and Paradox.

Webapp *Greetings from Aleppo* is also part of an online sequel story optimised for mobile media, developed by Journeyy. www.journeyy.nl

Festival distribution

Wouter Jansen, Some Shorts:
www.someshorts.com

Exhibition distribution

Agnes Wijers, Paradox:
aw@paradox.nl

Info paradox.nl/project/greetings-from-aleppo

Paradox

documentary projects

**PO Box 113, 1135 ZK Edam
The Netherlands**

+31 299 31 50 83
info@paradox.nl
www.paradox.nl



Paradox is supported by
the Mondriaan Fund