

IF I CAN'T DANCE, I DON'T WANT TO BE PART OF YOUR REVOLUTION

Deadline
15 May 2026

Frictional Conversations: Call for Carpets



yasmine eid-sabbagh, *Frictional Conversations*,
documenta 15, Kassel, 2022. Photo: Rozenn Quéré

Image description: A very large room is filled with a multitude of carpets of different colours and styles. Spread around are also straw cushions and white paper cards. The space has white concrete ceiling with visible beams crossing it. Two arches descend on the ground, gently dividing the room. Two of the four walls are covered with long greyish/purple curtains. In the corner opposite the camera a drum set and a grand piano are visible.

For yasmine eid-sabbagh's upcoming commission with *If I Can't Dance*, we are looking to borrow carpets!

The carpets will become co-hosts of a gathering and listening space developed by the artist/researcher, as a new iteration of her ongoing project *Frictional Conversations*. From the 20th of June to the 11th of July 2026, the space will host collective listening sessions, reading circles, and conversations engaging the complexity of Palestinian life and memory through the lens of Burj al-Shamali, a Palestinian refugee camp located southeast of Tyre, Lebanon. Your carpet will become part of this space of connection and resonance, shaping how we gather, sit, listen, and spend time together.

Frictional Conversations is a research and performance project rooted in a photographic repository developed by eid-sabbagh in collaboration with residents of Burj al-Shamali over the past twenty-five years. Approaching the archive as an embodied, relational, and political practice, eid-sabbagh uses the photographs as prompts for conversations and storytelling. Through this process, she foregrounds the perspectives, memories, and subjectivities that these photographs carry, revealing the plurality of experiences that shape life in Burj al-Shamali. Resisting the stereotypical image of the Palestinian refugee within mainstream media, eid-sabbagh excavates a space of negotiation, dematerializing images into stories and performative interventions.

At *If I Can't Dance*, the archive takes the form of a radio show set within a DIY studio in Burj al-Shamali. The program weaves together archival recordings, on-air conversations, and an original electronic music score by composer and musician Sary Moussa. Blurring past, present, and future, it amplifies the voices of five generations of Palestinians who have lived in the camp since their displacement in 1948. The radio transmission will be broadcast as a collective listening experience within the carpeted space.

Outside broadcast hours, the space will host gatherings and activities by Amsterdam-based artists and groups, tracing connections between Burj al-Shamali and the local context. In the spirit of collectivity that characterizes *Frictional Conversations*, eid-sabbagh invites members of Amsterdam's communities to contribute their carpets, becoming active hosts of the project. The carpets will form part of the installation and help shape the shared environment.

Practical information:

The carpets will be loaned from the 8th of June till the 13th or 14th of July. During the project no shoes will be allowed on the carpets and our team will take good care of them. If I Can't Dance will return them cleaned promptly after the project concludes. If you would like to co-host this project with your carpet, please email ssg@ificantdance.org before the 15th of May 2026.

Biography:

In her practice yasmine eid-sabbagh explores potentials of human agency by engaging in experimental, collective work processes. These include (counter-)archiving practices such as the negotiation around a digital repository (re)assembled in collaboration with inhabitants of Burj al-Shamali, a Palestinian refugee camp near Tyr, Lebanon, and radical pedagogical projects such as *Ses Milanes-créixer a la natura*, a self-organized educational project in the forest in Bunyola, Spain, using nature as its main infrastructure. Photography often acts as a medium for her to communally investigate notions of collectivity, power, and endurance; for example, in her engagement as a member of the Arab Image Foundation, a practitioner-led archival institution, and as a focus in her PhD in Art Theory and Cultural Studies from the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna (2018).

This chapter of *Frictional Conversations*, presented within the context of If I Can't Dance Edition X – *Body as Memory*, was commissioned as part of the Consortium Commissions—a project initiated by Mophradat. The presentation is further supported by the Mondriaan Fund, AFK (Amsterdam Fund for the Arts), het Cultuurfonds, and the DOEN Foundation.