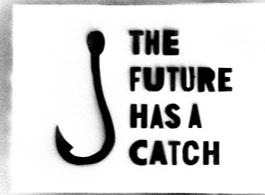


## **EUPHRAT | THE EUPHRATES**

Q & A with Jelena



### *1. Who is the narrator in your film?*

- The film is narrated by Jabbar Abdullah, who was born and raised in Raqqa, Syria.
- He fled Syrian in 2013.
- Through Jabbar's stories, Jelena got to know him, his family, friends, home town and home country.

### *2. How did you come up with the visual concept?*

- It was hard to come up with a visual concept that would not bear the risk of re-traumatizing people affected by war and displacement.
- She decided on hands, as hands and gestures are used for communication universally.
- It was very important to Jelena that the visuals would not distract the audience from Jabbar's story.

### *3. What kind of reaction do you wish for from the audience?*

- She wants them listen carefully, to realise that the war in Syria is still raging, and that people in Syria, and in refugee camps, still need help.
- To have empathy for Jabbar and other people that experience war and displacement, especially now, in times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### *4. What is important to you in your work?*

- She tries to pay attention to the stories that exist in the world around her.
- She never wants to force a conversation on a specific topic, but to give people the chance to tell their personal stories in their own voice.

### *5. What did you learn from making this film?*

- Most important to Jelena was hearing Jabbar's story in person, hearing the very personal story of someone fleeing from war.
- She says it was important to experience that you can not "turn off" a personal story, like you would turn off the news.
- It made her more emphatic.