

Positions Through Triangulating ▲

Progress Update Halfway Mark (1/2)

Thursday 2nd October 2025

Rituals

home, gestures,
identity, documentation

- **Do rituals help us cope with loss?**
(considering to include the digital world into this larger theme):
 - **How do digital gestures and repetitive online interactions act as rituals that keep our memories?**
- When physical space is lost, how can digital rituals retain a feeling of home(?)



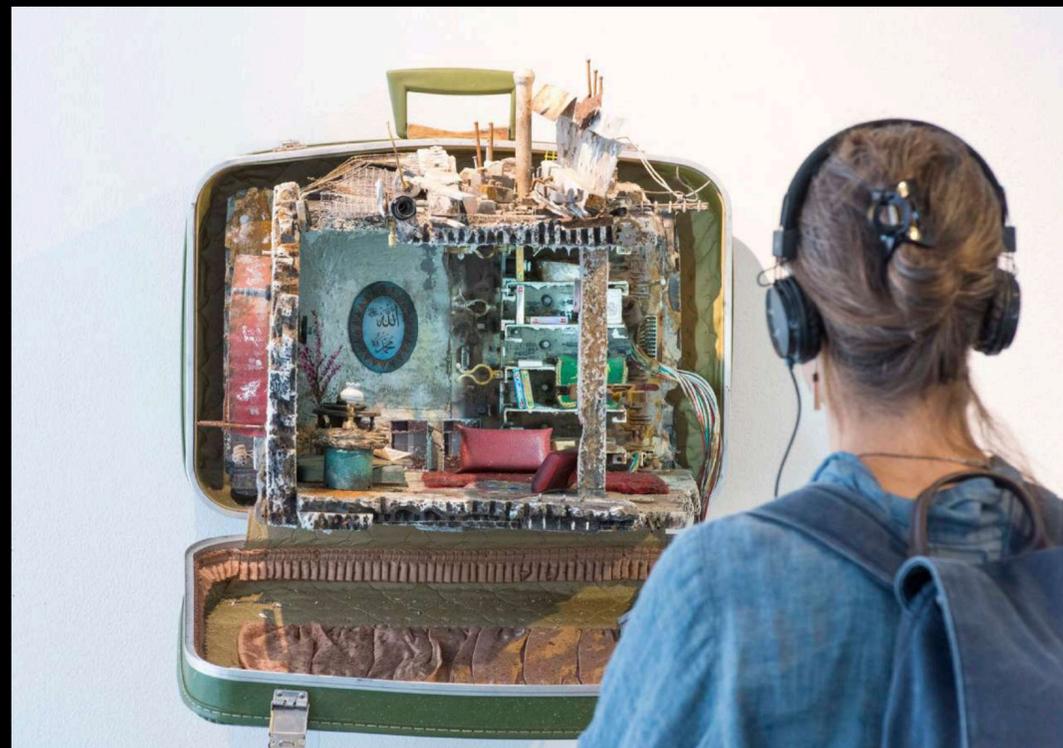
How can ritual transform material objects into carriers of memory?

themes:
memory, ritual,
materiality,

Mohamad Hafez

UNPACKED: Refugee Baggage
Mixed Media Installation

Recreates homes, spaces, buildings that have suffered the violence of war. Adding real stories of people from Sudan to Congo and Afghanistan, who've escaped these circumstances.



- An active memory in tangible forms.
- Reconstructing and also preserving memories, audio/physical experience.
- Objects as memory carries. Packing and Unpacking as a ritual.

Nada Sehnaoui

Fractions of Memory
Installation

Asked participates to join in the making of the installation by posing a question to the internet:

“Do you have a memory of daily life in downtown Beirut before the start of the war in 1975? If you wish to share this memory with the public, please: write a text recalling this memory, on one white page or more, in the language of your choice, handwritten or typed, signed or anonymous, and send this text to the following address...”

360 structures were made using 20 tons of newspaper. Some were filled with response, some carried blank pages, lost memories.



- *Preservation. Materializing memories.*
- *Collective experiences shown in physical structures.*
- *Digital/Physical storytelling.*

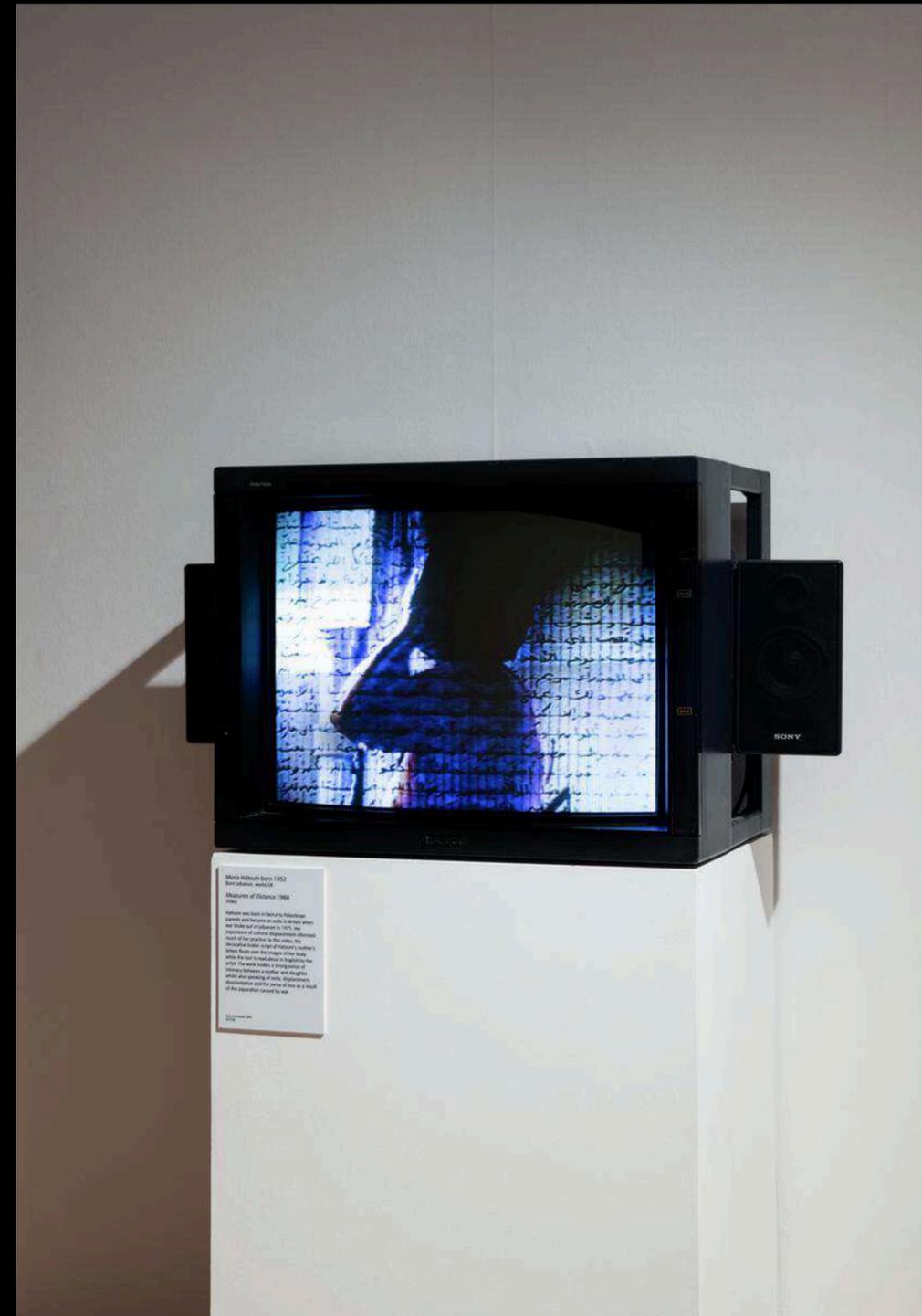
Mona Hatoum

Measures of Distance
Video/Performance

Autobiographical piece on displacement, loss, separation from war. Hatoum became an exile when war broke out in Lebanon and was forced to stay in London. Overlaid letter in Arabic from her mother spoken out loud by Hatoum in English. Photography of her mother taken in the shower.

Reference to the exile feeling Hatoum is experiencing. Proximity and separation can coexist.

(Mother in the shower and abstractions from the paper/voice over/text.)



Hatoum, M., 1988. Measures of Distance. [video] 15 min 35 sec. A Western Front video production, Vancouver. Available at: <https://www.whitecube.com/artworks/measures-of-distance>

Material One: Tray

Inquire: How can ritual transform material objects into carriers of memory?

Tray/Siniya (صينية). The humble tray. A cultural/social object. Communal dining traditions, the roundness accomadates large groups of people and items on tray. Symbol of Karam (كرم), generocity. A very nostalgic and stable object in Sudanese households.

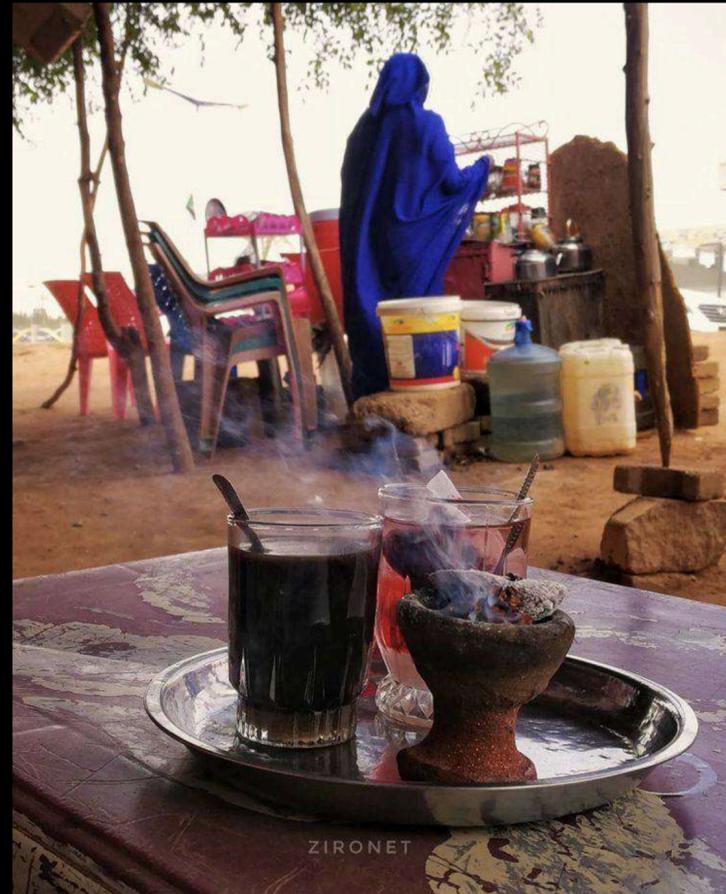


Material Two: Bread/Tea

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Khoubs (خوبس), Arabic bread. A staple in all North African and Middle Eastern families diets. In some ways, bread has been a gesture of peace (breaking bread) during social food interactions. Main pillar of the Sudanese ethics.

Shai (شاي), Tea. Daily ritual for Sudanese people. Deep rooted in community and building a social circle. We even have special ceremonies for it, Haflat Shai mostly for weddings to celebrate. Tea has the powerful ability to bring people closer together.



Concept: Around the tray holds the rituals of tea drinking and breaking bread. I ask, *"What small act reminds you of home or family?"*. Personal and other anecdotes are shared.
Sound, performance, material interaction

- Tray: Two trials of words/phrases that connected with the atmosphere of gathering by the tray. Act as a stage for interaction.
 - Can you carry this plate for us?
• تحملنا الصحن دا؟
- Used in a sarcastic/joking tone for someone who comes to the gathering with so much food.
 - No way! You're Kidding!
• بالله!
- Centure of gathering, a platform for rituals, fondation.
- Sayings added onto the material of the tray, making it to be a carrier of memories of this object.
- As the object is repetitively used, the stains/marks imprint moments of use.

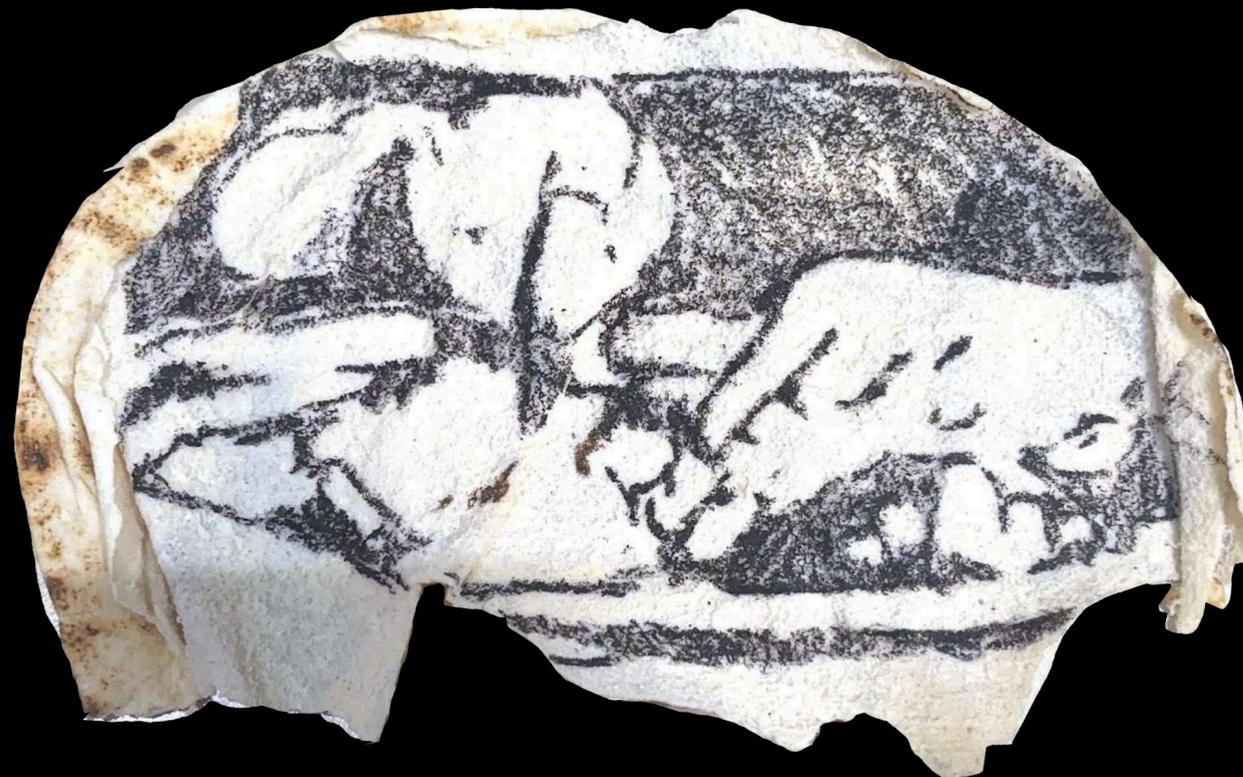


Inquire: How can ritual transform material objects into carriers of memory?

Future End Deliverable:
Video

Concept: Around the tray holds the rituals of tea drinking and breaking bread. I ask, *“What small act reminds you of home or family?”*. Personal and other anecdotes are shared. *Sound, performance, material interaction*

- Idea #1: Using edible markers. Short stop motion of a video of my family making food. Embedding a memory with action. Tearing through bread. Not following through with this, image isn't clearly depicted. Made in the video editing process(?)
- Idea #2: Ripping through the bread, uncovering sayings of the participants as the answer the question. Mixing between English and Arabic.

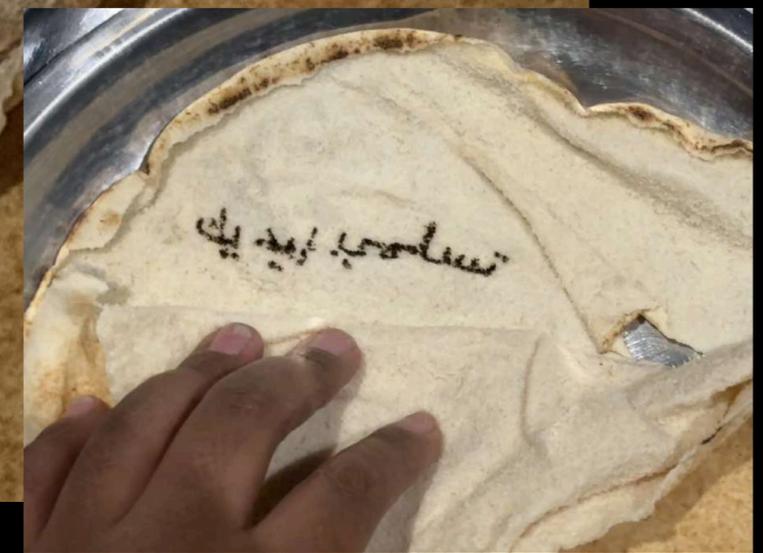
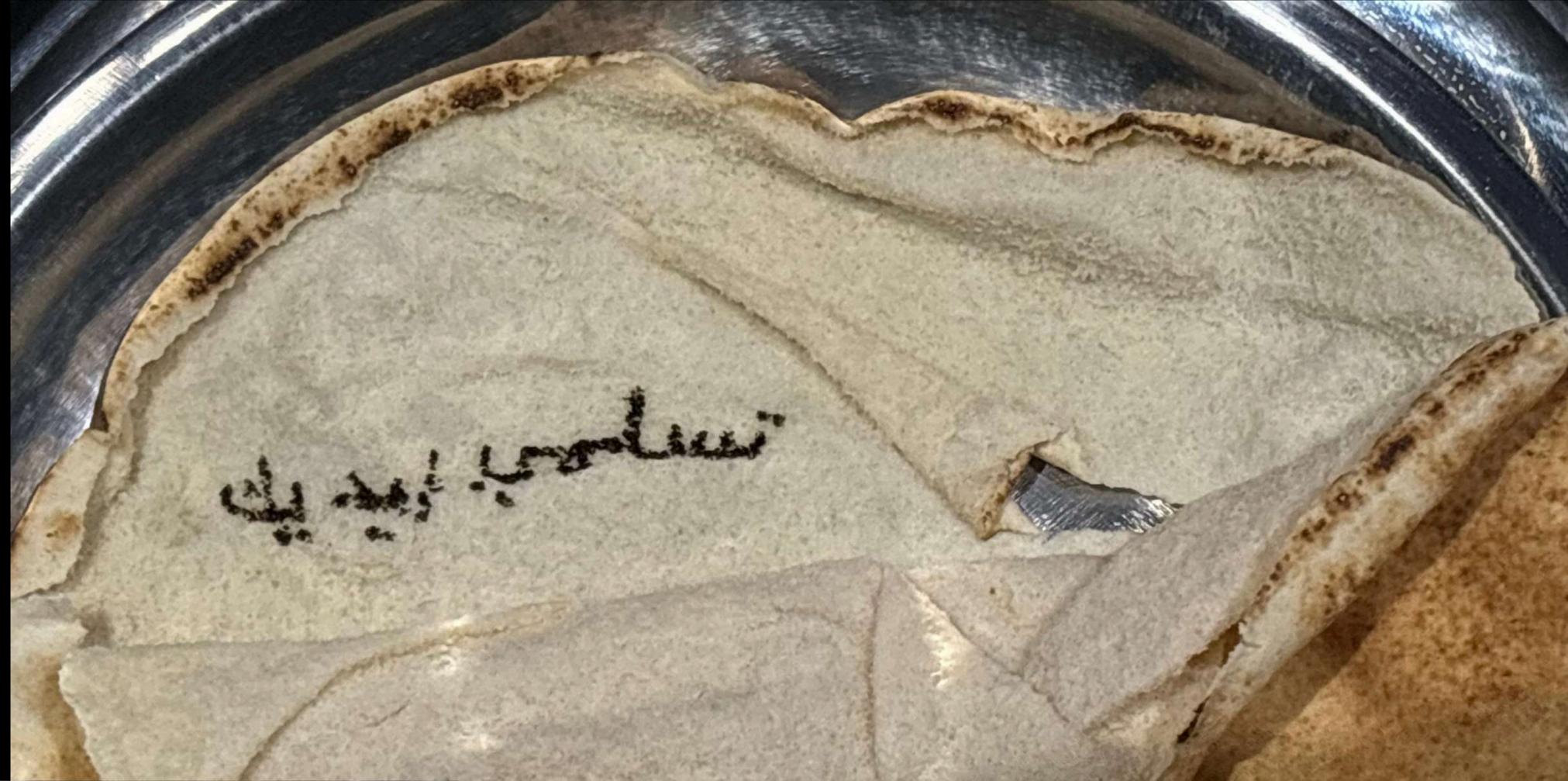


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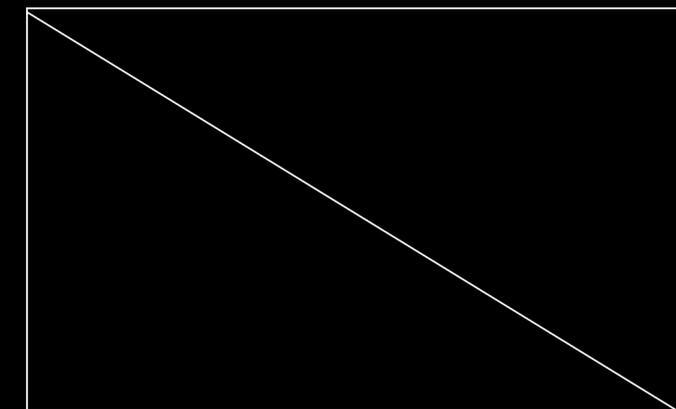
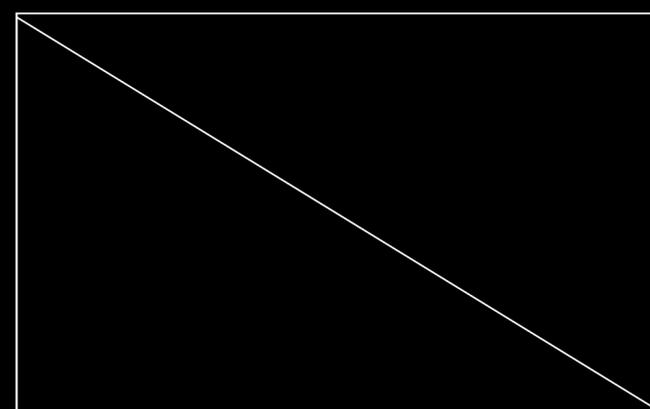
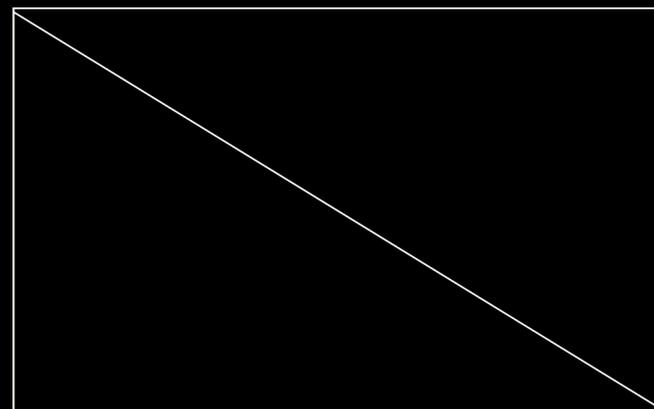
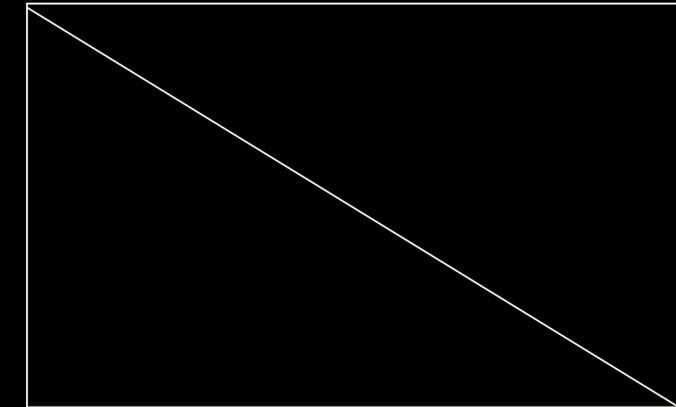
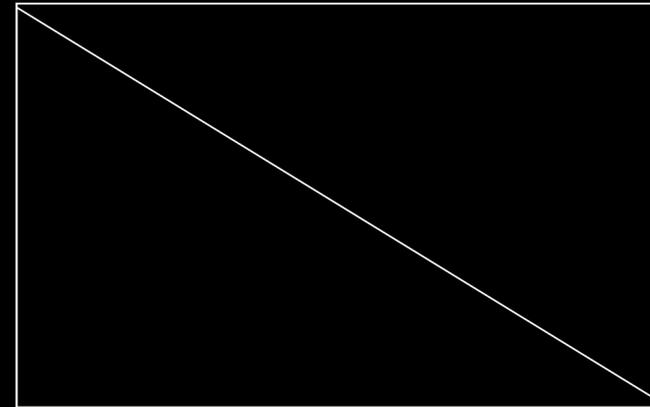
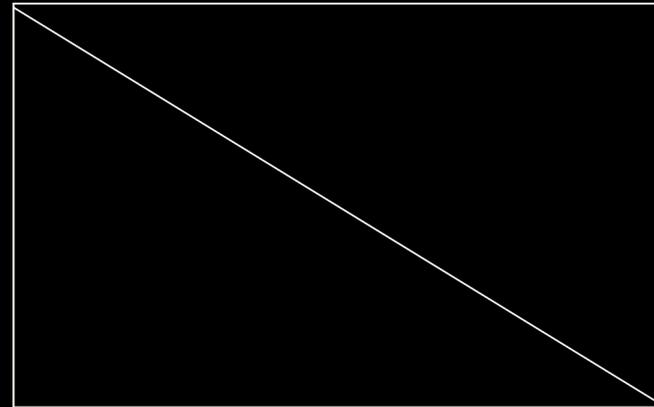
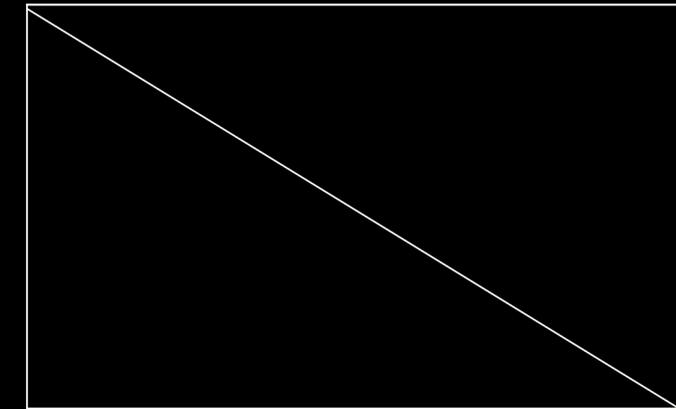
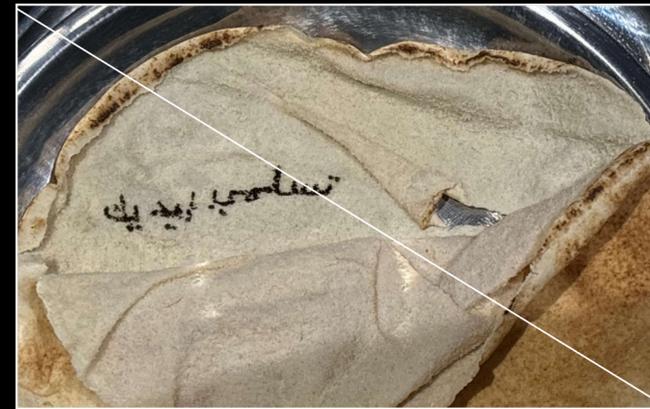
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- Main purpose to have rituals in action.
- Beginning Frame: the empty tray is placed down. In many different surfaces. (table, grass, kitchen table tops, white background).
- Pour myself a cup when I speak.
- Spoken Section: *“What small act reminds you of home or family?”* Insert voice notes of friends and family answers, possible back and forth dialogue between me and them throughout the video.
- Pour participant a cup when they speak. Taking apart of their answering and writing on bread and tearing it to unveil.

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