



A needle in the binding

[The prisoner's book section of the Public library of Nablus, Palestine]
installation

The prisoner's book section of the Public library of Nablus hosts approximately 8000 books and 870 handwritten notebooks coming from two ex-Israeli military detention structures nearby Nablus, in the Palestinian territory. The prisons where operating from 1967 and 1996 and, once they closed down, the books were collected by the Palestinian Authority and donated to the library.

The books distinguish their origin by being labeled with a blue tape or a brown one, depending on which of the two prisons they come from.





POCKET NO. 10
MUHAMMAD

The Messenger of God

Bel

\$1.95

In Search of Noah's

ATLAS OF THE B

The Penguin Shop

Antiquities

A376

The Dead Sea Scrolls

Allegro

8

THE NEW
ENGLISH
BIBLE



VINAGE / V-67

Orientalism

EDWARD W. SAID

aves/The Greek Myths: 2

Sacred Books of the World



Bouquet

Lumphreys

Buddhism

A226

A283

"A few years ago" - the lady at the desk of the library, tells me - "an old man asked me for a specific book" (she picks up and shows me a thick hard covered grey book with old yellowish pages)

"He started to explore the perimeter of the cover with his fingers" - she says - "searching in the bookbinding gap". When the lady asked him what he was searching for, the man looked at her with a discouraged expression: "in prison I use to hide my embroidering needle in the binding of this book".





"We are the people," they shouted in protest, and now East Berliners stride through Potsdamer Platz into West Berlin, many for the first time. An East German soldier, right, already softened by gifts of flowers, signs his name to a portion of the wall rubble. Among the arrivals were 50-year-old Monica Gosszons and her pregnant daughter-in-law, Katy. "I am torn between joy and sadness," Monica told the author. "My life would have been completely different without the Wall." Katy patted her stomach: "At least my baby won't have to experience what we've gone through."



الجنود المجردين من السلاح

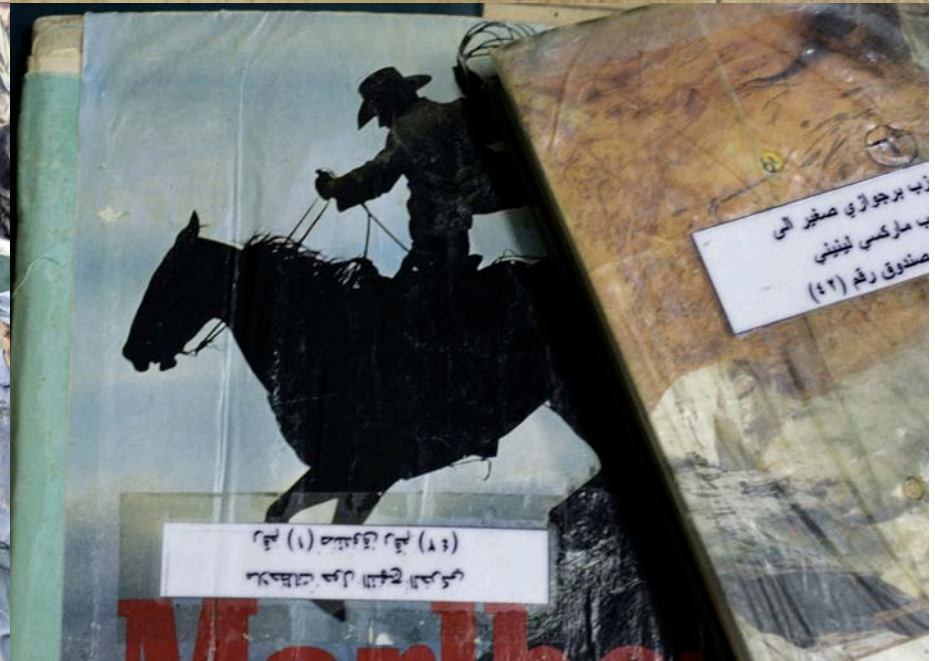
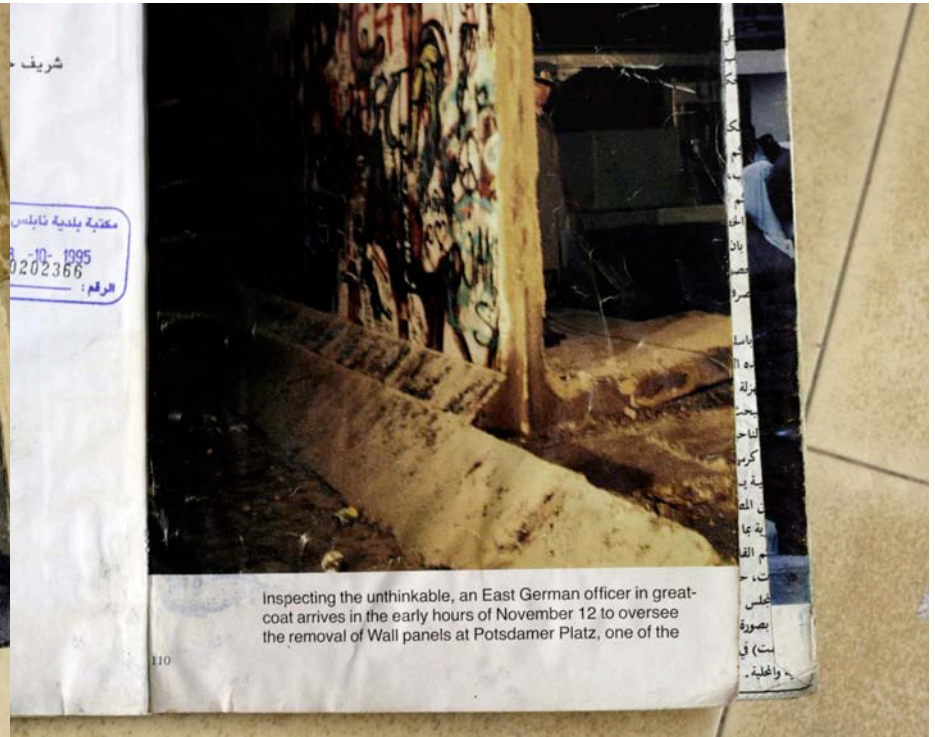
Between 2009 and 2010 I have been extensively documenting the prisoner's section of the library of Nablus both by photograph as well as by collecting stories related with the books.

Most of the covers were gladded, by the prisoners, with magazine pages – in order to prevent the books from decaying. Across the covers of the books, is possible to read the story and History of various events happening between 1967 and 1996.



Juxtaposed to the public nature of the covers, the books contain an inner world of sketches and handwritten texts that wrap around the printed words.





من الغنم. هذا الكتاب والحروف على شراها
 - انزلنا لقوله حمرنا ورجلنا حمرنا
 - الا لا يظلم في القدر الهادي. نزلت
 - حتى نزلت بيانه الدعا التي جعلت
 - في الكتاب الحرف في بيت حمرنا حمرنا
 - والحق حمرنا حمرنا.

