



BACKYARD

by Khaled Abdulwahed



SYNOPSIS

The experimental short film deconstructs and reconstructs a photograph taken in 1998 of a Syrian cactus field, a plant known for its resilience. War and its havoc have been there. 20 years later there only remains this photograph projected on a wall in a flat in a Berlin backyard.

In autumn 1998, near his home in the southwest of Damascus, Khaled Abdulwahed took a landscape photograph of a cactus field on a 35mm chrome film. The old cactus fields in that area link the city with the countryside. Cacti grow all over the Middle East and are used for their fruits and as borders between houses and villages. The thorny, tough plant is also a symbol of resilience. The cactus field in Khaled's film "backyard" consisted of 500,000 square-yards that belonged to farmers, who used to sell their cactus fruits every summer in the streets of Damascus. In the summer of 2012, the cactus fields were destroyed during the uprising, and the war started to form a new landscape. Khaled's picture on...

2018

26 min

FORMAL CATEGORIES

History

CONTENT CATEGORIES

Experimental

PREMIERE

Leipzig, Germany (2018)

PRODUCTION COMPANY

[pong film GmbH](#)

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FESTIVALS

2018

CNAP (National Centre for Visual Arts) award – FID Marseille –
Festival International de Cinéma

DOK Leipzig – German Competition

CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Khaled Abdulwahed (script, editing, sound,
photography) · PRODUCER Alex Gerbaulet · ASSISTANT TO
DIRECTOR Amel Alzakout · EXECUTIVE PRODUCER Merle Kröger
(Creative Consultant)