



FRACTURED TIME

JUDY PRICE

Around the fire at night the Alshalaldaha brothers and their associates discuss life working in the quarries.

The night scenes focus on the social gathering of the Alshalaldaha brothers and their associates who rent land to excavate the stone from their small quarry near Birzeit, a university town North of Ramallah. From a small town near Hebron they spend five nights a week camping out in a metal shipping container, as the journey time from Ramallah to Hebron, with the checkpoints and the Separation Wall, today takes twice as long -over two and half hours. The hardship and precariousness of quarrying as well as politics, reminiscences and anguish is articulated in the day-to-day lives of the brothers as they sit around the fire watching over their quarry and machines.

They also allude to how a particular stone from their quarry in Birzeit is widely sought after by Israelis as it has properties that make it look much older once it has been exposed to the air. The use of this particular stone in Israel imbues buildings with a sense of time and which Israel uses to symbolise their presence in the landscape and by which they invest national, ideological and spiritual narratives within the stone (see file 03 Seizing Locality).

Cluster: *White Oil*

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