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ELS OPSOMER is an artist. She is a former artist-in-residence at Rijksakademie Amsterdam (1996-1998) and laureate of the Jeune Peinture Belge (E. Langui Award, 1997). Her publications include the artists' book *Wrapped* (CGAC, Santiago de Compostella, 2000) and several contributions for magazines and catalogues. Her artwork has been shown in exhibitions, biennials and festivals in Rotterdam, Karlsruhe, Dortmund, Santiago de Compostella, Brussels, Ramallah, Paris, São Paulo, Werkleitz and Graz. Her most recent output includes the short films *_imovie[one]_:The Agony of Silence* (2003) and *_imovie[2]_:In-between/Shifting'* (2004).

PIETER VAN BOGAERT is a critic and curator. He regularly publishes on new media culture in the Belgian newspaper *De Tijd* as well as in catalogues for international exhibitions. His film & video shows and programs have been shown in several arts centres in Belgium. He is a founding member of SQUARE vzw and co-curates the electronic music series [sonic]square. He is a member of the editorial board of the media magazine AS and producer of *Vlaamse Filmkes* (1999), a series of short films and stories on the science fiction of Flanders. His most recent output includes *Outer and Inner Space*, a historical overview as part of the exhibition on tactile media *Feel* (2004).

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TIME SUSPENDED

Herman Asselberghs _ Els Opsomer _ Pieter Van Bogaert

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In November 2002, the Brussels-based authors of this book went on a 10-day visit to Palestine. Like most western tv-viewers and newspaper readers, their knowledge of the deep and long-standing Israeli-Palestinian conflict came from mainstream media coverage. On the ground they witnessed a complexity that standard soundbite formats cannot possibly encompass. This trio of artists and critics here challenges years of media-tinted observation with a record of their short encounter with everyday life in Palestine. In Jerusalem, Ramallah and Gaza they saw both occupier and occupied perpetually awaiting radical change. As if time were suspended.

SQUARE

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TIME SUSPENDED

Concept by Herman Asselberghs, Els Opsomer, Pieter Van Bogaert

All photographs by Els Opsomer

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This book began with a 10-day visit to the Occupied Territories as part of *100 Artists in Palestine*, the IETM project aiming to break the isolation of Palestinian artists, to facilitate exchanges with European artists and to set up the conditions for continuing artistic relationships between European and Palestinian artists and cultural organisations (www.ietm.org).

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ERASED / VANISHED by Els Opsomer starts at page 5.

Photo credits on the facing flap.

Some of the pictures in this book are included in the short video *_imovie[one]_: The Agony of Silence* (11 min., 2003), the photographer's first rendition of her visit to the Occupied Territories.

REALITY CHECK by Pieter Van Bogaert, from page 113 to 153.

Originally written in Dutch. English translation by Gregory Ball.

The author refers to the following works:

Hiroshima mon amour, Marguerite Duras, Gallimard, 1960

Territories. Islands Camps and Other States of Utopia, Anselm

Franke, Rafi Segal & Eyal Weizman, Walter König Verlag, 2003

Drinking the Sea at Gaza. Days and Nights in a Land Under

Siege, Amira Hass, Metropolitan Books, 1999

Reporting from Ramallah, Amira Hass, Semiotext(e)/MIT, 2003

Politicide. Ariel Sharon's War Against the Palestinians,

Baruch Kimmerling, Verso, 2003

The Baghdad Blog, Salaam Pax, Atlantic Books, 2003

Culture and Imperialism, Edward W. Said, Vintage, 1994

The End of the Peace Process, Edward W. Said, Granta, 2000

A Civilian Occupation. The Politics of Israeli Architecture, Rafi

Segal & Eyal Weizman (ed.), Babel/Verso, 2003

The Next Jerusalem. Sharing the Divided City, Michael Sorkin

(ed.), The Monacelli Press, 2002

Welcome to the Desert of the Real, Slavoj Žižek, Verso, 2002

A.M./P.M. by Herman Asselberghs, from page 193 to 216.

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The author uses and abuses some words by J.G. Ballard, H.F. Pitkin, Susan Sontag, Slavoj Žižek and Jean-Luc Godard. Thanks to Oscar van den Boogaard, Geert Lovink & Florian Schneider, and Thomas Zimmer for letting me borrow one sentence from each of them. Respect to all.

Part of this text is the voice-over to a film by Herman Asselberghs. Photography by Els Opsomer. Graphic Motion Design by Nicolas Karaktzanis. Soundtrack by David Shea. Voice by Claude Wampler. Sound engineering by Boris Debackere. 47 min., 2004, a SQUARE vzw production.

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