

The exhibition's central work is Earwitness Theatre, commissioned by Witte de With in partnership with Chisenhale Gallery, London; Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis; and Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane. The work comes after Abu Hamdan's "earwitness" interviews into the Syrian regime prison of Saydnaya. His work on Saydnaya began in 2016, upon the invitation of Amnesty International and Forensic Architecture in London. On a practical level, the process involves listening and capturing sounds, which could, and eventually would, help to map out a prison, and to identify the number of detainees and inhuman confinement therein. On an aesthetic level, earwitnessing is how Abu Hamdan can sense and make evident testimonies often considered irrelevant by media outlets and inadmissible within the court of law, such as the experience of darkness, silence, and hunger.

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