

Archiving Gaza in the Present: Memory, Culture and Erasure

(Saqi Books, 2025)

Dina Matar & Venetia Porter (Eds.)



Conflict does more than destroy physical spaces. It extinguishes lives, erases histories and disrupts the collective memory of entire communities. In Gaza, where genocide has wrought catastrophic loss, the destruction of heritage adds another dimension of devastation. Yet amid the rubble, acts of archiving, art-making and storytelling persist.

Archiving Gaza in the Present brings together voices from Palestine and beyond to document the cultural erasure and to explore how creative and archival practices resist it. Contributions from curators, architects, artists, journalists, lawyers and scholars capture Gaza’s once-vibrant cultural life – historic buildings, art centres, universities and museums that existed before October 2023 – now turned to rubble.

Featuring rich visual material – from fragmented WhatsApp testimonies to forensic documentation – and including artworks, maps and photographs, *Archiving Gaza in the Present* is both a living archive and a call to action. It is a vital resource for understanding Gaza’s cultural survival amid destruction.

More Information

<https://saqibooks.com/books/saqi/archiving-gaza-in-the-present/>

About the Editors

Dina Matar is professor of Global Communication and Arab Media at SOAS, University of London and former Chair of Centre for Palestine Studies. She is editor, with Helga Tawil-Souri, of *Producing Palestine: the Creative Production of Palestine through Contemporary Media* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2024), *Gaza as Metaphor* (Hurst, 2016), and author of *What it Means to be Palestinian: Stories of Palestinian Peoplehood* (I.B. Tauris, 2010).

Featured Research and Publications from BRISMES Members

Venetia Porter is former senior curator for Islamic and Contemporary Middle East art at the British Museum where she is now honorary research fellow. Her exhibitions include *Hajj: journey to the heart of Islam* (2012) and she was the lead curator for the Albukhary Foundation gallery of the Islamic World (opened 2018). She is a trustee of the Arab British Centre and her most recent publication is *Artists Making Books: Poetry to Politics* (British Museum Press 2023).