## Visual Essay

I will not find this image beautiful I will not find this image beautiful I will not find this image beautiful (An unfinished monument)

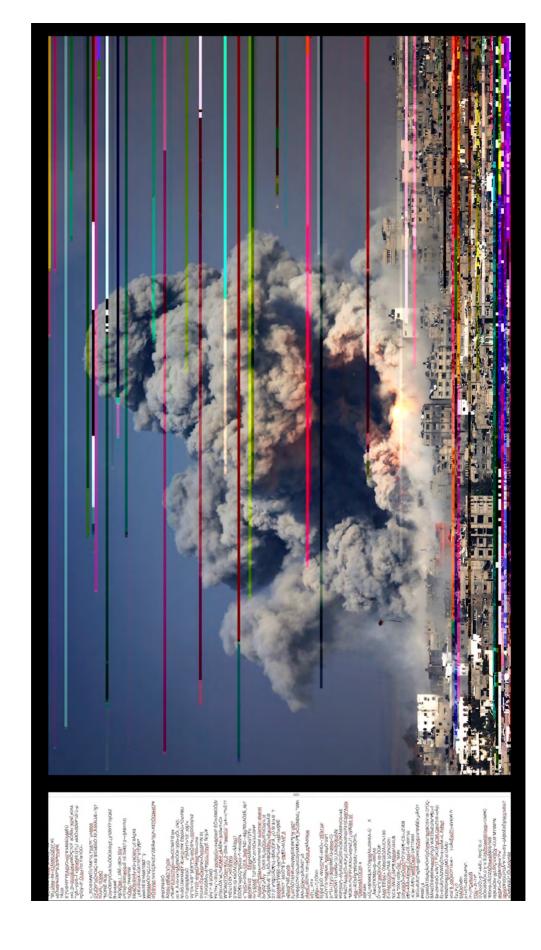
Omar Mismar

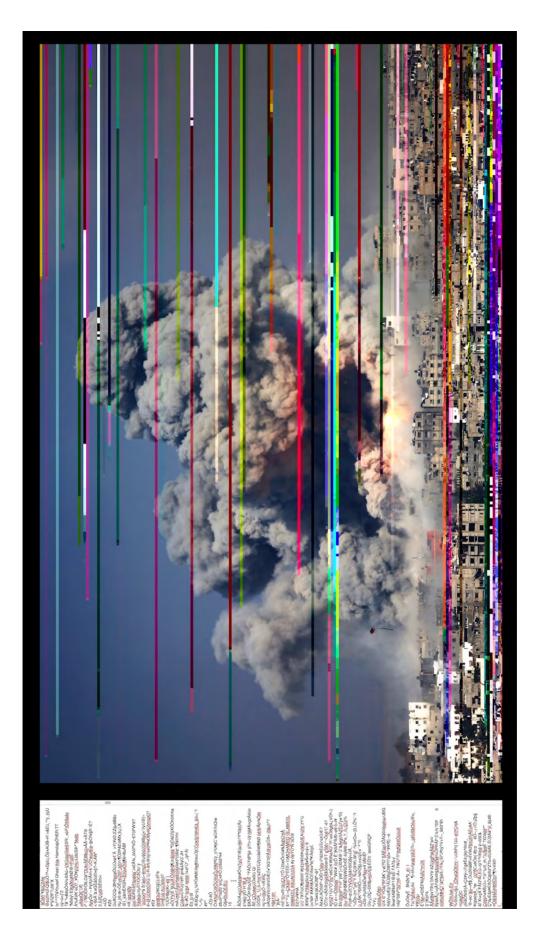
Stills from I will not find this image beautiful, I will not find this image beautiful, I will not find this image beautiful (An unfinished monument), 2015.

Video, 11 hr. 43 min.

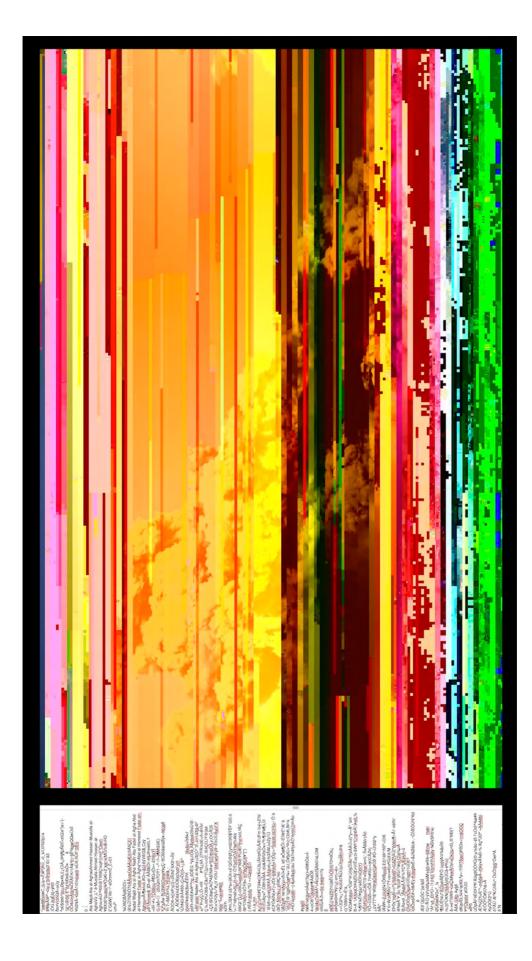
Original image courtesy of Hatem Moussa/AP.

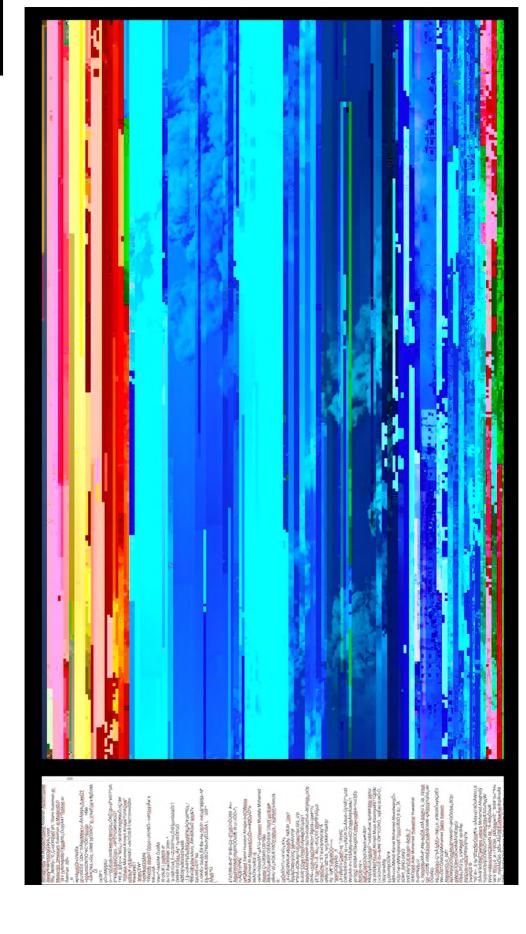
During the summer of 2014, I scrolled through the images of the Israeli bombings of Gaza, mesmerised behind the computer screen by their beauty. They were stunning and my engagement with them, so far away from the 'event', was based on purely flat aesthetic grounds—which is uncannily perverse. Attempting to deface the image, I insert the names of the victims of the attack into its script code. Each name typed into the script alters the photograph and leaves its mark. While trying to defile the visual, to escape from the beauty of this violence, a different aesthetic transpires, that of the glitch. With naming the dead, the notion of a monument emerges, reinforced by the sculptural quality of the smoke cloud.

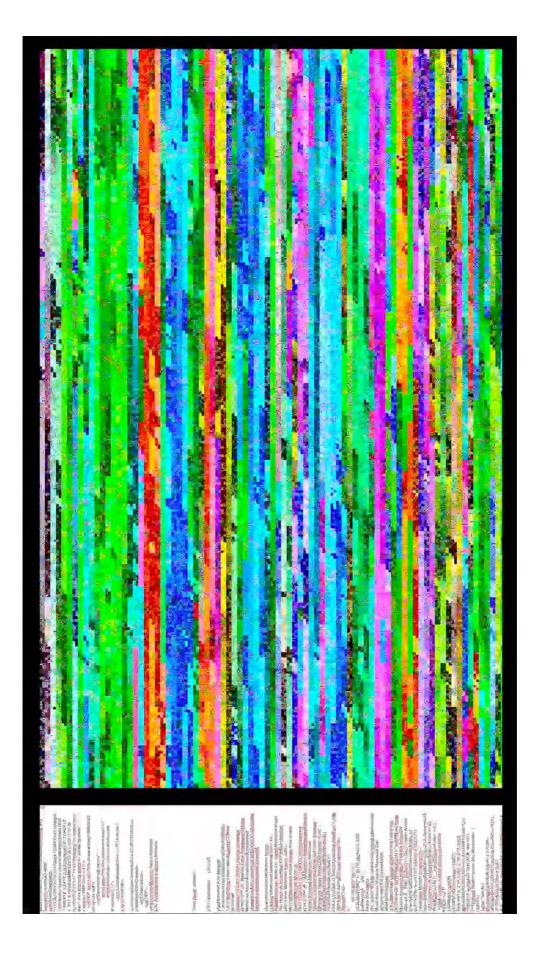












## **Biography**

Omar Mismar is a visual artist based in Beirut. His practice is project driven, probing the entanglement of art and politics and the aesthetics of disaster. Mismar takes up conflict and its representations via form deliberations, material interventions and translation strategies, using the performative as gesture and rehearsal. He has participated in exhibitions in San José Museum of Art, San José (2018), Tabakalera, San Sebastian (2018), the MMAG Foundation, Amman (2018), MoMA, New York (2018), Homeworks 8, Beirut (2019), Oakland Museum, California (2020) among others. Mismar is Assistant Professor of Visual Arts at the American University of Beirut.