

## **Access and Closure: Photographs and cut-paper work from Palestine**

Toby Millman

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### **Background:**

Toby Millman is a Hamtramck based artist whose work combines text, photography and various strategies for cut-paper, to illustrate the intersection of identities, culture and politics surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The work is informed by history, media study and geo-politics, but is primarily inspired by lengthy trips to the West Bank and East Jerusalem between 2006 and 2008.

Millman's working processes are simply stated and without artifice. Her photographs are consciously observational, taken with a simple camera and without deviation from the day's flow. Her large scale cut-paper pieces create sculptural forms by tracing individual elements of a map published by the United Nations titled *West Bank: Access and Closure*. The text-based pieces each combine a hand-written first person narrative with an incised image cut by tracing an accompanying photo.

Operating within these clearly defined boundaries, Millman expresses her response to the injustice in Palestine through a highly personal body of work that is subtle, hauntingly memorable, and carries great emotional charge.