

سمرات النحاس

Old Sana'a City: Samsarat Al-Nuhas

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY IN QATAR ; MIL GRANT PRODUCTION

DIRECTED BY MARIAM AL-DHUBHANI PRODUCED BY NOOR ABUNABA

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MOHAMMED AL-JABERI EDITED BY NADA BEDAIR



NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY
IN QATAR



English Title: Old Sana'a City: Samsarat Al-Nuhas

Arabic Title: سمرة النحاس

Country of production: Yemen, and Qatar

Language: Arabic (subtitled in English)

Genre: Short 360 documentary, 7 min

Themes: war, culture, heritage, tradition, humanity, economy, history

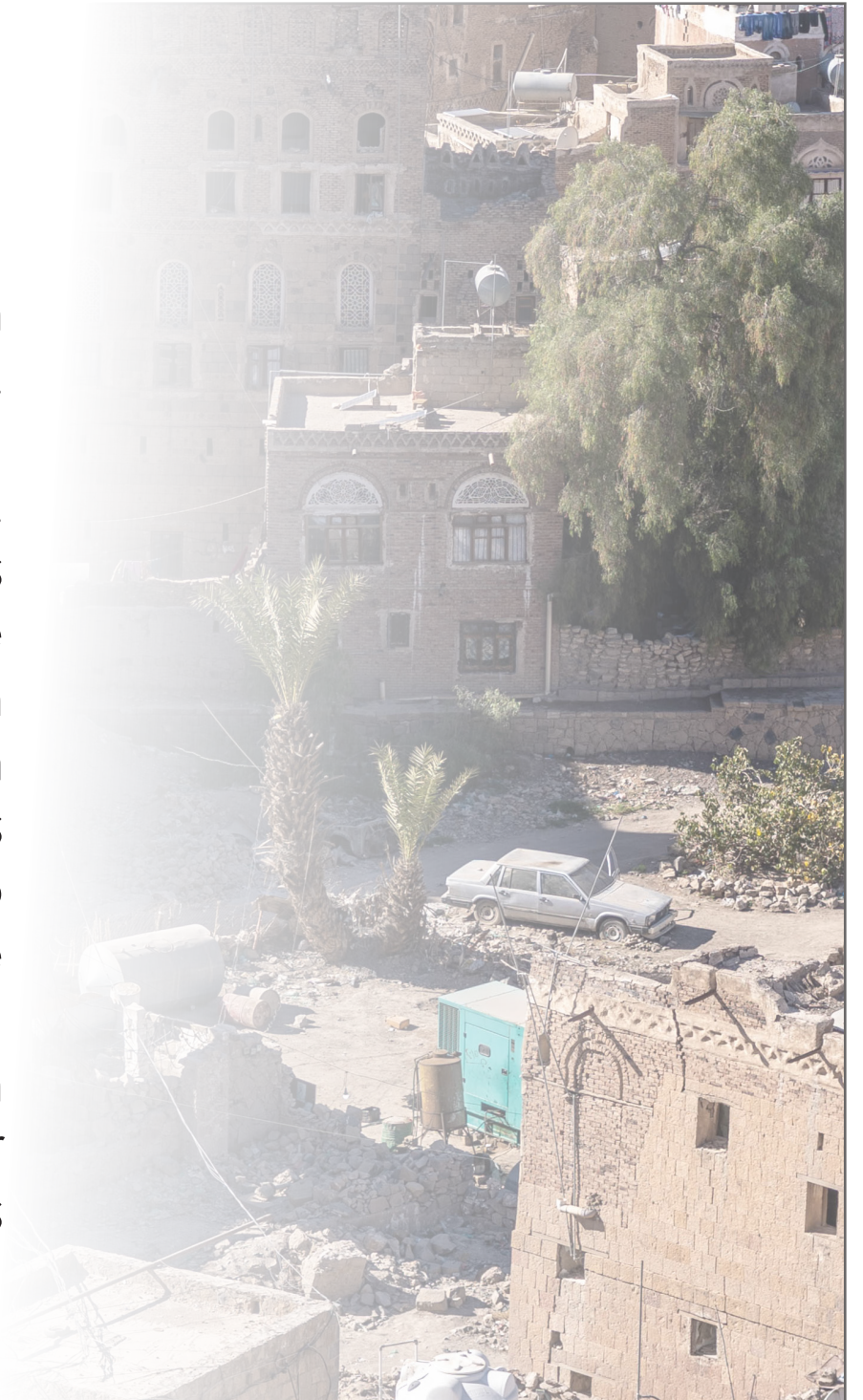


Logline:

Yahya Alshaik is a Yemeni silversmith and shop owner at Samsart Al Nuhas, Copper Brokerage, a historical building in Old Sana'a City where jewelry makers sell their crafts. His passion for the craft is what keeps him going despite the hardships caused by the ongoing war in Yemen.

Synopsis:

Yemeni jewelers at Samsarat Al-Nuhas depended on tourism and international exhibitions to sell their work. However, the safety decline in Sana'a since 2006 reduced the number of tourists who used to fill Old Sana'a City. Many jewelers are also unable to participate in exhibitions abroad. Visa applications for Yemenis are made to be extremely difficult and getting rejected is common because of the constant fear of Yemenis seeking asylum and not returning to their war-torn home. Exhibitions used to be a key incentive for many Yemeni jewelers to keep creating new pieces and get wider exposure. The decrease in the demand for authentic Yemeni traditional jewelry led to cheaper material flooding the market with replicas from China and India. If nothing is done in order to salvage these crafts and practices, a huge part of this ancient culture is in danger.



Director's Note:

Whenever Old Sana'a City comes up, people cannot help but to exoticize it and romanticize about it. How can anyone not? It is after all the crown jewel of Sana'a with its unique architecture, culture, traditions, and history. There are so many stories to be told, and Samsarat Al Nuhas is one of many that has a community within communities of Yemeni crafts and practices. Yayah's story helps not only to show the struggles of silversmiths and shop owners at the Samsarah but also to document the current situation Old Sana'a City is in under the ongoing war in Yemen. Reminding the world that this place is important and something needs to be done to preserve and protect it.

Mariam Al-Dubhani, Director:

Mariam Al-Dhubhani is a Yemeni-Russian award-winning journalist and filmmaker. Al-Dhubhani is currently doing an MA in Museum and Gallery Practice at University College London in Qatar. She first pursued her passion for media during the 2011 Arab uprisings and co-founded her first media production. Al-Dhubhani's films have been screened globally in festivals such as Carthage, Interfilm, and Oaxaca. She also utilizes Virtual Reality in highlighting stories from Yemen.



Noor Abunabaa, Producer:

Noor Abunabaa is a journalism senior at Northwestern University in Qatar. She has previously worked for the Daily Q and interned at Brookings Center in Doha and Vice News on HBO. She is also a research assistant for multiple projects at NU-Q. Her interests include human rights, educational development, and investigative journalism.





Mohammed Al-Jaberi
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