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Guava: A conceptual platform for art-actions

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Summary

The *Guava Platform*, which is at the centre of this PhD thesis, was initiated in 2014 as a conceptual framework of my art practice and research. The aim of the *Guava Platform* is to research and create possible techniques of *art-actions* that are part of my quest to continue to live in the conflicted landscape, east of the Mediterranean, as an artist.

This dissertation assembles the *Guava art-actions*: i.e. a series of three short films, an online radio station, two performances, a geotagging website, and a scent collection as well as the research into a combined space. Both the *art-actions* and the research convey the *Guava Platform*. The leading questions of the thesis are: Can time-based art-actions in a conflicted landscape induce and take part in an embodiment of constructive political imagination? If both physical and conceptual 'movement' are the impetus of these actions, could these actions adjust the socio-political impasse of the landscape, and if so, how? And how might they contribute to a socio-political discussion of the landscape I live in?

The outcome of this research is presented on a website. On this website, all the art-actions and texts are organized together in the same *space* for the first time. Here, the different components, the art-actions and texts, are not bound to a hierarchical relationship between theory and practice that might restrict their possibility to interact. Instead, the website enables the visitor to navigate between the different artistic and discursive elements in a nonlinear way, opening up innumerable opportunities of directions to go through and explore the research.

This dissertation is part of my ongoing process as an artist dealing with my socio-political surroundings. I suggest suspending direct reference to the conflicted landscape and instead experiencing it in alternative ways, through constructive imagination. Even though I do not aim at finding concrete solutions to the severe emergencies around me, I do allow myself, participants and visitors the opportunity to re-articulate, in thought and body, our state of living in this area.