



وجود
WUJUD

Perla Joe
Portfolio

I'm an artist and activist.

My work is interdisciplinary and fuses the fields of poetry, music, film, interaction, and performance.

My journey advocates for freedom, love, and consciousness through my vocal and visual expression.



Selected Works

2021

Corrupted Matter
My Land is Calling
Within The Essence

2020

Safety for Safekeepers
The Mandate
Kalimera / Sabah El Kheir
Resistillness

2019-Present

Lebanese Revolution
Suspendu

2018

All Is Beautiful
Dance For Freedom
Awakened Space
Pohibaw
Middle East Uprising

2015-Present

Filmmaker

2015

Zugzwang

2015-2018

Casting Director

Actress

2013

We are all a little Arab

Corrupted Matter

Vocal + Visual + Testimonial Representation

Expected Release of the song and video in alignment with the one year memorial of the Beirut Explosion
August 2021

— — —

“Corrupted Matter” is a spell written and composed after the Beirut Blast

— — —

In the city that we live, that we love,
where we meet, where we work,

In the city that can barely hold herself to hold us anymore,
We feel pain, so much pain.

The sense of belonging has been shattered.

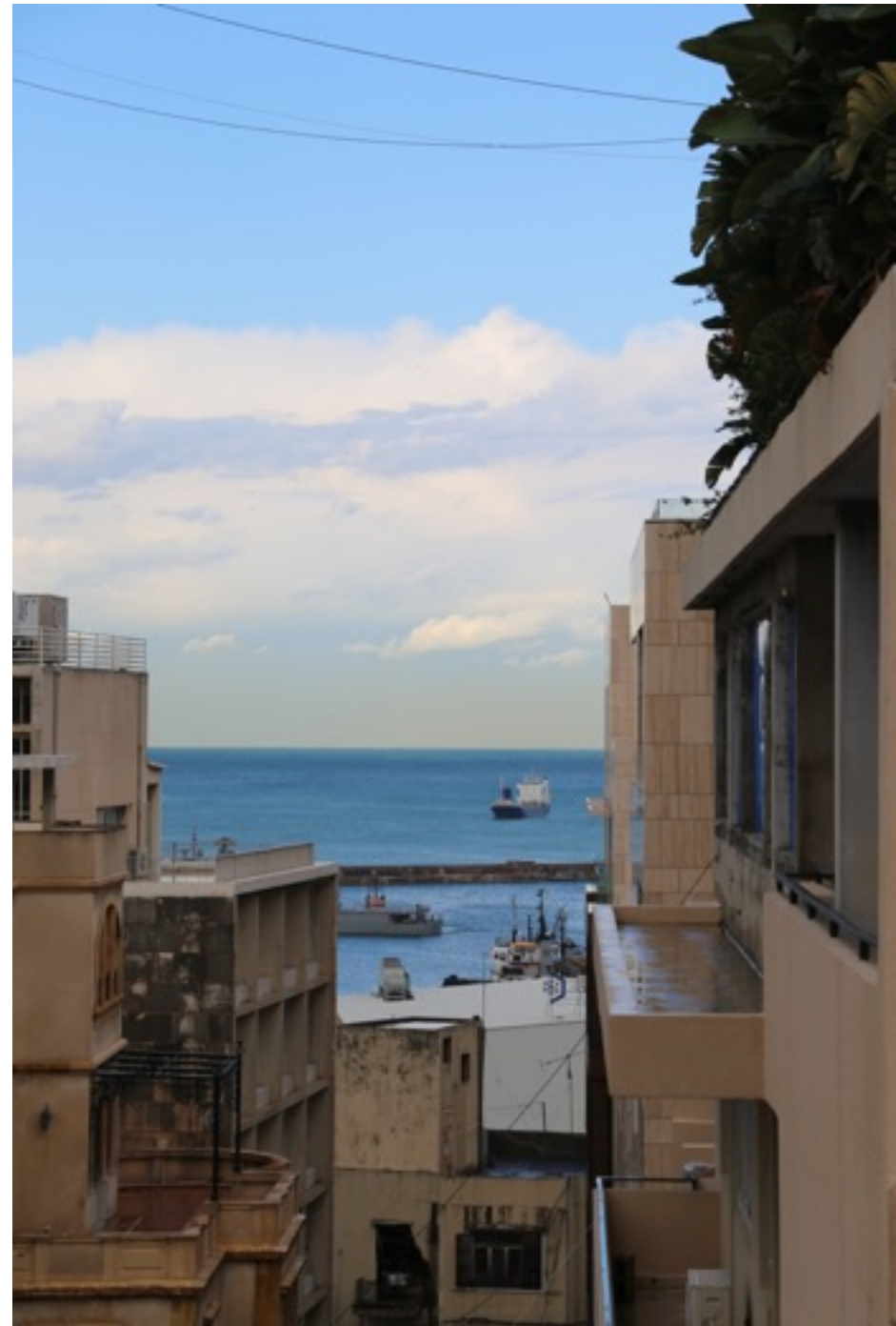
This spell drops a curse on all those responsible of
negligence, and corruption.

It shows how they are trembling,
as we come free.

It states how we've been multiplying in vain,
to raise martyrs, and victims, in a bursting nation.

If we had been exposed to the filthy, and bloody history of
this land,
we would've taken a moment before expecting peace.

They knew, they have been alerted,
And yet,
The ammonium nitrate was kept at the Port of Beirut.
We had to leave our homes, exposed,
in a ghosted, dark city,
that is still not ready to serve its people.



Corrupter Matter

Poem Snippet

اللعة على من لعن أرضي
يرتجف وتأتي النعجة حرة
يتكاثرون شهيداً يموت ظلماً
ينفعلون ضحاياهم والأمة

سلام اعطينا لأرض السلام
وها اننا تتفجر عمداً

عمد المعرفة بكل المواد
سنين تعادي
حبيباً ينادي
قرب البحور، نوادي الليالي
قرب البيوت وكل العيالي
مواد جحيم مواد فساد

May they be cursed
Those who have cursed my land
They are trembling
As the sheep comes out free
As they multiply
A martyr dies in vain
And the victims and the nation burst

We have given peace to the land of peace
And here we are getting exploded on purpose
The purpose of knowing of the existing material
That has been for years facing
A lover who has been calling
On the beaches, near the night clubs
Close to the houses, and afflicting our children
Material of hell, a corrupted matter

My Land is Calling / “Ardi Tounadi”

Song written and composed by Perla Joe

Will be released on May 20th as part of the Beirut & Beyond Music Support Program

— — —

I was selected among 20 Artists to create a song as part of a compilation.

“Ardi Tounadi” was recorded in collaboration with other musicians, music producers, and engineers.

“My Land is Calling” describes a dark night paysage, filled with the moon light as clouds keep painting Allowing women to smile, and to dance with no shame, praying happiness to the masculine energy. A call from the soil, to the soil, for peace, for wellness, for nature, and for the roots of humanity.





Within the Essence

Text and images

Published in the catalogue *Revolt, in 2020*

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As part of Geneva International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights FIFDH, I was invited as a panelist on “Local revolting into a global revolution’.

[link to snippet of interview](#)

“Within the Essence” was published in *Revolt*, a collective publication imagined by the participants of the festival.

[download the publication](#)

Perla Joe Maalouli

Artiste et activiste, Liban

Within the essence



We get the rush to come together
With an open mind and an open heart



An opportunity
Across cities, way beyond lands and skies



The collective's support has been harmonizing
As tender as a delicate feather



Centered in advocacy of constant change and possibilities
The universe is watching, so shall we



Empowered by passion, love and compassion



An uprising
As light tingles fields of darkness



An artistic and humanitarian reflection on our replicated thoughts and emotions



Within the essence

The Mandate

Song written and composed by Perla Joe

Soundtrack of movie Beirut 6:07

Released in November 2020

T h e M a n d a t e

وجود العهد

— — —

“The Mandate” (Wujud Al Ahed) was created on the streets during the Lebanese Revolution. People got familiar to it, and enjoyed declaring refusal towards Lebanon’s frustrating reality through it, singing: “La la la la la la = No no no no no no”

A director acquaintance heard me singing it in a private acoustic session last year on my birthday, he filmed it with his phone and pitched it as a soundtrack to his short film as part of the series Beirut 6:07 - Abbas and Fadel

[link to announcement](#)



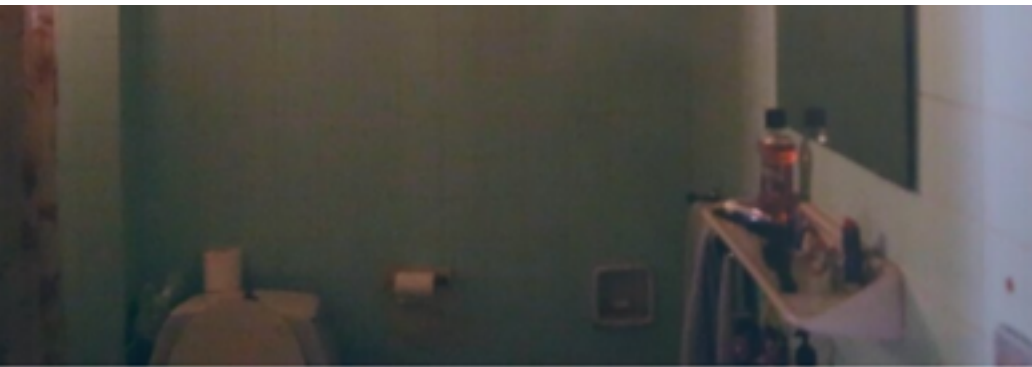
I grew up with my grandmother singing, praying, I grew up impressed by the ore of the spirit coming out of blankets of harmony. I've seen dust being swiped for years under the carpet until we could barely breathe.

I've seen shaming, blaming, judging, comparison, and expectation.
I've felt the pain of self judgment through my own humiliation.

And I have decided not to run away, but to accept the wounds,
And to grow out of them:

[link to the vocal and visual presentation of the Mandate](#)

Back in time, for my grandmother who was married at the age of 16, singing was not tolerated.
Today, I release the obstacles of my ancestors,
I state my truth, and I chose to serve my capacity, into sight and expression.



Sabah El Kheir / Kalimera

Song written and composed by Perla Joe

Will be released by end of 2021

— — —

On a magical island, finding myself with Spiros Balios, producer of violin production.

We jammed and created “Sabah El Kheir / Kalimera”.

We kept working remotely, having more musicians collaborating and recording.

We are currently in the phase of finalizing the mastering, and planning the release.

[private link to the song](#)



Safety for the safekeepers

Voice Over Talent
Abaad Campaign
December 2020

What is safety?

I saw them march with fire in their eyes...

I saw the very same women afraid

In places where they should not feel unsafe

[link to campaign](#)

With support of: Embassy of the Netherlands in Lebanon, CARE International in Lebanon, UN Women Arabic, and the Embassy

Who revived the soul.. of a dying country.

Resistillness

Song written by Perla Joe

Released digitally in writing 2020

— — —

For the first few months of confinement, I was happy to find myself on an empty island.

I had the time to gaze, gaze at the world around me, and my emotions.

“Resistillness” was written to emphasize and demonstrate two extreme states that constantly connect.

A word that flows “resistance” and “stillness” into withstanding disorder.

[private link to the song](#)



Suspendu

Main character / *Socio Political Documentary by Myriam El Hajj*

To be released by August 2022

— — —

I am one of the main characters of the documentary “Suspendu” that follows up with a life changing sequence of events within different generations. I was filmed during the revolution, into the blast, and the aftermath.

“The camera creates shield, unless it’s complete chaos” - Perla Joe





Résumé du documentaire

Depuis quelques années le Liban succombe sous le poids de la corruption et d'un passé mal digéré. Pourtant, à plusieurs reprises un changement était possible. En 2018, JOUMANA, la cinquantaine, se présente en tant qu'indépendante aux élections législatives face aux Seigneurs de la guerre civile qui détiennent aujourd'hui le pouvoir. Mais très vite, elle se fait évincer par fraude électorale. PERLA JOE, vingt huit ans, s'indigne contre la corruption et devient la figure principale de la révolution en 2019.

En parallèle à ces deux femmes, GEORGES, octogénaire, est le témoin inébranlable d'une époque révolue dans laquelle il avait combattu. Déçu, il reste néanmoins attaché à un temps fantasmé de son passé. Perla Joe et Joumana, pourront-elles se reconstruire et faire face à la génération de Georges qui refuse de laisser place aux jeunes ? Alors que Georges souhaite que tout change mais que le système établi reste le même, Perla Joe tente de garder espoir dans un Liban violemment secoué par une crise économique dévastatrice et une des plus grandes explosions du siècle.

A travers ces trois générations, Suspendu(s), raconte les dernières années d'un pays qui change de visage et qui s'accroche tant bien que mal pour ne pas sombrer.

The Lebanese Revolution

Existing through Artivism

October 2019 - Ongoing

When the revolution started, I followed my basic instinct as a human being to demand justice and my rights. I started being constantly on the street, interacting with people, communicating, preventing clashes, organizing reunions, creating events that can elevate consciousness and empower courage. I created chants that aligned with the daily flooding information, I wrote poetry that explained the situation of many Lebanese, poetry that resonates with the pain, and that clarifies the purpose. Intimidation has made me question my limits and made me understand how sacred it is to maintain freedom of expression, preferably through art, on a humane level rather than politics, loops of mud and accusations. My voice was capable of touching the people and helped getting our cause noticed internationally. As the world went shot upon the pandemic, and our capital city, Beirut, exploded, I understood that whatever we have demanded from our system needs to be provided on a macro level through us, through the self, first. Which always requires: a self-revolution.

[Link to Articles, panels and publications on my website](#)



LIBAN Cinéaste, musicienne, footballeuse, l'activiste est devenue une figure de la contestation libanaise. Son désir le plus profond: se changer elle-même avant de transformer la société



Sur le toit de chez Perla Joe (dont la vue on devine dans l'embrasure de la porte), son terrasse.



Perla Joe ritier au Uppier's, un bar de Beyrouth.

Perla Joe, la révolution de l'intérieur

Le Temps, 7 March 2020, [[link to article](#)]

The New York Times

In Her Words

Where Women Rule the Headlines

February 6, 2020



Perla Maalouli, center in a light-colored shirt, with protesters in Beirut. Diego Ibarra Sanchez for The New York Times

“I feel like there’s no man or woman in me, it’s just power.”

— *Perla Maalouli, a Lebanese filmmaker and protester*

ADVERTISEMENT

This profile is part of a series looking at female protesters around the world. Look out for more profiles in the weeks ahead.

Nearly every morning during the early weeks of Lebanon’s countrywide anti-government protests, Perla Joe Maalouli would make her way from her small studio among the cafes and bars of east Beirut to the heart of the protests downtown.

“In Her Words”, The New York Times, 6 February 2020, [[link to article](#)]

“Kello Helo” (All is Beautiful)

Album of 6 songs

Recorded in 2018, unfinished



Dance for Freedom and Awakened Space

Video with soundtrack

Visual teasers for the album "Kello Helo" published on Instagram in 2019

Dance For Freedom

تعالى رقصني لحررتي
إنّ الوجود سرّ فرحتي

Come dance with me for my freedom
For it is existence the secret to my joy

[link to vocal and visual snippet](#)

Awakened Space

ولنا في الخيال حياة

And we sure have life in our imagination

[link to vocal and visual snippet](#)



A soulful collaborative project bringing us to the root, soaring beyond the routine, and gazing deeper into our essence. A vision that brought together musicians and artists, and that aims to connect and liberate. Grounded by transcendental landscapes, shaped by every dancing footstep, inspired by the magic hour propelling to manifest beauty and harmony. Supported by the elements, the water, the wind, the fire, and the earth, where the soul empties social materialistic judgment and expectation. Empowered by nurturing frequencies, uplifting energies, and insightful people, no matter their race, religion, or nationality.

"Kello Helo" is a reminder to dig deeper into our beautiful core. A calling to explore and understand with lightness, love, and clarity.

Live Performances

My album “Kelo Helo” was performed before the official release
In Amman, and Cairo during live electro/oriental sets

February 2019

[link to snippets of Jordan's live performance](#)

April 2019

[link to snippets of Egypt's live performance](#)



— — —

I spent two years between Egypt and Lebanon working on the album “Kelo Helo”. With the support of many accredited artists, I finally came back to Lebanon to release in a live concert, with our musicians joining from: Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Kuwait, Egypt, and Spain.

We had booked the venue Station Beirut, prepared and gathered our capacity to launch. Interrupted by the Revolution, the Beirut Blast, the pandemic and the failure of economy, I remember the week I had to record my final vocal recording was the week that I’ve dislocated my jaw screaming my lungs out on the streets of Beirut.

Today I’m aiming to finalize the arrangements of the songs, mix & master, release & share.

POHIBAW

Text and images

Created in 2018

A photo series that I've shot in the deserts of Sinai.
Progression of happiness in black and white.

A moment in no time, nowhere, everywhere



My Soul Meets Frequency





Many Come As One





We will see beautiful days



Filmmaker

2015 - Present

As a director and videographer I have shot digital campaigns, music videos, performances, and making of. I'm inspired by open landscapes and occupied spaces to shoot personal footage, conceptualize, edit, and color grade.

Middle East Uprising

Video Series

2020

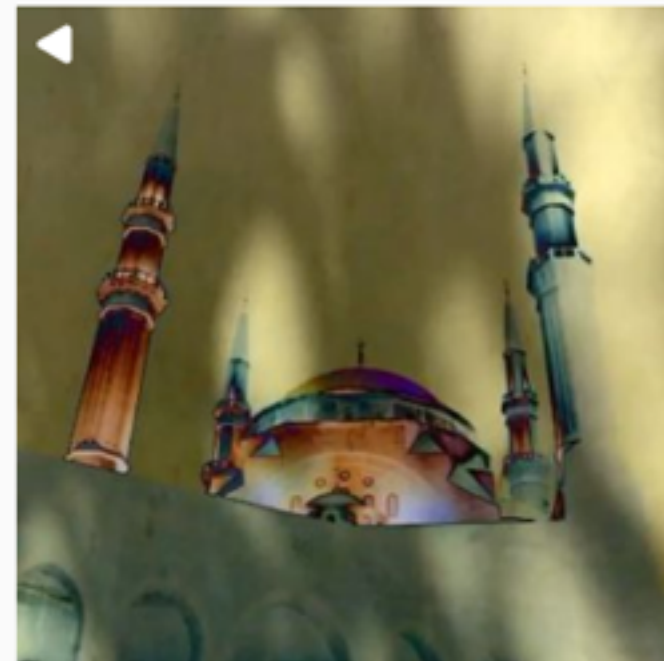
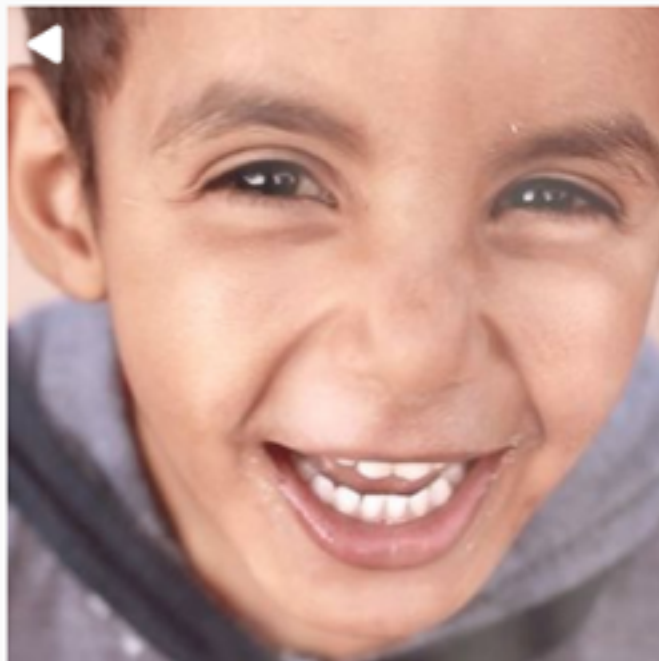
— — —

Whenever I travel
I connect with my lens to the land and the elements
Whenever I feel inspired
I connect my lens to the people and love

Through deserts, islands, cities, mountains, valleys
Through blue skies, pink skies, grey skies, miraculous colors skies

I wanted to make use of the footage as I empower my advocacy
So I have created **Middle East Uprising**, an Instagram Page
that provides visual tributes and information about frequencies revolting in the Arab World

[link to tributes](#)



Cleverness

Digital campaign empowering creativity through up-cycling



[link to project part 1](#)



[link to project part 2](#)



Link to more projects as a filmmaker (shooting, editing, color grading)

Mel's Beirut

[link to project](#)

Ya leil - O night

[link to project](#)

Let it happen

[link to music video](#)

Just Bee

[link to project](#)

The sky is not blue, it's okay

[link to making of](#)

Everyday Cafe Dahab

[link to video](#)

Mademoiselle

[link to video](#)

Aya Metwalli Live

[link to video](#)

Adonis / Aal Khafif

[link to music video](#)

Shadow-light

[link to video](#)

Juliet Fox / Projekt

[link to video](#)

Zugzwang
Writer - Director
Short film
2015



Zugzwang

A satirical short film running a foreign casting session in Beirut.

Every time an emotion is required, it is revealed through the unconscious, where the acting skills experience the thoughts.

The journey is haunted by the authoritarian system that we, human beings are obliged to abide by.

We're better off quite, for the moment we disobey, we are simply replaced.



Casting Director

Clandestino Films - Freelancer

2013-2018



As a casting director, I understand the project and the director's vision, I scout for the natural talents among amateurs, and cast professional actors depending on requirements. I connect to the people, I collect capacities, and create possibilities. I manage my team and my timeline, provide batches, and monitor presentations. I am responsible of the casting department from phase of research, throughout the shoot.

More links to different projects as a Casting Director



Super Brazil

[link to video](#)

Bon Brazil

[link to video](#)

Byblos Makers

[link to video](#)

Lays Forno

[link to video](#)

Dubai Tourism / Stay Sunny

[Friday Night](#)

[Too Many Layers](#)

[Cold Consequences](#)

Donner Sang Compter

[link to video](#)

Plein Soleil

[link to video](#)

UNDP

[link to video](#)

Boubyan

[link to video](#)

JTB

[link to video](#)

Tropix

[link to video](#)

Garnier Light

[link to video](#)

Actress / Casting Director
The Wanton Bishops - Hitman
2016

— — —

I had the pleasure to bring together the actors and actresses of this music video. A parody of the late 70's Lebanese gangster-detective's cinema. I also took part in the acting, a drag-king member of the gang.

[link to music video](#)





Beyond the Cloth: The Kafiye Project
New York City show - Chadi Younes
Casting Director & Character
2013



We are all a little Arab

One of four large portrait
concepts for [Kaf lab's](#)



We are all a little Arab

One of four large portrait
concepts for [Kaf lab's](#)



We are all a little Arab

One of four large portrait
concepts for [Kaf lab's](#)



We are all a little Arab

One of four large portrait
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST

