

Sound exhibition takes listeners down Jordan's memory lane

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'Sites of Memory', a sound exhibition at Darat Al Funun's Lab, allows visitors to listen to individual memories of specific places around the Kingdom, and runs until November 10 (Photo courtesy of Darat Al Funun website)

AMMAN — "Sites of Memory", a sound exhibition at Darat Al Funun's Lab brings to life memories of places of importance in Jordan's history.

Recordings of personal stories provide "unique access" to often-unknown aspects of the country's diverse cultural heritage, a statement from the organizers said.

The exhibition narrates individual stories, provoking the listener to question and rethink how and what people remember in relation to various sites across the country.

The sites include: Ali Pasha Abdyeh Street (Mafraq), Al Muqariya Village (Shobak, Maan), Sheikh Irshid Mosque (Ramtha, Irbid), The Duke's Diwan (Amman), Palace of Al Alali-Kleib Shreyda Palace (Tubnah, Irbid), Maan Stream (Maan), Castle Street (Karak), Old Maan Market (Maan), Al Rawsha Cafe (Al Zarqa), Diwan Al Majali (Karak) and Diwan Methqal (Um Al Amad, Amman).

The exhibition is the final public event of the research project “Our Memory”, which is jointly realised by Goethe Institut, the Institut Français de Jordanie, the Institut Français du Proche Orient and the National Library of Jordan, as well as the University of Yarmouk, the University of Mutah, Al Hussein Bin Talal University and the University of Jordan, read the statement.

Oral traditions are “strong” in Jordan, but are “rarely used” as sources of documenting and analysing the history of various sites of memory around the country, the statement said.

Responding to the need to document and preserve such narratives, the project “Our Memory” worked with young researchers to conduct fieldwork and engage with local communities to preserve their stories, the statement added.

Using the recordings of these stories, the exhibition shows “how historical sites have been used in more recent events, how their meaning has shifted, and why local communities might relate to such sites in very different ways”.

The exhibition creates a space for a more “inclusive understanding” of Jordan’s social history, while also “meditating on the relationship between tangible and intangible cultural heritage”, the statement said.

It runs until November 10 and is open daily from 10 am to 6 pm.

The exhibition is part of the Cultural Heritage Days in Jordan, which was made possible through funds from the EUNIC and the EU, while the project “Our Memory” received funding from the Franco-German Cultural Fund, the statement concluded.