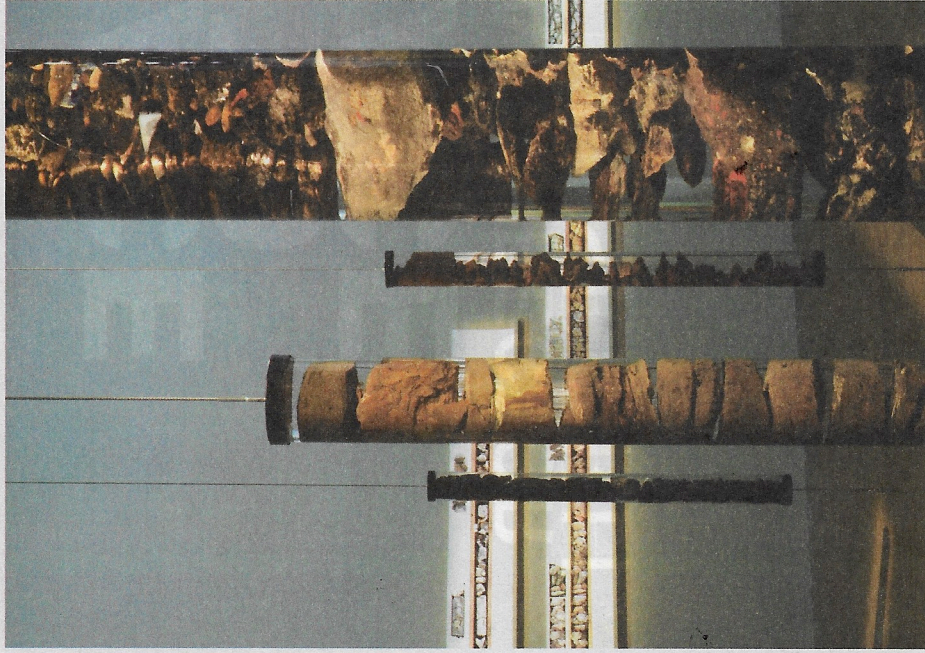


FOUR QUESTIONS FOR JOANA & KHALIL

Artist duo Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige were recently awarded the Marcel Duchamp Art Prize 2017 for *Unconformities*, shown at the fair this year at In Situ-Fabienne Leclerc (Booth X1-11) as part of Omar Kholeif's *Beyond Territory* section



Why did you choose to enter *Unconformities* for the Marcel Duchamp Prize?

We had already begun the research for this project in Beirut, where we showed *Unconformities* at the Surock Museum in the summer of 2016 and wanted to immerse ourselves in it further. The work has since travelled to Athens and Paris, three cities which are omnipresent to us on many levels. For the prize, we presented new artworks derived from drilling cores, which reveal both the natural and human histories. Extracted from construction sites and soon meant to disappear, these samples underline the invisible remains and transformations of buried cities and underground worlds.

Can you tell us more about the prize nomination and selection process?


There are several stages. Firstly, 400 collectors vote to choose 40 artists. These artists are visited by a small group in their studios and a jury selects just four of them. There is then a September exhibition at the Centre Pompidou, where an international jury selects the winner. So it's a very intense journey. Deadlines are very short, as you get nominated in February and then have to present an original body of work less than six months later!

What is the significance of your winning project?

The "unconformities" are temporal ruptures and geological disorders that question the lasting impact of human action on the environment. As sedimentation, they reveal the constant cycles of construction and destruction, and are similar to palimpsests mixing actions, epochs and civilisations. These recompositions question the possible narratives and the representation of this erratic history;

digging into the past to explore our present. It is very close to our research and our concerns.

How did you feel about getting the prize and what responsibilities does it entail?

Receiving the prize was a real joy, an emotional moment that we shared with all the people that helped us in this project. We are really passionate about the research we underwent with the archaeologists and geologists whom we met in the three cities that we explored, so we were overwhelmed with the experience and how people received the project. On the other hand, we don't see this prize as entailing responsibilities, but as possibilities rather. 



Installation view of the winning work, *Unconformities* (2017) at the Prix Marcel Duchamp exhibition, Centre Pompidou, Paris, 2017. Image courtesy of the artists