

From: Omar Berrada

Subject: Rana Hamadeh

Date: July 25, 2017 at 10:10:16 AM EDT

To: "M.NourbeSe Philip"

Dear NourbeSe,

I have just landed back in Paris -- finally. I look forward to working on our project; in particular listening to the family interviews I recorded in Casablanca and sending you thoughts about them.

In the meantime, an unrelated query: there is a young artist (and friend) I deeply admire, called Rana Hamadeh, who works with sound, image and text. She is Lebanese and lives in the Netherlands. She has been working for years on a project that intertwines questions of justice, theatre, and testimony. The work is coming together soon as an exhibition in a museum in Rotterdam, and later as an opera and a book. She is a long-time reader of Fred Moten's and Saidiya Hartman's critical work, and brought Fred over to Rotterdam for a seminar some time ago.

When I last saw Rana some months ago, the way she spoke of her project seemed to me to carry stunning echoes to your work, so I recommended she have a look. She tells me now that reading *Zong!* has become for her a daily ritual, and a guide in some way. She would like to explicitly materialize this

connection in her exhibition, and it is therefore very important for her to ask for your blessings in doing so.

Would you mind me putting the two of you in touch by email, so she can tell you more about what she is thinking of?

(I would love for the two of you to meet some day. She is one of the most original and thoughtful artists I have ever met).

With my best wishes

Omar