

UNIT 3 – BRIEF 1 / WEEK 8

PROJECTIONS,

Haris Mahmood

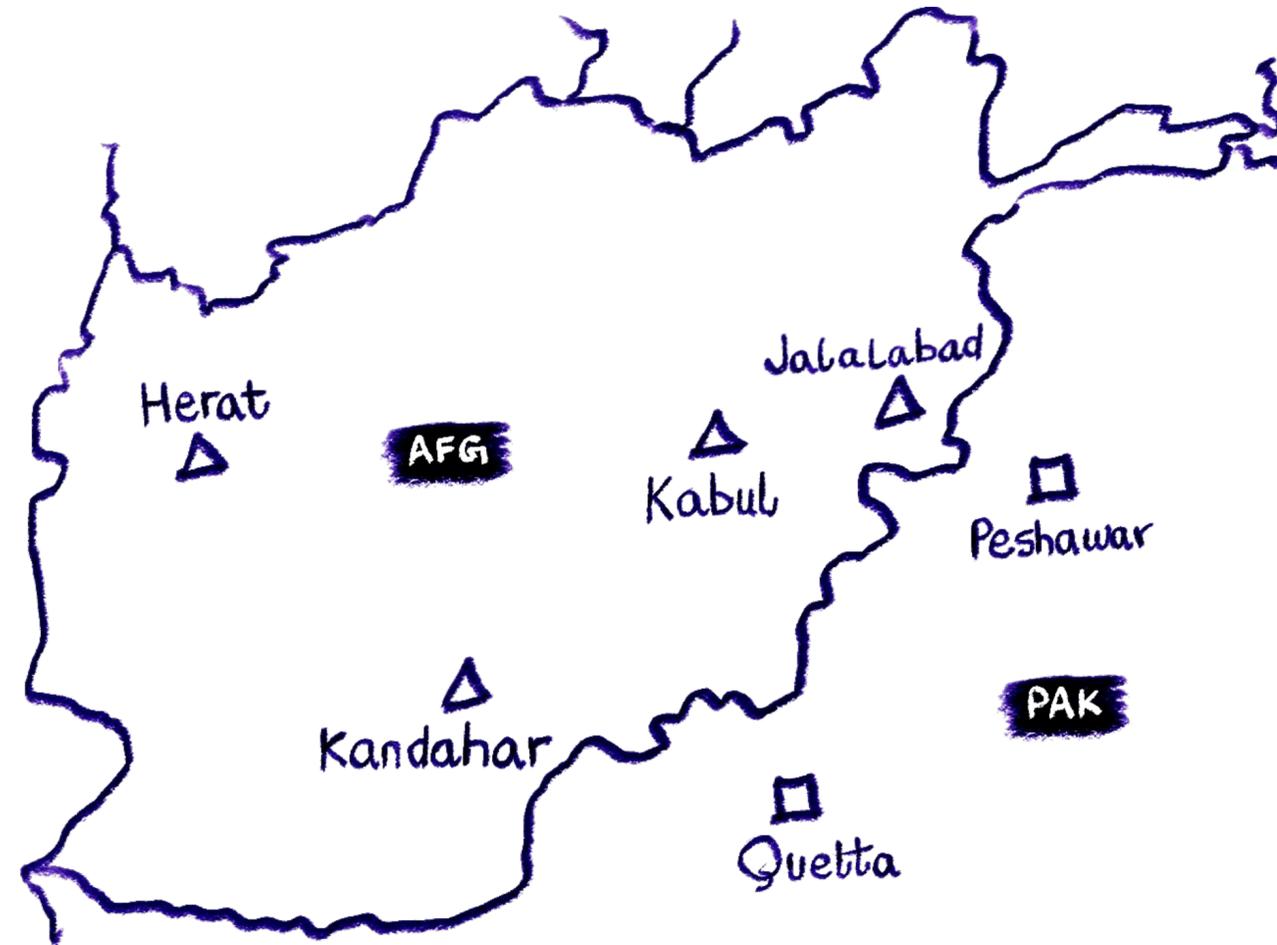
Line of Enquiry

Updated

**HOW CAN CONFLICT RIDDEN BORDERS BE
REIMAGINED THROUGH VISUAL STORYTELLING?**

Project Proposal

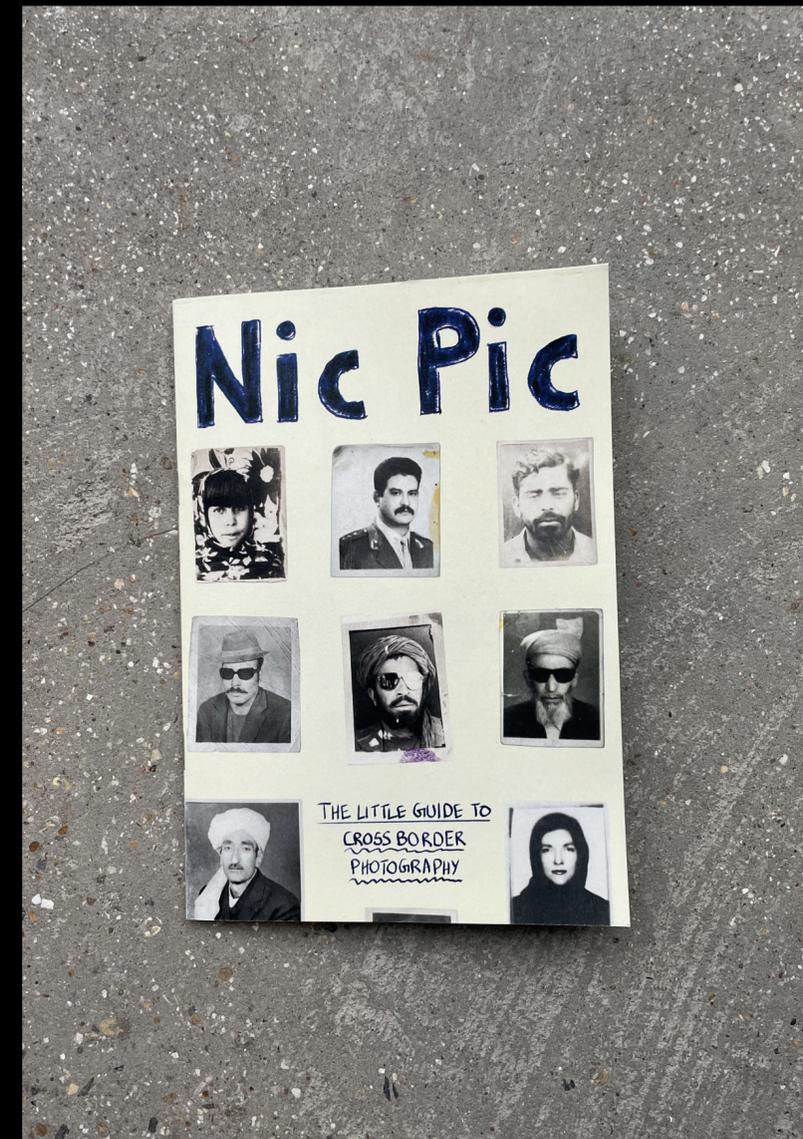
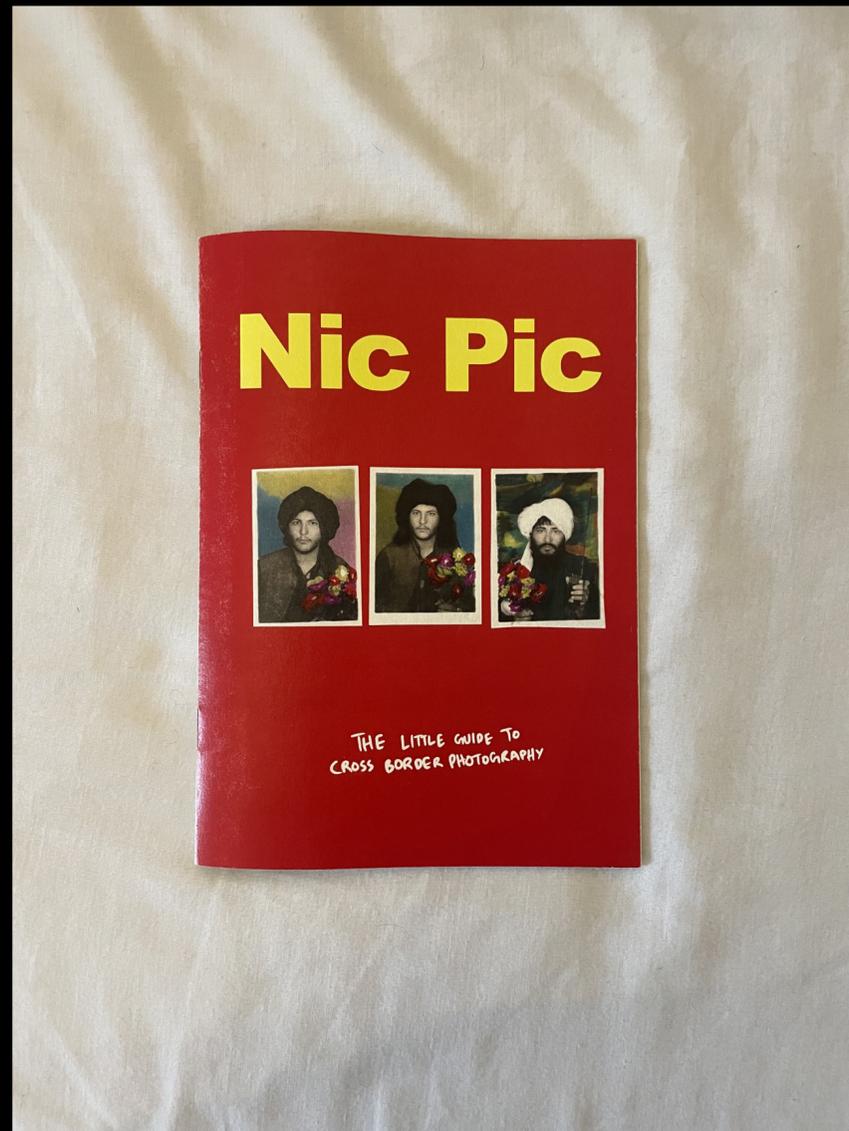
RECAP



- **Primary methodological tool:** Storytelling
- **Target Audience:** Divided Ethnic Communities, Diasporas, People interested in Borderland Studies
- **Method of Engagement:** Publication

Projections 1

Publication Making

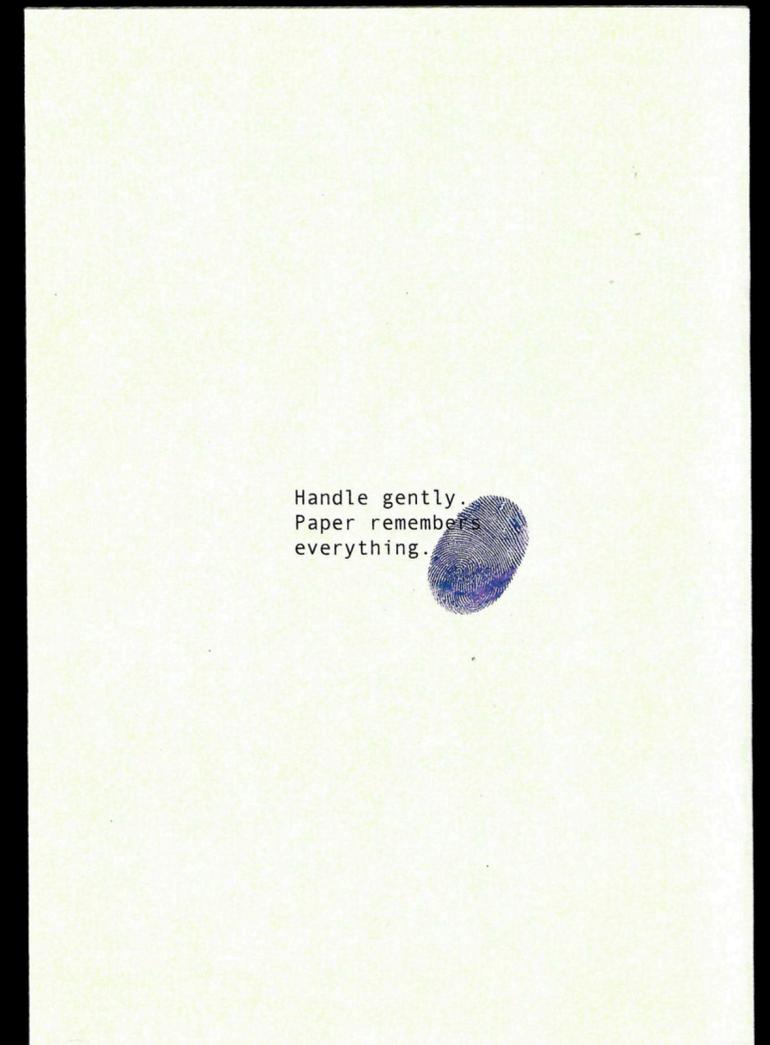
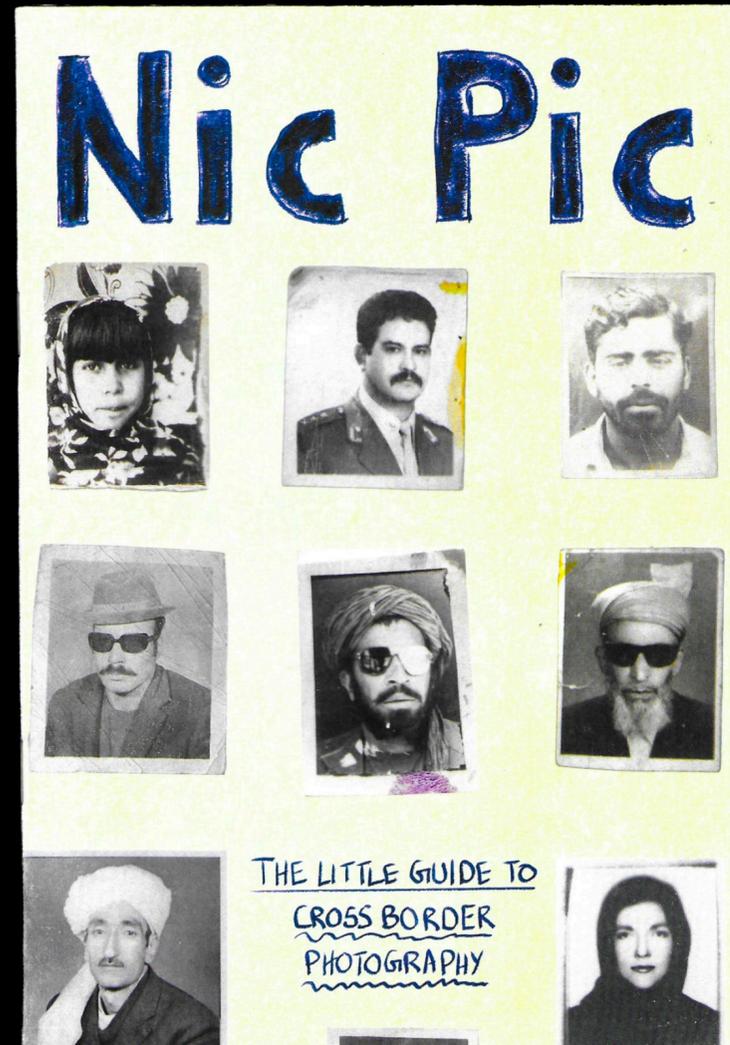


Nic Pic

storytelling based guide

Narrated how images travelled between Kabul and Peshawar under political regimes where photography was restricted. Through the Afghan Box Camera and the smuggling of film across the border, the work foregrounds informal infrastructures of connection:

Migration, Trade routes, Kinship networks





Taliban edict from *The General Presidency of Amir Bil. Maruf, Kabul, December 1996.*
6. To prevent idolatry. In vehicles, sheps, hotels, reem (sic.) and any other place pictures/portraits should be abolished. The meniters should tear up all pictures in the above places.

STEP 1

So you want your picture taken?
Not for the passport.
Not for the office file.
Just for yourself.

Bad timing though.
You live in a place
where faces are suspicious
and cameras
are haram* by decree.

*haram is "forbidden" in arabic



STEP 3

You wait.
The shutter clicks.
That's the last time you'll
see
the film for a while.

What happens next is not for
you to know.

Maybe it's rolled into a pen.
Maybe taped under a soap bar.
Maybe sleeping inside a food
container.
Maybe stitched into someone's
coat.

Don't ask.
The less you imagine,
the safer it travels.

Nic Pic

Moving Forward / Making

I want to dwell **deeper into the medium** and see how I can utilise photo paper and photobooks to tell these narratives.

- Using the vintage photo album as a container for these stories that I want to share and adapting to its aesthetic fully
- using printing mediums that can highlight that idea of materiality



Nic Pic

Moving Forward / Making

Revisions in terms of content

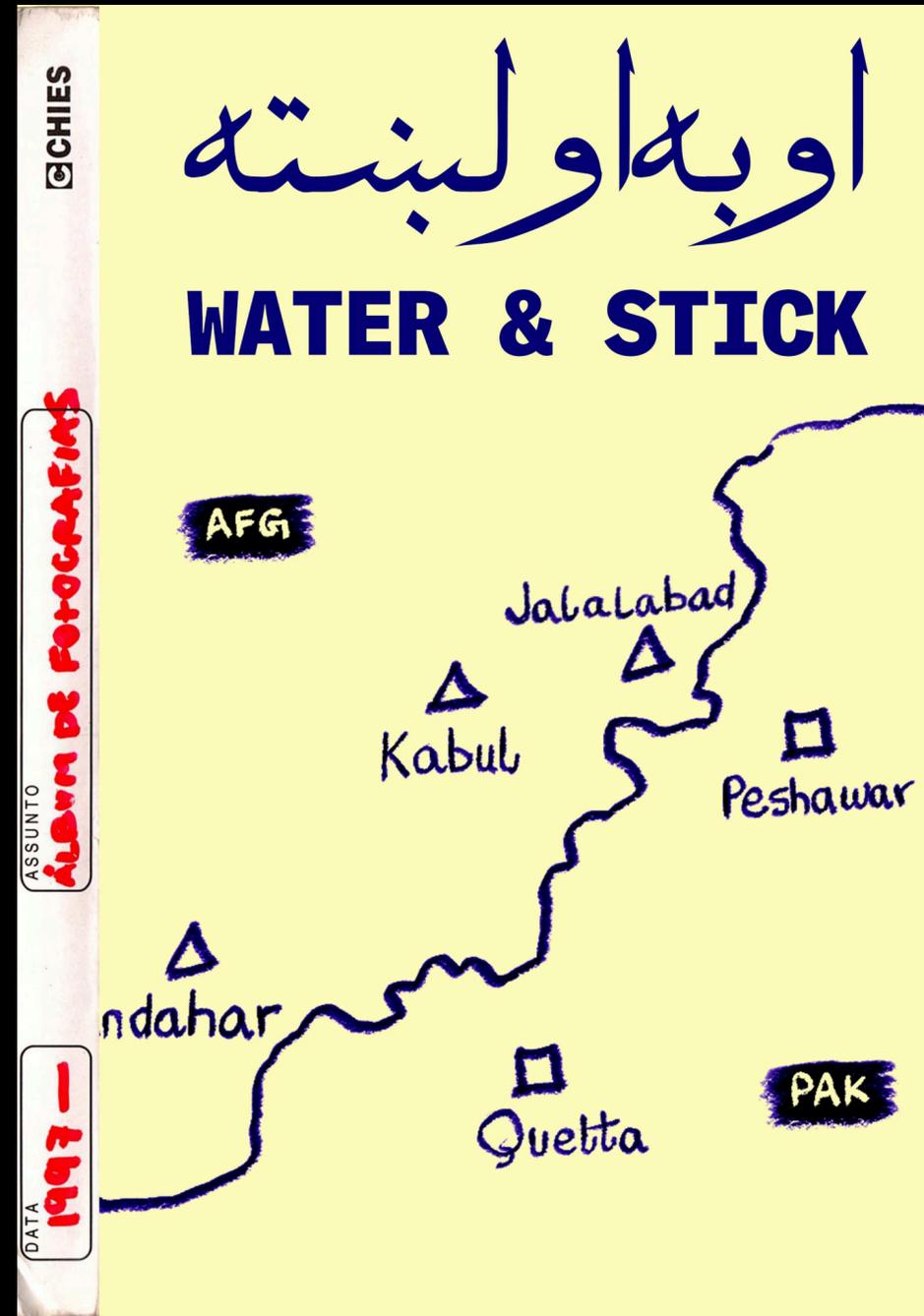
- Poetry from both sides of the border that narrate how the people feel about each other

**“YOU CAN NOT SEPARATE
WATER WITH A STICK”**

- Pashto Idiom

Water & Stick

Prototype



Kodak
Photo Paper

شہیدان مویہ یو نوم دی،
دھیری مویہ شریلی

دا یو تو گانی دیو لی،
زمو نیر مینہ نہ تئی ویشلی

Kodak
Photo Paper

Our martyrs are called by the same name,
Shared are our graveyards,

These few stones of poli*
Can never sever our love.

poli - the small pathway between farming fields



When

snow

کابل

descends

۳۰

upon

در پیزی

Kabul,

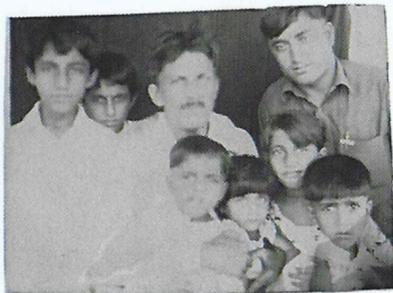
the

Young men

of Peshawar

feel the cold
within their chests

د پشاور د زلمو پخې شي سينې



د پورته کرښه داغزو ده
د ورو غوښی د ورو نه څنگه بیلېږي؟

The Durand Line is
a hedge of thorns

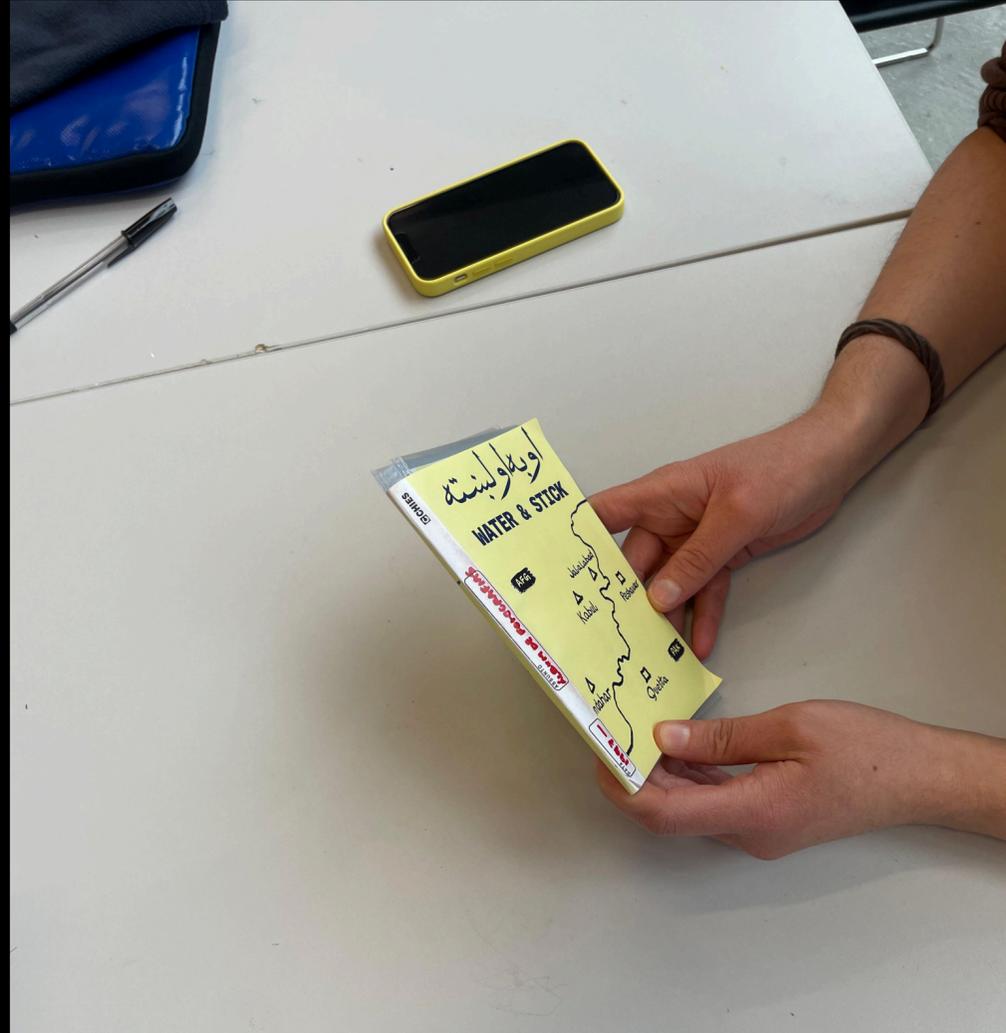
How can a brother's flesh

be cut

from his brother?

Water & Stick

User Testing



DATA

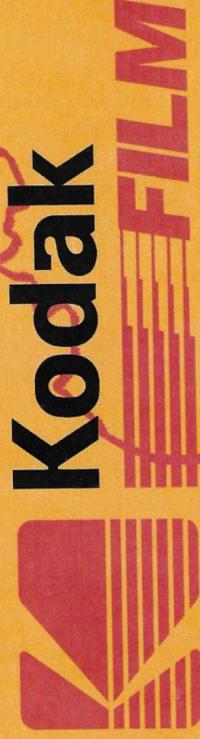
1993

SUBJECT

DURAND LINE

YOU CAN'T SEPARATE
WATER WITH A STICK

اوبه په چاټک نه بېلېږي



△
Kabul

□
Peshawar

Photo Album + Counter Archive

A5 sized publication



Free the birds fly the
are that along the
Torkham road*

ازادې مرغی په
الوزي لاره تورخم

Who then made borders
in a pathun's heart?

د پښتون په زړه کې کرسې چېاڅو درې گډې و

Torkham: Pakistani town; serves as a major border crossing with Afghanistan

Shut the gates of ^{*}Torkham
if you must

د تورخم دروازي
وتړئ
که هر څو

Blood will still

خپله لاره مومي

ويي

find its way

په رگونو کې

through the veins

Torkham: Pakistani town; serves as a major border crossing with Afghanistan

When

snow

د اوره
descends

كابل

په

upon

د رېښي

*
Kabul,

the

young men

*
of Peshawar

feel the cold
within their chests

د پېښور د زلمو پخې شي سينې

* Kabul: capital city of Afghanistan

* Peshawar: capital city of the KPK province in Pakistan



Who
carved
this
line
across
my
chest?

کرینه
چا
رابنگلي
ده
زما
په
سینه
باندي؟

I am one body
زه ټول يو ډول يم،

how can

I

be two?

څنگه ډول شوم؟



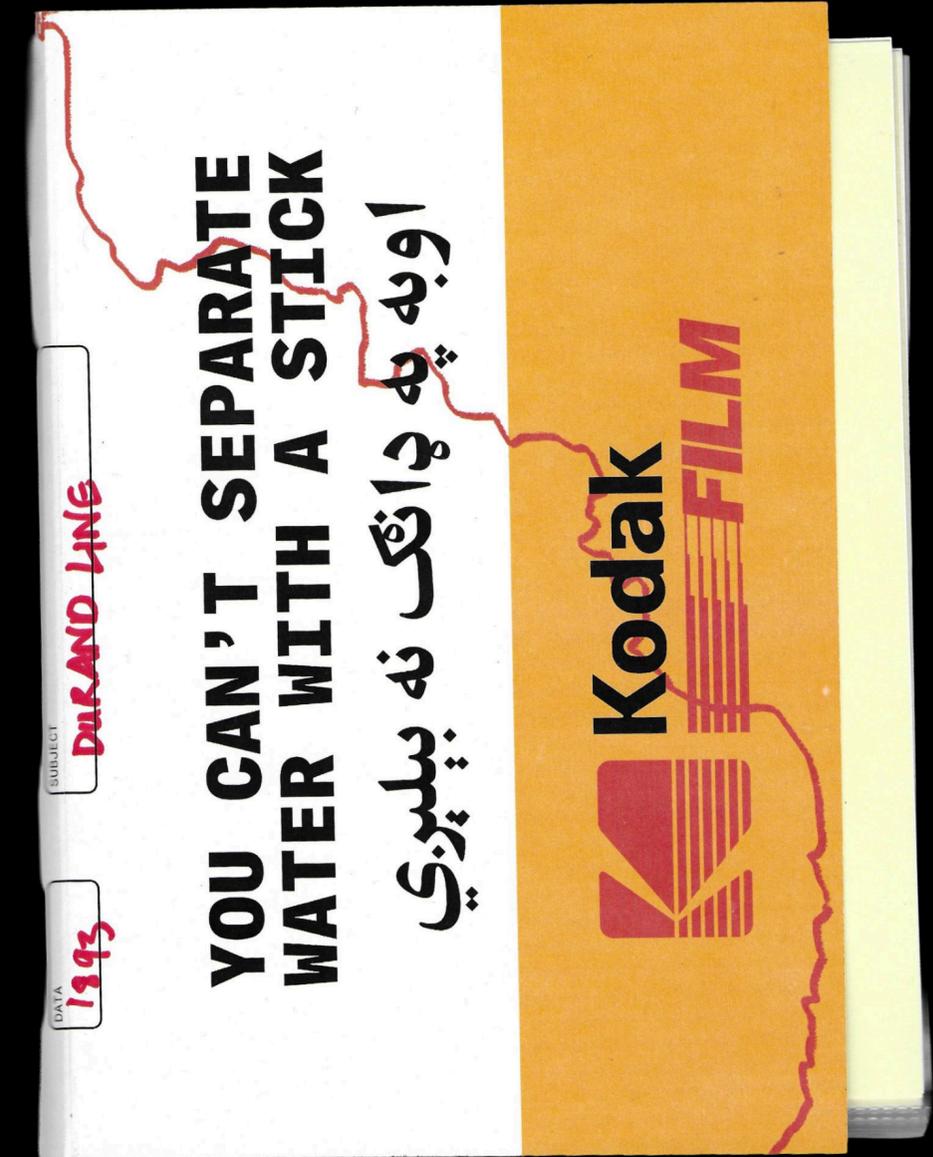
پشاور اور کابل دو درہ دوہ یاران دی
 لہ دوہ ستر کسی پہ یو مخ دجانان دی

Peshawar and Kabul,
 two friends
 like two eyes,
 in the face of the beloved

YOU CAN'T SEPARATE WATER WITH A STICK

Counter-Archive as a Photo Album

- **Cross-Border Voices + Source Material**
Poetry from both Afghanistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa written on the reverse of each image paired up with photographers taken by Pukhtun Photographers from Afghanistan and Pakistan through the Afghan Box Camera Archive
- **Album Aesthetic**
Vintage photo sleeves, ballpoint inscriptions, Kodak-style backs which echo domestic memory practices.
- **People s Archive**
It goes against the convention of **State History**. The publication functions as an unofficial archive of shared feeling rather than official documentation.



YOU CAN'T SEPARATE WATER WITH A STICK

Counter-Archive as a Photo Album

- **Border as a Container**
- **Story Inside**
Migration, kinship, brotherhood and memory
- **Reimagining Visually**
Where the map renders the border one-dimensional, the book gives it volume: multidimensional because these stories are not flat unlike the border



YOU CAN'T SEPARATE WATER WITH A STICK

Counter-Archive as a Photo Album

Afghanistan

Pakistan declares 'open war' against Afghanistan after cross-border attack - as it happened

Updated 6d ago

This blog is now closed, you can read our full report [here](#)

6d ago Closing summary

6d ago What to know about the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan

6d ago Operation continuing on the directions of PM, says Pakistan army

6d ago Pakistani army claims 274 Taliban fighters killed

6d ago Dozen soldiers killed in Pakistan, army spokesperson says

6d ago Afghanistan wants fighting to be 'resolved through dialogue', says Taliban spokesman

6d ago Casualty unclear

- **Resisting Erasure**

Against colonial cartography and the suppression of cross-border Pashtun unity, from movements like the Khudai Khidmatgar to the imprisonment of leaders like Bacha Khan, this publication assembles what could not be separate; it takes up a form that resists the idea of erasure

SHUKRIA

thank you :)