"However, in order to develop such an

organ in yourselves that allows you to

make uourselves understood to millions

with an ordinary voice, you must be able

to speak both loudly and so quietly that

your lips do not seem to move. To train

Bertolt Brecht, 'Me-Ti. Book of Turns',

must say very specific things."

written in exile in the 1930s.

your voice to the extent mentioned, you

## "Five broken cameras"

A film by Emad Burnat (OmU, PAL/ISR, 2011)

Peace requires courage. The courage to overcome structural and physical violence, social inequality, cultural degradation, competition and oppression as well as the business of cruelty in a civilian way. This is the supreme task of the international world community and - after two initiated, devastating

and lost world wars - the historical responsibility of the 'German people' in particular, according to the Basic Law. With the so-called 'reason of state', however, politics, the judiciary and the media are propagating a relapse into barbarism: the right of self-defence only applies to friends of the 'West' and is perverted to

legitimise the most atrocious war crimes. The completely uninhibited 'campaign of destruction' by the Israeli army in the Gaza Strip is being re-declared as 'peacekeeping' and profitably supported with arms deliveries. The cowardice of Stone Age thinking, that violence can only be met with violence, is to be elevated to a modern everyday virtue ('warrior-like behaviour').

It is precisely the civil resistance of the Palestinian population against the injustice of the occupying regime in the West Bank, which has now lasted 57 years, that gives the lie to this ideology and provides a lesson in the courage to pursue peace. Director Emad Burnat, who lives in Bil'in near the border, created a film monument to this resistance in 2011 with 'Five broken cameras'. In it, he documents the non-violent struggle of the 1,800 inhabitants of the village against the everyday harassment, ongoing land seizures and arbitrary attacks by the Israeli army, which have steadily taken on new dimensions of ruthlessness since the failure of the Oslo peace process in 2000.

In 2005, Emad Burnat bought a camera - for the birth of his son Gibreel. At the same time, the Israeli government began the construction of the military barrier, in violation of international law, which is intended to completely seal off the West Bank

and will be built so deep into Palestinian territory that entire villages will be cut off from access to their livelihoods, the surrounding farmland. From now on, the land is to be allocated to the nearby, expanding, illegal Israeli settlements. In Bil'in, the residents organise peaceful protest marches to

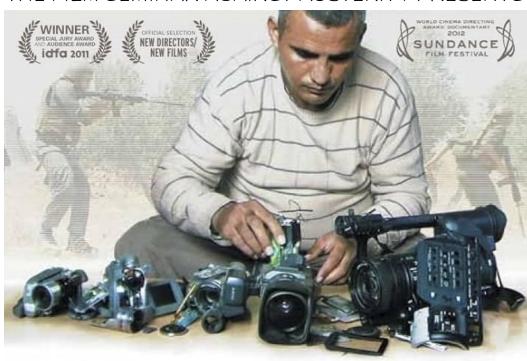
the barrier fence to stop the land seizure and the expansion of the Modi'in Illit settlement. Burnat thus involuntarily becomes a filmmaker, as his camera enables him to record the events and thus make the protest aware of its development. The five cameras, which are destroyed in the course of the conflict by beating settlers, Is-

raeli snipers and grenades and save Emad Burnat's life more than once, show not only the violent escalation of the occupation, but also the unwavering struggle of the resisters for confidence in the unequal struggle for dignity, justice, land and life. With every friend or brother who is injured, arrested or killed, the question of the meaning of non-violent protest is posed anew. Time and again, the seemingly hopelessly defeated succeed in transforming their anger at their loss into a new positive quality of resistance. Not least through the images from Burnat's cameras themselves. They turn Bil'in into a symbol for the peace struggle in the entire West Bank (and far beyond) and contribute to an Israeli court ordering the relocation of the barrier fence and awarding the residents a relevant part of their farmland. A success, however, that leaves deep

Emad Burnat says that forgotten wounds cannot heal. They are overlaid by new ones. That's why he films. To heal. Healing is the strongest force for overcoming oppression.

An exemplary attitude that would be good for the world as a whole. Peace is an emergency. Weapons must fall silent so that humanity can realise its hard-won rights. Immediately, everywhere and forever. Everyone is needed.

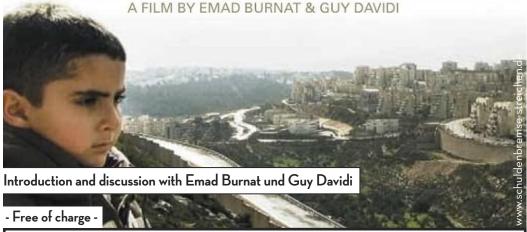
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"A RIGOROUS AND MOVING WORK OF ART."

- A D. SCOTT THE NEW YORK TIMES

## 5 BROKEN CAMERAS



On 18.9.2024, from 8 pm in Lecture Hall D of the Philosophenturm (Von-Melle-Park 6)

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