nomember

intervention in public space
in collaboration with Fawzy Emrany

27 May 2007 — Jabal Amman, Amman, JOR — No Condition is Permanent, a project on art
in public space by Rayelle Niemann — Duration: 6 hours

Background — Since 8500 BC, Amman has been home to various civilizations. In the 13th century, the
city was named Philadelphia by the Hellenic ruler of Egypt. In 1921, the founder of the Hashemite dy-
nasty declared Amman the capital city of his kingdom. The city, built on seven hills, quickly developed
into a financial and trade center of the Middle East. Today, Amman is in a state of upheaval. Old buildings
are being torn down; existing social and economic infrastructures are breaking apart. The Gulf States
are investing in the real estate sector; property and rental prices are rising rapidly. Since the Iraq War,
approximately 1 million people have fled to Jordan, some illegally.

Setting — In the district of Jabal Amman, X, Y, and Fawzy Emrany discover an old stone house that has
been empty for a long time. Its owner is not known. On the opposite hill, in the district of Luweibdeh,
is the independent art space Makan. There is a mosque nearby with bullet holes in the façade and roof:
remaining traces of the struggle for political control carried out from 1967 to 1971 between the govern-
ment of Jordan and the Black September guerilla group.

Materials and Preparation — Whitewash. Black Pigment. A tall ladder. Paint roller. Long brush and alumi-
num rod.

Procedure — X, Y, and Fawzy Emrany paint the entire façade of the house white. Then they paint the
letters NOMEMBER in black. The public is invited to watch the action from the balcony of the artspace
Makan.

Results — Between noon and 8 pm, the Amman art scene gathers on the balcony of Makan, along with
coincidental art space visitors and neighbours. The urban development of Amman is discussed and an-
ecdotes are told over alcohol-free beverages. Anees, an Amman artist who became a friend, is upset by
the painting over of the beautiful old stones.