

## ***Beyond Metaphor: Women and War***

Curated by **Katarzyna Fałęcka**

Online Opening and Tour: **May 27, 5-5:45pm EST**  
<https://apexart.org/faleckaopen.php>

On view:  
**May 28 - July 31, 2021, Tues.-Sat. 1-6pm**

Location:  
**3D Online and at 291 Church Street, NYC**

Featuring Work By:

**Marwa Arsanios - Kader Attia - Katia Kameli - Nadja Makhoulf - Zineb Sedira**

*Beyond Metaphor: Women and War* showcases the work of five contemporary artists who explore women's experiences during the Algerian War of Independence. The war, fought between 1954 and 1962, ended the long French colonial rule in Algeria. As anti-colonial movements multiplied across Africa following the Second World War, women became key figures within struggles for independence.

Histories of decolonization have foregrounded the role of men in challenging European colonial control, and marginalized women's involvement as fighters, nurses, community organizers and educators. In rare instances when women are evoked, they figure merely as symbols of a collective and sacrificial struggle against colonialism, revealing little about how women lived through the war. Not entirely forgotten, but also not fully remembered, women continue to hold a tenuous place within narratives of the war.

This exhibition illuminates this blind spot by showcasing art works that address the heterogeneity of women's experiences during decolonization. Zineb Sedira's video work presents the artist in conversation with her mother, emphasizing oral history as a site of gendered memory transmission. Nadja Makhoulf photographed women veterans who fought for Algeria's independence, pairing these portraits with historical photographs and short biographies. In Kader Attia's video, the artist's relative recalls everyday forms of resistance. Marwa Arsanios confronts the visual trope of the Algerian woman fighter, while Katia Kameli presents us with a visual mosaic that eclipses a fixed national history.

Work by contemporary artists will be shown alongside historical photographs and magazines, offering a glimpse into the war's visual legacies.

*Beyond Metaphor: Women and War* is an apexart New York City Open Call exhibition. For the latest information on the exhibition and related events, visit [apexart.org/falecka.php](https://apexart.org/falecka.php) or contact [elizabeth.larison@apexart.org](mailto:elizabeth.larison@apexart.org).

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**Katarzyna Fałęcka** is a Lecturer in Art History at Newcastle University, specializing in modern and contemporary art from North Africa. She holds a PhD from University College London and co-leads (together with Jessica Gerschultz and Nadia Jelassi) a program in modern art history at the Centre d'Études Maghrébines à Tunis (CEMAT).

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Nadja Makhoulf, *Henda* from the series  
*De l'invisible au visible: Moudjahidate, femmes combattantes*, 2014