

Hani Zurob

Artist Book: **ZeftBook 2020**

Cities Under Quarantine: The Mailbox Project, 2020

Dongola Limited Editions Sarl.

ZeftBook is my first artist book. I received it empty from the postman while keeping distance as if accepting a bomb from someone descending from outer space. I felt drained, carrying heavyweight, anxious about expressing the current state of life in isolation.

For over a year, I have been researching in depth the visual solutions for my next series, *ZeftTime*. In the process, the whole world suddenly entered a similar state. Being the son of refugees, I have lived for thirty years in Palestine under a colonial system and was forced since 2006 to live in exile without the right to return physically to my homeland. That's why I was not estranged by the pandemic lockdowns. The isolation state mirrored the reality that I had lived in before, still live in, just like the desolation, segregation, and confinement Palestinians face daily.

When I was invited to participate in this project, I found myself in confrontation with time again, drowning between its layers, and challenged how to mirror the world's new state.

From here, *ZeftBook* came to light, in search of a new visual that allows for self-reflection in darkness.

Hani Zurob

Paris, March–September 2020

*The word **Zeft** is used in the Arabs world and Palestine specifically, and the Arab region in general, as a contemptuous term expressing a wide range of emotions—from a discouraged state of mind to one of repulsion, and sometimes it points to bad luck or a way to describe an awful situation.