



## Research > MEMORABILIA. COLLECTING SOUNDS WITH...

MEMORABILIA. COLLECTING SOUNDS WITH... seeks to break through to unearth and reveal private collections of music and sound *memorabilia*. It is a historiography of sound collecting that reveals the unseen and passionate work of the amateur collector while reconstructing multiple parallel histories such as the evolution of recording formats, archiving issues, the collecting market and the evolution of musical styles beyond the marketplace.

Each episode in the series is accompanied by an additional programme featuring an exclusive music selection by each of the collectors.

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### Music selection by Mark Gergis.

Mark Gergis is a sound artist, collector of cultural oddities and regular collaborator of the record label Sublime Frequencies, from which he has carried out important musical research since 2003. His work includes dozens of documentary collages and compilations that bring to light unusual audio and video from Middle Eastern and Southeast Asian countries.  
[www.porestsound.net](http://www.porestsound.net)

# MEMORABILIA. COLLECTING SOUNDS WITH...

## Mark Gergis. Part II

A musical selection of some of the anomalies found in Mark Gergis' sound collection, discovering rare music from the Middle East and South East Asia.

### 01. Summary

After poring through hundreds of sound sources from a specific region, familiarity kicks in and things can tend to get repetitive and homogenous. But there are always surprise audio anomalies that stand out. One of my favorite things about collecting sounds is finding these anomalies in a specific regional style or genre I'm researching, mainly to see what the parameters were *within* that genre – where it challenged itself, either intentionally or accidentally, whether it be in the production values, the instrumentation or in the fusion of styles (effectively or not).

This collection focuses on a few standout materials recorded or acquired on the continent of Asia. The selections are from Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Sumatra and Thailand and span at least four decades, but are artificially unified here by aesthetic, and reflect the nature of what I collect from a location – sounds, radio recordings and music found on vinyl, cassette tape or MP3. Featured here are the lesser heard sounds of Arab and Islamic children's musics, a political song sung by the Iraqi women's federation of Saddam's Iraq, and more, intertwined with brief folk-pop musical selections from places I frequent or research often and field and radio recordings I have made while on location.

### Mark Gergis

### 02. Playlist

#### Part II

- Hama, Syria: Frogs and water wheels – field recording, 2009.
- Radio recording from Damascus (segment), 2010.
- Unknown artist and title, 1970s. Lebanese Children's Song from cassette.
- Azar Habib (Lebanon) 'Mech Mhem', 1970s. From vinyl.
- Unknown artist and title, 2000s. Syrian Dabke segment, from MP3 disc.
- Unknown artist and title, 'Sede Ya Werd', 1980s. Iraqi Children's song, from MP3 disc.
- General Federation of Iraqi Women 'Untrue, Untrue, Untrue', 1980s. Music by Farouk Hilal, from an LP.
- 'Wings of Deception', 2007. Audio selection from the film 'Sumatran Folk Cinema' (Sublime Frequencies).
- Elias Rahbani (Lebanon) 'Dance of Maria', 1974. From the LP *Mosaic of the Orient*.
- Gomidas Band (Syria), unknown title, 1980s. From cassette.
- Radio recordings from northeastern Thailand, 2008.
- Unknown artist and title, 1970s. Cambodian cassette instrumental.
- Unknown artist and title, 1990s. From a Sudanese cassette found in Egypt.
- Unknown artist and title, 2000s. Islamic Children's song from cassette.

### 03. Related links

Sublime Frequencies  
[www.sublimefrequencies.com](http://www.sublimefrequencies.com)

Porest  
[www.porestsound.net](http://www.porestsound.net)



[Mark Gergis during his lecture, 2011]

Porest blog

<http://porest-report.blogspot.com>

MEMORABILIA. COLLECTING SOUNDS WITH... lecture series, Spring 2011

[www.macba.cat/controller.php?p\\_action=show\\_page&pagina\\_id=33&inst\\_id=30547](http://www.macba.cat/controller.php?p_action=show_page&pagina_id=33&inst_id=30547)

Conversation with Mark Gergis, Spring 2011

[http://rwm.macba.cat/es/extra/memorabilia\\_mark\\_gergis/capsula](http://rwm.macba.cat/es/extra/memorabilia_mark_gergis/capsula)

Interview with Mark Gergis at Fecal Face

[www.fecalface.com/SF/index.php?Itemid=100&id=1346&option=com\\_content&task=view](http://www.fecalface.com/SF/index.php?Itemid=100&id=1346&option=com_content&task=view)

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## 04. Acknowledgements

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## 05. Copyright note

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