

ART & DESIGN

‘The Mapping Journey,’ Bouchra Khalili’s Searing Refugee Project

By RANDY KENNEDY MARCH 30, 2016

In the Moroccan-French artist Bouchra Khalili’s powerful video work “The Mapping Journey Project,” the formal elements are pared to necessities: a paper map of the world; a hand holding a marker, drawing lines on the map across oceans and borders; a voice of a man or a woman telling a first-person story, sometimes harrowing, always arduous, of immigrating illegally from the Middle East or Africa to Europe in search of a better life.

The eight videos, which Ms. Khalili made by immersing herself in cities known as migrant transit points, will appear on suspended screens filling the atrium at the Museum of Modern Art beginning Saturday, April 9. Against the backdrop of the refugee crisis in Europe, the testimonials — which appeared in 2014 in the New Museum’s “Here and Elsewhere” exhibition of contemporary art from the Arab world — seem only to have gained depth and poignancy. (Through Aug. 28. 212-708-9400; moma.org.)

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