

Samir Odeh-Tamimi: *Jabsurr* – Work description

for Cello and Piano (2009) / Sy. 4039

The subtitle of *Jabsurr* for cello and piano, composed in 2009, explains the meaning of its Arabic title: “... letting one’s gaze drift over something...”. In Samir Odeh-Tamimi’s duo the cello has the highlighted main role; for long stretches it acts as soloist, and it opens and ends the work. And yet the piece is a snapshot: despite lasting a good twelve minutes, despite varied playing techniques, as well as constant, extreme changes of register and timbre including microtonal nuances, huge dynamic range, virtuosic, declamatory-improvisatory gestures, along with whip-like piano actions, and screens of clusters. *Jabsuur* freezes an extended moment, aurally eyes off an imaginary environment. Maybe it is even a real one. The ending glistens.

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