

Precious objects

In times of conflict and separation when people are forced to leave their homes, even the most ordinary objects can become precious. The installation *Memoire(s) des Femmes* from the *Syria: Third Space* exhibition included recordings of testimonies from Syrian women who were forced to leave their homes, alongside photographs of some of the ordinary objects that hold significant and special memories for them about their homeland. They included the following:

Heart key ring

'This key ring, shaped like half a heart, was given to me by a friend. One day we were walking and then sat at a restaurant. We had an argument but then we made up, so we decided to buy something together. We bought this key ring. I took one half of the heart, and she took the other.'



Keys

'I still keep the keys to my house, because I know some day, I'll come back to visit.'



Listen to the short [audio clip](#) or read Reem's account of her feelings about leaving Syria.

I really didn't want to leave Syria at all. We only left after we'd moved at least six times inside Syria, but we found that there is no safe place for us. My father decided that we'd leave to Jordan. I was totally against him in the beginning, but now after a few years I think that he was totally right, and he was thinking about us and just thinking as a father, he was just thinking about us, about my brother, and now I'm so happy for my brother, because my brother was in the age of the military service, so if he had just gone to the army, he will be even a killer or a dead man, so now I feel, I feel that yes, thank God that we left Syria here to Jordan. But it also breaks my heart because yeah, it's not that easy a thing, because day after day you just feel that your home is far away from you.