

... TELL ME ABOUT IT ?

“The war had made us fatalists, a bombing was like a storm. We kids kept playing calmly through Tuesday evening, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. But were we really calm? Were we not beginning to be marked by anxiety, by the stunned and relieved melancholy that grips whoever passes alive through a field strewn with corpses?”

(Umberto Eco, *The mysterious flame of Queen Loana*)

Arranging time and space in narrative forms, constitutes one of the primary ways in which we construct memory and meaning. Some memories get erased in this process -ones which are painful to face- and the result is a collective memory that unifies the stories and is considered to be ‘The Truth’: things that are worth remembering, or perhaps more significantly, worth forgetting. I believe the process of constructing meaning and memory is a rather unstable and fluctuating exercise, in which the final product is a collection of stories that emphasize memory’s inherently fragmented, collected and individual character. I seek to reconsider the unified memories and narratives in order to rethink the meaning we assign to them, to ourselves, to our history.

...Tell me about it? addresses the violence and trauma in Colombia. It focuses on a specific period of time, 1984-1993, a decade in which war ceased to be alien to us and entered our living rooms. I am interested in the day-to-day, in the way war and violence permeated life and became normal, and in the way we, kids at that time, understood those events, how we became used to the bombs, the killings, the fear, and how we can or cannot talk about it. In these narratives that portray terror as ‘normal’ lie, perhaps, the real trauma.