

lilia ben salah

Unis sous un nuage (United under a cloud)

Mohamed Lekleti

Zoulikha Bouabdellah

Nasreddine Bennacer

Katayoun Rouhi

October 15 | December 14, 2024



Mohamed Lekleti

Unis sous un nuage, 2024

Mixed media on paper

75 x 110 cm (29 1/2 x 43 1/4 in.)

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For the exhibition "Unis sous un nuage" (United under a cloud), four artists, from different backgrounds, confront their propositions in a shared reflection on movement, memory and transformation through a selection of recent works focusing on drawing and painting. An intangible space, where the works showcased evoke notions of flow, deconstruction, superimposition and temporality. The artists explore what is visible and what is hidden. They excavate and reinterpret images, symbols and histories, revealing hidden strata in displacements, tensions, personal and historical references.



Mohamed Lekleti

Tapi dans l'ombre des rêves, 2024

Mixed media on paper and carpet laid on wood

80 x 132 cm (31 1/2 x 52 in.)

Mohamed Lekleti goes beyond the limits of canvas and paper with his hybrid works, multiplying associations and oxymorons beyond the visible and the legible while illustrating his consistency for graphic treatment and strong visual symbols.

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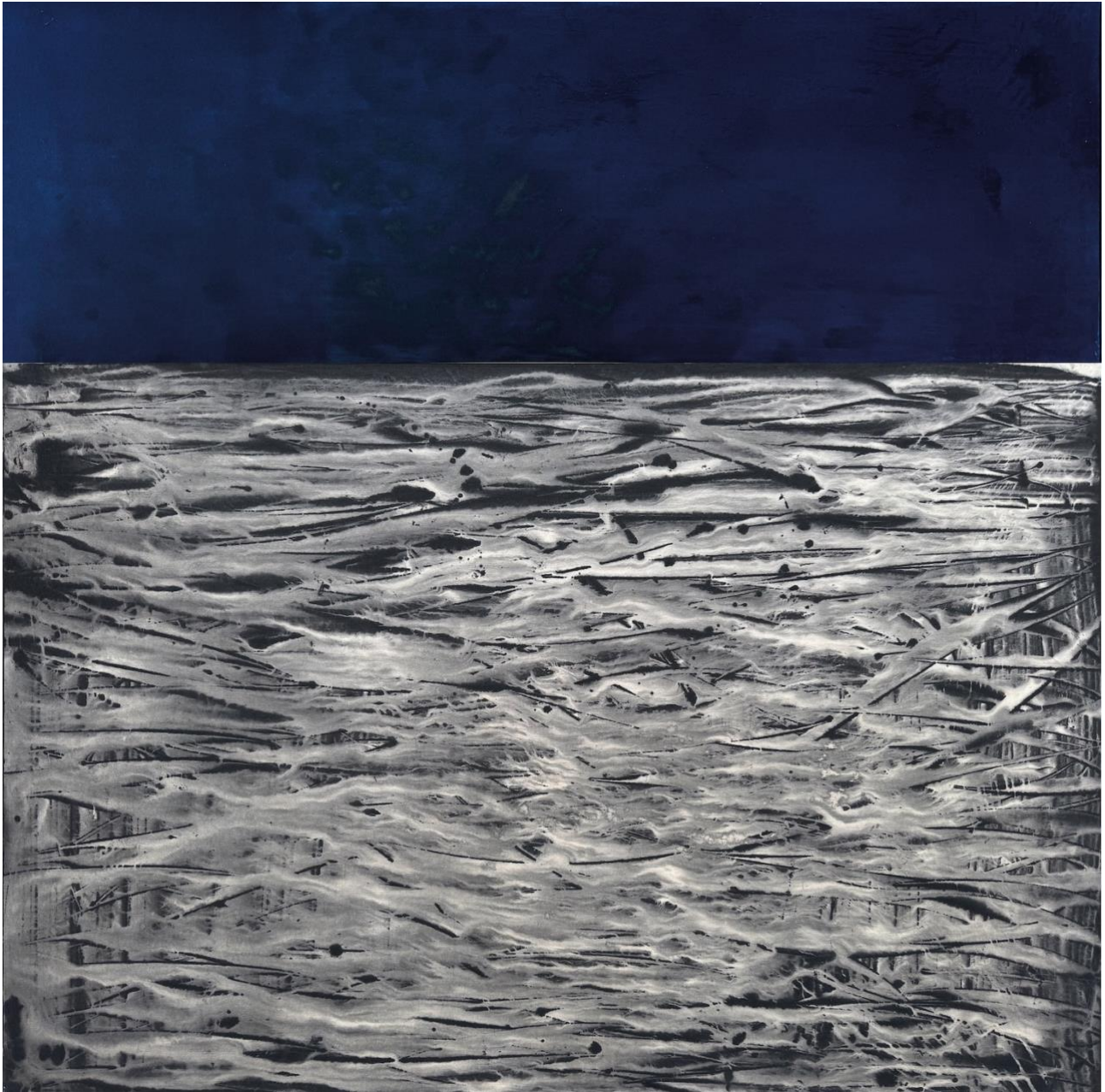
Zoulikha Bouabdellah

Raccommodeuses 1, 2022

Ink on Wenzhou paper laid on coated linen canvas

185 x 169 cm (72 7/8 x 66 1/2 in)

Zoulikha Bouabdellah makes images without making them, revisiting the history of painting and dominant representations, through drawing, writing, ornaments and gestures, she deconstructs the standards and ways of social and cultural representation, inviting us to get out of the frame to build a common edifice.



Nasreddine Bennacer

Tel jour, telle nuit, 2024

Gouache on Japanese paper laid on canvas

Diptych, 150 x 150 cm (59 x 59 in.)

Nasreddine Bennacer impassively tends towards purity and poetry, between gesture and material, revealing memories and impressions, personal or historical references in the form of imprints, memory traces.

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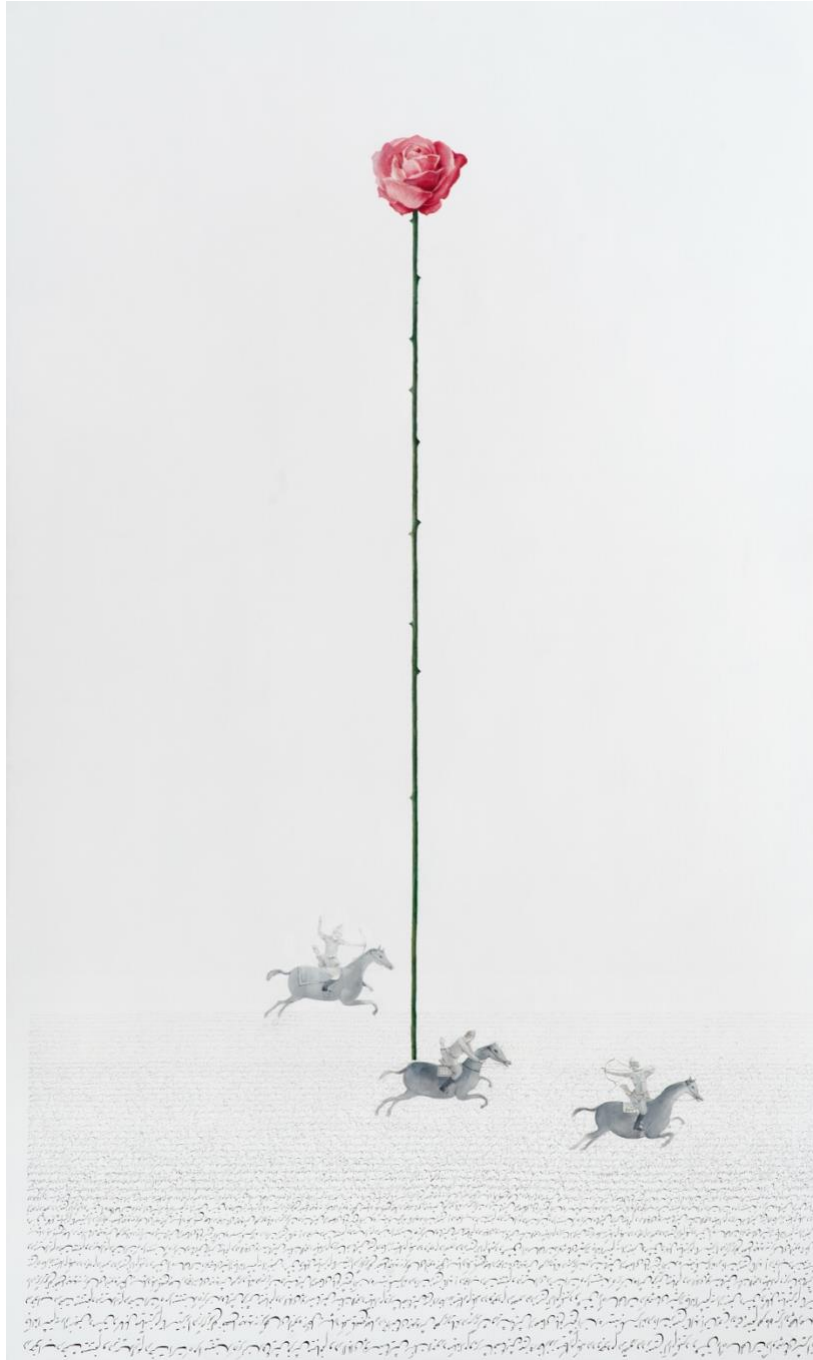


Katayoun Rouhi
Sui Generis, Badakhshan, 2022
Oil on canvas
195 x 115 cm (76 3/4 x 45 1/4 in.)

Katayoun Rouhi, for her part, confronts visible reality and hidden truth in her practice, between painting and poetry, initiating a reflective journey on art, where her poems are the interior, hidden reflection of the painting that is the visible manifestation of it.

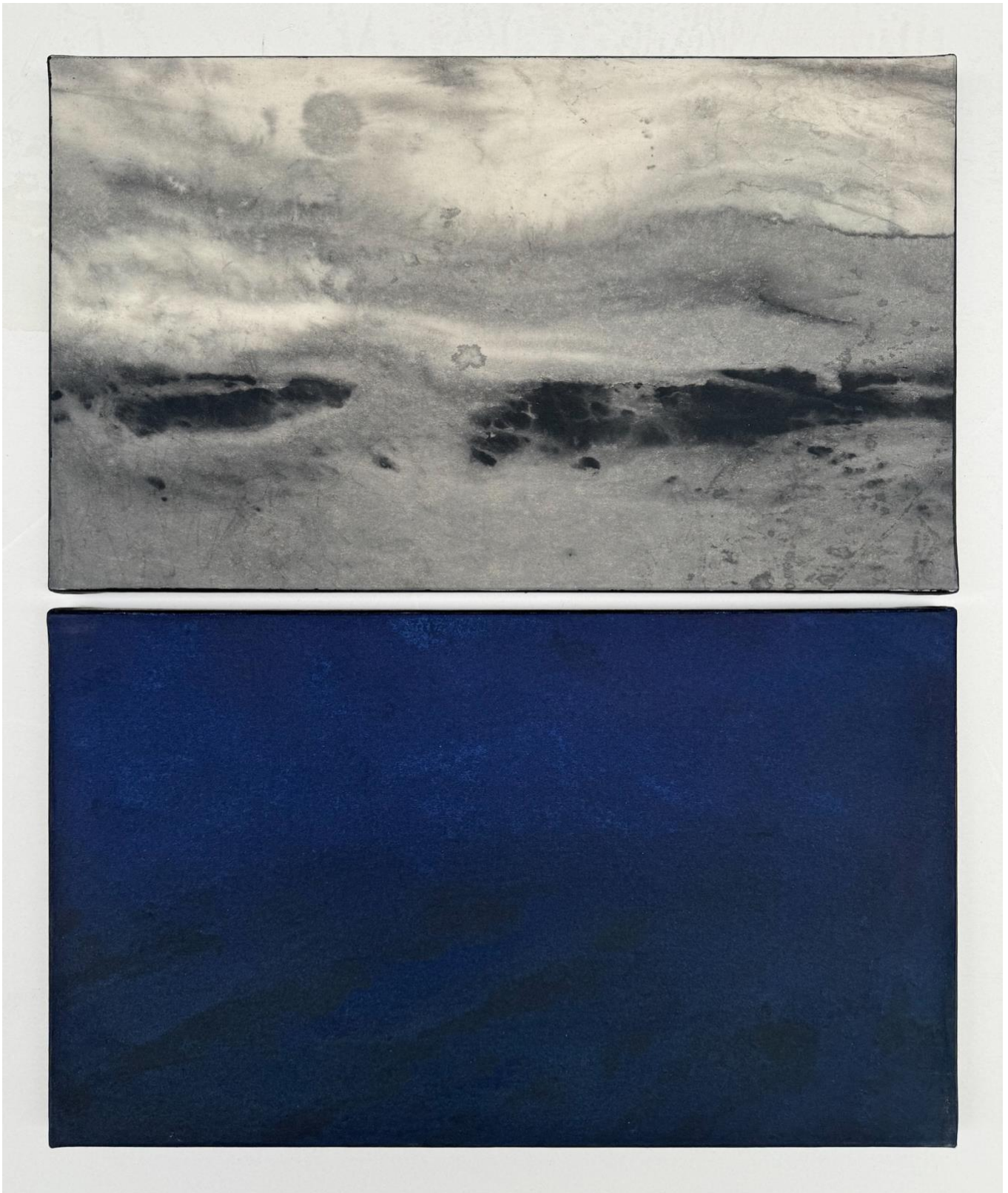
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For this exhibition, the four artists - Mohamed Lekleti, Zoulikha Bouabdellah, Nasreddine Bennacer, and Katayoun Rouhi - together draw a cartography of the world, anchored in their inner and outer journeys, tending towards a world that we compose together, a world as one.



Katayoun Rouhi
Sui Generis, Damas, 2022
Oil on canvas
195 x 115 cm (76 3/4 x 45 1/4 in.)

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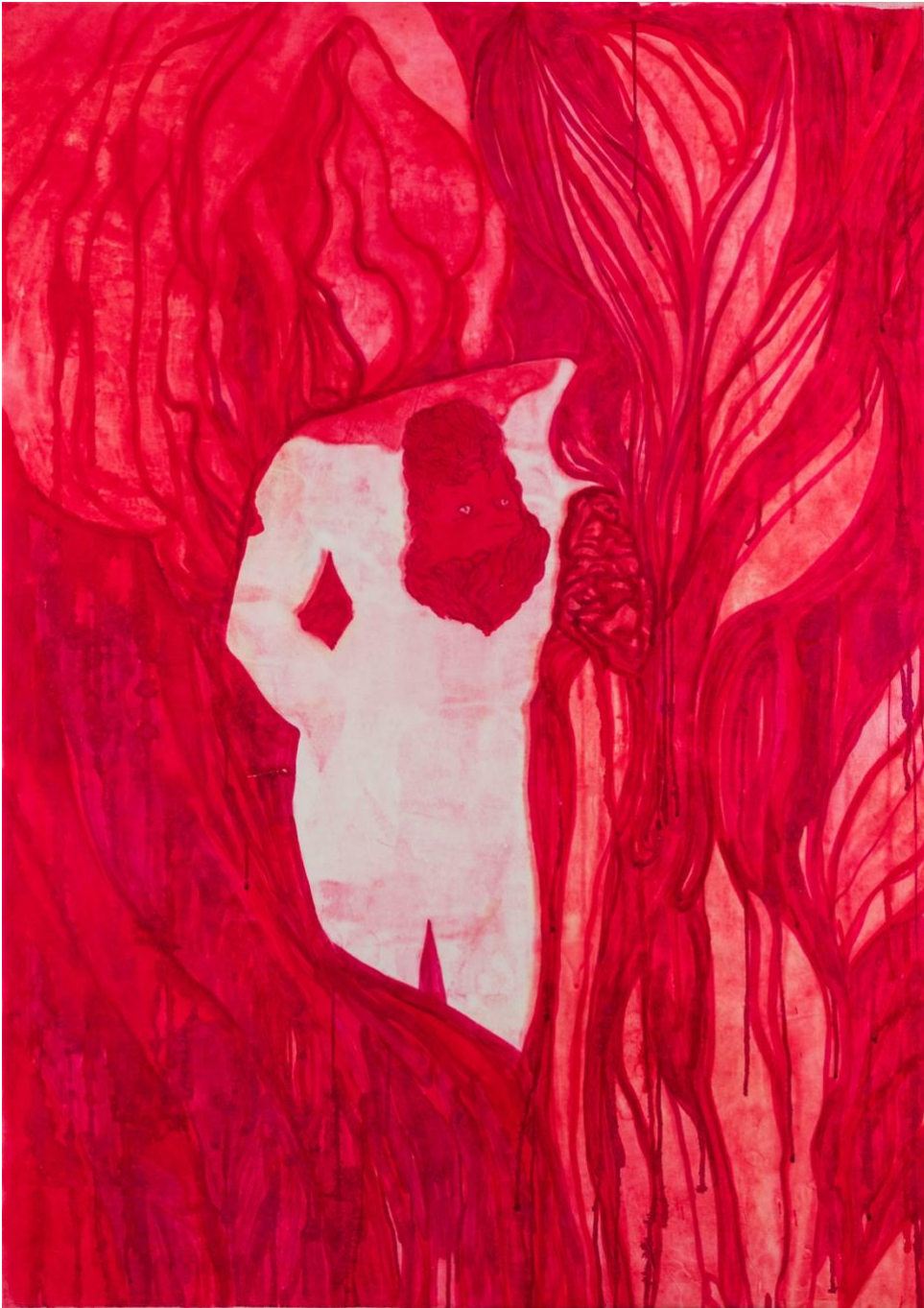
Nasreddine Bennacer

Tel jour, telle nuit, 2024

Gouache and blue ink on Japanese paper laid on canvas

Dptych, 54 x 46 cm // 21 1/4 x 18 1/8 in. overall

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Zoulikha Bouabdellah

Hercule, 2022

Ink on Japanese rice paper laid on canvas
135.5 x 96 cm (53 3/8 x 37 3/4 in.)

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About the Artists

Mohamed Lekleti is a French Moroccan artist. Born in Taza, Morocco, he lives and works in Montpellier, France. His practice focusses on our complex world and the human diversity through drawing and painting. His work addresses humanity as a complex and imperfect fabric, seeking to reconcile differences in a quest for universal understanding. He has executed commissioned works in public spaces and in-situ installations as well as performances and ephemeral contextual art in France and abroad. Mohamed Lekleti has established himself as one of the emblematic artists of contemporary drawing in France and Morocco. He has exhibited extensively, including at the Pinacoteca of the Albertina Academy of Fine Arts in Turin (INAC), the Fortress of Salses (national monuments of France), the Marrakech Biennial, the biennial of the Panacée Art Center/MOCCO Museum Montpellier (curator Nicolas Bouriaud), the Musée d'art contemporain-MAC-Lyon, Musée de la banque Al Maghreb. His works can be found in numerous private and public collections in France and abroad, including the Centre national d'arts plastiques (Cnap), Musée d'art contemporain-MAC-Lyon, Detroit Institute of Arts Museum (USA), Institut du Monde Arabe-IMA (Paris), Frissiras Museum (Athens), Paul Valéry Museum (Sète), Al Quatan Foundation (London/Palestine), Blachère Foundation (France/Senegal), Kamel Lazaar Foundation (Tunisia), Société Générale Foundation (Morocco), À-cent-metres-du-centre-du-monde Contemporary Art Centre (France), MACAAL Museum (Morocco), Occitanie Region Fund (France), MACMA Museum (Marrakech), The Royal Collection (Kingdom of Morocco), Collector Art (France), Claude Lemand Collection (France), Palace Saadi Collection (Marrakech), Mohamed VI Museum Rabat (Morocco), Agadir Art Museum (Morocco).

Zoulikha Bouabdellah is a French Algerian artist. She currently lives and works between France and Morocco. She was born in Moscow and raised in Algiers before relocating to France in 1993, where she graduated from ENSBA-Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-arts Paris-Cergy in 2002. She grew up surrounded by art as the daughter of Hassen Bouabdellah, a film director and author, and Malika Dorbani, former head of the National Museum of Fine Arts of Algiers. Through her multidisciplinary practice, her work combines video, photography, drawing, sculpture, and installation. She directed the 2003 video Dansons acquired by the Centre Pompidou, in which she melds French and Algerian archetypes by executing a belly dance to the French national anthem. In 2005, she participated in Africa Remix at the Centre Pompidou, and three years later in the Tate Modern's festival Paradise Now! Essential French Avant-garde Cinema 1890-2008. Zoulikha Bouabdellah has participated in numerous exhibitions, including at the LACMA Los Angeles, Mori Art Museum, the Brooklyn Museum, the Menil Collection, the Museum für Moderne Kunst and the Centro Atlantico de Arte Moderno. Her installations, video, and drawings question icons, dominant representations, motifs, and ornaments by juxtaposing them to geopolitical dynamics and global issues linked to conflicts, sexuality, or the status of women. This deconstruction of view operates through a reflection upon culture, production, and industrialization. Zoulikha Bouabdellah has been awarded the Abraaj Capital Art Prize, the Prix Meurice pour l'Art Contemporain, and the Villa Medici Hors les Murs. Her works are part of numerous public and private collections worldwide.

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Nasreddine Bennacer is a French Algerian artist. Born in Guelma, raised in Alger, he lives and works in Paris. His practice questions the concepts of culture, civilization and identity. Through a variety of media (including sculpture, painting on plexiglas, installation art), he has previously examined power dynamics, blending sensitivity and irony to deflate contemporary ideologies and to critique the nonsensical rationality of the world. In his current work, strongly influenced by his new technical approach, Nasreddine Bennacer eludes obvious statements, preferring a pared-down lyricism. His works on Japanese paper, between abstraction and figuration, come from the meeting of media and technique, embracing the unexpected, going beyond the artist's endeavor, allowing memories and glimpses to surface.

Katayoun Rouhi is a French Iranian artist. Born in Shiraz, she lives in France. A graduate from the Ecole des Beaux-arts de Paris, she is a PhD in Aesthetics and Sciences of the Arts from the University Paris I - Panthéon Sorbonne. Katayoun Rouhi questions the status of the image as a fundamental medium of painting. Her practice confronts the reality of a representation with the truth, what is hidden behind the image. The image is put to the test by its own appearance, the visual expression becomes then a process of unveiling. In Katayoun's compositions, writing plays a revealing role through her intimate writings in the form of poems. The creative act is the instant that is seized in the interval between poetry, which is an inner process of creation, and painting becoming its visible form.

About the gallery

lilia ben salah gallery seeks to showcase artists, both emerging and established, whose free, uncompromising expressions play a key role in the cultural hybridization that is so essential to the development of societies. Through its programming, the gallery aims to support the artists and work with them in close collaboration, invite curators to design projects, get closer to institutional players while participating in off-site projects and international fairs. In addition, Lilia Ben Salah hopes to provide another reading of art history over the past few decades by reconsidering the scope of the work of certain historical artists, originating from Africa and the Middle and Near East, by presenting them outside of their geographical context.

Practical Information

Exhibition from October 15th to December 14th, 2024

Opening times Tuesday to Saturday, 11am - 7pm

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