

LA GALERIE,
CENTRE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN
DE NOISY-LE-SEC

المهر

PRESS KIT
AL MAHR

Sabrina Belouaar

Exhibition
Opening

14 May – 23 July 2022
13 May from 6pm



PRESS RELEASE

Embracing sculpture, photography, video and installation, the artistic vocabulary that Sabrina Belouaar (born in 1986, lives and works in Paris) has developed investigates, with sensitivity, the way our social and cultural identities are constructed, how they echo and collide with each other in a continuous back and forth - from the Maghreb to Western Europe, from the centre to the periphery. The artist does not hesitate to question our preconceptions by revealing the unspoken power dynamics at play in both political and familial spheres.

For this exhibition, “al mahr”, which in Arabic means “dowry”, Sabrina Belouaar presents a project in La Galerie’s space that she began in 2017, studies of women who clandestinely resell jewellery on the streets of Algiers. Called the *delalates*, these women have often found themselves in a precarious situation (widowed, rejected, divorced, etc.), to the point of being forced to sell jewellery on the pavement, often from their dowry, given to young Algerian women when they marry.

The photographs in the series *The Gold Sellers* show close-ups of these women’s hands, covered in rings. Without street-side display cases, it is the actual body of the *delalates* that serves as showcases for the jewellery they sell illegally. It is perhaps this direct connection to the body that explains why they have been held in low regard and constantly denigrated in Algerian society - a negative perception Sabrina Belouaar has been witness to since her childhood.

Starting from an idiosyncratic and specific situation, Sabrina Belouaar weaves links that enable her to question our relationship to gold and the frantic race to riches that drives our societies. In her latest film, which uses editing to heighten the rhythm to a *crescendo*, she draws the viewer into a visual meandering where images from diverse sources mix together: *delalates*, archives, family photos, film snippets, stories...

The reference to the tradition of the dowry appears in the images that belong to the *delalates*, but also metaphorically in the evocation of the *sandouk tadamoun*. When Algeria was liberated from French domination in the summer of 1962, the government called on the population to make a collective effort to endow the newly independent Algeria with their own money and goods - as after French colonisation, this young nation was wedding its own inhabitants, the beginning of a new relationship, filled with promise.

Curator: Marc Bembekoff

This exhibition is supported by the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture.

PRESS VISIT
FRIDAY 13 MAY, 4PM

Press relations: Marie Dernoncourt
marie.dernoncourt@noisylesec.fr

Wednesday – Friday 2pm – 6pm
Saturday 2pm – 7pm
Closed on public holidays

Free admission

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SABRINA BELOUAAR



Photo © Mohamed Bourouissa

Solo shows

- 2018 “The Gold Sellers”, Al Marhoon Gallery, Algiers (Algeria)
- 2016 “Alfortville” with Mohamed Bourouissa, Galerie Ambacher Contemporary, Munich (Germany)
- 2015 “Racine Carré(e)”, Galerie Gourvenec Ogor, Marseille

Group show

- 2022 “Silsila, le voyage des regards”, Institut des cultures d’Islam, Paris
- “EUROPA, Oxalá”, Fondation Gulbenkian, Lisbon (Portugal)
- 2021 “Faire Corps”, Galerie Paris-Beijing, Paris
- “EUROPA, Oxalá”, Mucem, Marseille
- “Zone Franche”, Institut des cultures d’Islam, Paris
- 2019 “Artagon Live”, Villa Radet, Cité internationale des Arts, Paris
- “Désolé”, Galerie Edouard Manet, Gennevilliers
- 64th Montrouge Salon, Beffroi de Montrouge, Montrouge
- “Poly”, Galerie Houg, Paris
- “Ensorcelés”, LARO, Paris
- 2018 “L’envers d’une autre”, Villa Belleville, Paris
- 68th Jeune Création festival, Paris
- “Sense and sensibilia”, galerie Doris Ghetta, Ortisei (Italy)
- “La fureur du dragon”, Studio 13/16, Centre Pompidou, Paris
- 2017 “LA SAGA”, Galerie Double V, Marseille
- “Balseca/Belouaar”, Galerie Madragoa, Lisbon (Portugal)
- 13th Sharjah Biennial 13, Beyrouth (Lebanon)
- “EcoSystème”, Château d’Oiron, Oiron
- 2016 “Memento”, Galerie Double V, Marseille
- “Liquidation totale”, Galerie Ambacher Contemporary, Paris
- 2015 “Remediate the Everyday”, Atelier W, Pantin
- “Minimum Production, Maximum Expression”, Galerie Gourvenec Ogor, Marseille
- “Artagon”, La Villa Deshayes, Paris

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AROUND THE EXHIBITION

Saturday 28 May 2022, 4:30pm:

Panel discussion around the *delalates* and informal markets in Algiers

Discussion with Sabrina Belouaar, Nabil Djedouani (archivist), Lynn SK (artist) and Farès Yessad (artist), along with a film and video programme

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AVAILABLE VISUALS



The Gold Sellers, 2017-2018
Photographic series
Lambda print mounted on dibond
112 x 150 cm each
Courtesy of the artist
© Adagp, Paris, 2022

Cash cassé, 2022
Video, color, sound, 12'
Production La Galerie, centre d'art contemporain de Noisy-le-Sec
With the support of AFAC – Arab Fund for Arts and Culture
Courtesy of the artist
© Adagp, Paris, 2022



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LA GALERIE, CENTRE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN DE NOISY-LE-SEC

La Galerie, centre d'art contemporain de Noisy-le-Sec has been granted of national interest. Launched in 1999 by the City of Noisy-le-Sec, the structure is backed by the Île-de-France Region Cultural Affairs Office (DRAC) – Ministry of Culture, the Seine-Saint-Denis Department and the Île-de-France Region.

It is also part of d.c.a – association de développement des centres d'art contemporain, tram – réseau art contemporain Paris/Île-de-France, Arts en résidence – réseau national et BLA ! Association des professionnels de la médiation en art contemporain.

The La Galerie programme reflects the diversity of today's art in terms of a range of aesthetic and social issues, via the work of emergent or established artists with local, national or international reputations. The programme revolves around two main themes: first of all *genius loci*, the spirit of place defined by the centre's distinctive architectural, social and historical associations; and secondly, the word galerie ("gallery"), with its different meanings and implications.

The exhibitions

Gallery: A room or building for the display of works of art

For its four annual exhibitions, the programme systematically starts out from specific ideas or pretexts, either literary, architectural or musical. The avenues explored by these solo and collective exhibitions complement each other, while opening up fresh perspectives and lines of enquiry.

Receptivity and commitment to the local

Gallery: A long room or passage, partly open at the side; a balcony providing space for an audience

Ongoing work on the Grand Paris project is bringing radical change to Noisy-le-Sec and the intermunicipal Est Ensemble locality. La Galerie is participating by going out to make contact with potential visitors and engage in collaborative ventures with publics otherwise lacking the chance to develop a taste for today's visual arts. The art centre functions as an incubator for ideas, an agora where knowledge can be shared in close connection with the region's new visual arts organisations, notably Micro-Folie Noisy-le-Sec and Komunuma in nearby Romainville.

The cultural programme

Gallery: A group of spectators

The fundamental principles of an art centre: to guide and assist the emergence of challenging projects and their production and dissemination, while constantly mindful of the need for accessibility for the public at large. In line with these requirements, La Galerie's cultural programme is aimed at establishing a dynamic of "social involvement", of interplay with Noisy-le-Sec residents that will let them "blow the spectators away". This project stresses a day-to-day forging of links between the aesthetic and the social spheres, between an exacting creativity receptive to the world and its challenges, and a cultural transmission adapted to each individual. With respect to contemporary art – and especially its artists – modes of seeing, encountering and living together are imaginable, which it seems important to make the most of. The urban and social context offered by La Galerie is an ideal tool for contributing to dialogue between artists, local stakeholders and the various publics.

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ACCESS

Getting here
By tube

From Paris:

- RER E, stop "Noisy-le-Sec"
(10' à 15', from Gare du Nord or from Haussmann Saint-Lazare)
- Line 5, stop "Bobigny-Pantin-Raymond Queneau" + Bus 145, direction "Cimetière de Villemonble", stop "Jeanne d'Arc"
- Line 11, stop "Porte des Lilas" + Bus 105, direction "Pavillon-sous-Bois", stop "Jeanne d'Arc"

From Asnières, Bobigny, Drancy, Gennevilliers, La Courneuve:
Tram T1, stop "Noisy-le-Sec RER"

By car

From Porte des Lilas, direction Romainville
From Porte de Bagnolet, motorway A3 exit Villemonble, direction Rosny centre commercial

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