



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

*Frsh (recherche d'un objet dans une poche)*  
nadjim bigou-fathi & soto labor

PRESS KIT



Publication launch

Saturday 3 June 2023

Free admission

## PRESS RELEASE

In the onomatopoeia dictionary, *frsh* is the sound made by an object that is being looked for in a pocket. “Frsh (*recherche d’un objet dans une poche*)” is also the title of a project by *nadjim bigou-fathi & soto labor*, begun in 2021 at La Criée centre d’art contemporain in Rennes and shown at Bétonsalon – Center for Art & Research in Paris. Drawing on dance and poetry, among other things, through performance *nadjim bigou-fathi & soto labor* question authoritative narratives and the legitimisation of speech. Do words lose their meaning if you sing a text rather than read it? How does the dining table allow for the exploration of thinking on relationships of domination in the implementation of discourses? Through their visual and performative research, the duo proposes reshuffling the cards of the occupation of space and the power relations that govern our social conventions.

Over the course of their seven-month residency at La Galerie, centre d’art contemporain de Noisy-le-Sec, *nadjim bigou-fathi & soto labor* have developed a project with the art centre’s audiences and the inhabitants of Noisy-le-Sec through meetings and participative workshops.

The research resulting from the various discussions and the stories collected formed the content of a published object, but also the material for the script of the performance that will be presented to the public at the end of the residency.

### The residency

Each year, La Galerie, centre d’art contemporain de Noisy-le-Sec welcomes an artist-in-residence for a period of six to seven months, with the support of the Département de la Seine-Saint-Denis. The art centre provides the artist with artistic, logistical and financial support. The artworks produced during the residency take the art centre’s extended region into consideration.

PUBLICATION LAUNCH AND PERFORMANCE  
SATURDAY 3 JUNE, 5PM  
CYBERRANCE, 93 RUE DE LA LIBERTE  
93230 ROMAINVILLE

Press relations: Alyson Onana Zobo  
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## SOTO LABOR

Born in 1993 in Paris, lives and works between Rennes, Paris and Bruxelles.

### Exhibitions – Events

- 2023 “Hors d’œuvre #2 et 3”, program of film screenings – conversations w/ nadjim bigou-fathi, La Galerie, centre d’art contemporain de Noisy-le-Sec (Noisy-le-Sec, FR)
- 2022 “Hors d’œuvre #1”, program of film screenings – conversations w/ nadjim bigou-fathi, La Galerie, centre d’art contemporain de Noisy-le-Sec (Noisy-le-Sec, FR)
- 2019 “La chasse est ouverte, Marcelle Alix ouverte”, Galerie Marcelle Alix (Paris, FR)
- 2018 “Hold on tight, Transitoire : Le kiosque”, curated by Anouk Chardot and Fanny Gicquel (Rennes, FR)
- 2018 “Touche-touche, Cosmorama”, curated by Maëva Blandin and Léa Michel, Musée des beaux-arts (Rennes, FR)
- 2019 “Penchant orbital”, Mains d’Œuvres (Saint-Ouen, FR)
- 2017 “Et si les chaises sans bords pouvaient déborder ? 327 pas de l'une à l'autre”, curated by Fanny Gicquel and Vincent-Michaël Vallet, Église Toussaint (Rennes, FR)
- “Couché, Nightfall”, curated by Kasia Ozga, Les Abords (Brest, FR)

### Performances

- 2023 “Frsh (*recherche d'un objet dans une poche*)” w/ nadjim bigou-fathi, performance at Beurschouwborg (Bruxelles, BE) as part of festival Architectures of violence
- 2021 “Frsh (*recherche d'un objet dans une poche*)” w/ nadjim bigou-fathi, performance at Bétonsalon (Paris, FR) as part of Ways of Publishing #6
- “Frsh (*recherche d'un objet dans une poche*)” w/ nadjim bigou-fathi, performance at eeeeh! (Nyon, CH) as part of festival Le Bureau des Questions Importantes (BDQI), invitation by Chloé Démétriadès
- 2019 “Lunettes modernes” w/ Aminata Labor, Musée des beaux-arts (Rennes, FR)
- 2018 “Lunettes modernes” performance in “Amicalement vôtre” with André Chapatte’s work: “My rotten skin”, curated by nadjim bigou-fathi and Anastasia Guevel (Bruxelles, BE)
- “Les 6 faces d’un chapeau”, performer for the artist Francis Raynaud, La Criée centre d’art contemporain (Rennes, FR)
- “Contact” performance with the comedian Soukeyna Gueye, exhibition “Cosmorama”, curated by Maëva Blandin and Léa Michel, Musée des beaux-arts (Rennes, FR)
- 2017 “Am I right?” performance at “Will Hurry”, curated by Joan Somers Donnelly and Sara French (Dublin, IE)
- “Cariatide” improvised performance, documentation by Hugo Maillard (Bruxelles, BE)
- 2016 “Cocktail” performance with the artist Sara French, Le Complex (Dublin, IE)

### Publications

- 2022 Double-poems postcard w/ nadjim bigou-fathi – *jimmy&rico*, soto labor; *Peigne*, nadjim bigou-fathi produced for the exhibition “aquarium & heart - piero heliczer & the dead language press” at Bagnoler (Bagnolet, FR), invitation by Benjamin Thorel, After8Books (Paris, FR), graphic design: Espace Ness
- 2021 *Trompette*, published in the series *Presage Pamphlet*, After8books (Paris, FR), on the invitation of Théo Robine-Langlois. With *Trompette* by Soto Labor; *Chapter 15: I lie on the floor* by Claire Finch and *wild wild west* by Sherian Mohammed Forster

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## NADJIM BIGOU-FATHI

Born in 1990, lives and works between Bruxelles and Narbonne.

### Exhibition – performances (selected works)

- 2023 “Hors d’œuvre #3” program of film screenings – conversations, collab. with soto labor, Atelier de La Galerie, centre d’art contemporain de Noisy-le-Sec (Noisy-le-Sec, FR)  
“Frsh (*recherche d’un objet dans une poche*)” performance - work in progress, collab. with soto labor, “Architecture of Violence”, Beursschouwburg (Bruxelles, BE)  
“Hors d’œuvre #2” program of film screenings – conversations, collab. with soto labor, Atelier de La Galerie, centre d’art contemporain de Noisy-le-Sec (Noisy-le-Sec, FR)
- 2022 “Hors d’œuvre #1”, program of film screenings – conversations, collab. with soto labor, Atelier de La Galerie, centre d’art contemporain de Noisy-le-Sec (Noisy-le-Sec, FR)
- 2021 “Sparring” performance with ARBA-ESA’s students, following the eponymous search module, collab. with Mathilde Klug, Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts (Bruxelles, BE)  
“Frsh (*recherche d’un objet dans une poche*)” performance - work in progress, with soto labor, Bureau des Questions Importantes, Eeeeeh (Nyon, CH), Ways of Publishing #6, Bétonsalon (Paris, FR)
- 2019 “Morphing” performance, invitation by L. Martins-Coignus, J. Casanova, P-A. Poirier for the exhibition “Kanal BRUT” with Mathilde Klug, Badi Rezzak, Titouan Quitot, Lucas Roman, KANAL Centre Pompidou (Bruxelles, BE)  
“Pour Ceux Qui Ne Dorment Pas” interpreter for the performance of Jot Fau and André Chapatte with Lucas Roman, Chiara Monteverdi, Sophie Melis, Stéphanie Goemaere, Tic Tac Center (Bruxelles, BE)
- 2018 Curator of the exhibition “Highlander : « Salut c’est moi »” with Elena Carvajal and Antoine Carbone, with Anastasia Guevel, collab. with Anastasia Guevel, Loto Run (Bruxelles, BE)  
“Amicalement Nôtre”, curator of the performance event with soto labor et André Chapatte, collab. with Anastasia Guevel, TwoOneOne (Bruxelles, BE)  
“With or Without You” interpreter for Elise van Mourik’s performance, in the exhibition “Aftertaste”, curated by Margaux Schwartz, Etablissement D’en Face (Bruxelles, BE), part of the event “Kunsthalle”, curated by Bas Hendrickx, De Atelier (Amsterdam, NL)  
“Zorro”, solo show following the residency ARV.International, Commissariat Lars Nordby, Art Pavillion (Pavliekeni, BG)  
“I’ll be back in a minute” performance in a video conference, performed with Pauline L Boulba, invitation by soto labor, EESAB (Rennes, FR)

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- 2022 Double-poems postcard w/ soto labor – *jimmy&rico*, soto labor; *Peigne*, nadjim bigou-fathi produced for the exhibition “aquarium & heart - piero heliczek & the dead language press” at Bagnoler (Bagnolet, FR), invitation by Benjamin Thorel, After8Books (Paris, FR), graphic design: Espace Ness
- 2018 *The House*, novel/press release for the exhibition “New Poem” by Kristoffer Zeiner, curated by Lars Nordby, <https://arv.international/kristofferzeiner>
- 2017 *From beginning of ends to ends of beginnings* et *I am thefore*, two texts published in the exhibition booklet “New town”, curated by Bas Hendrickx, Noord Station (Amsterdam, NL)
- 2016 *Cleaning the pipe*, video-performance, part of Sandberg Series 2016 selection of The One Minutes. Collab. Kristoffer Zeiner, Neeltje ten Westenend, <http://theoneminutes.org/series/the-sandberg-series-2016>

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## WORKSHOPS HELD DURING THE RESIDENCY

### Desserte club at Micro-Folie Noisy-le-Sec

Cooking workshops with the participants of the cultural/language workshops at the Entraide à Tous Petits et Grands association in Noisy-le-Sec. The group exchange recipes, expertise and stories around dishes they cook. Questions of transmission and translation are explored depending on the participants' native language and at the end of each session the meals are shared.

### Ciné-club at the Cinéma le Trianon

Program of film screenings followed by discussion and writing sessions with a year eleven visual arts class from Lycée Olympe de Gouges in Noisy-le-Sec. Beginning from the works presented, the participants collectively build tools to critique and analyse video images. For the first session, nadjim bigou-fathi & soto labor selected an extract from Pier Paolo Pasolini's *Uccellacci e Uccellini* [*The Hawks and the Sparrows*].

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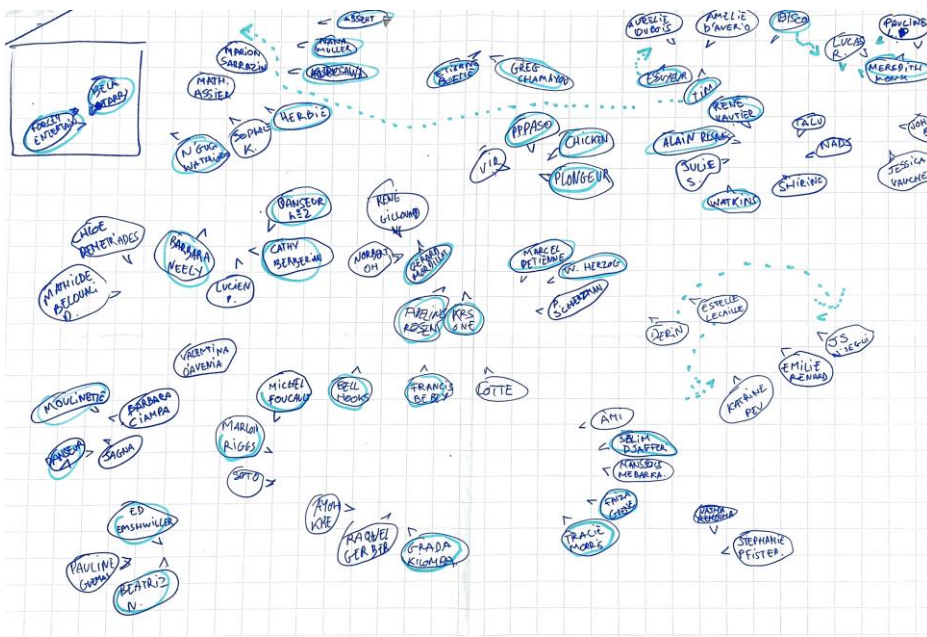
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AVAILABLE VISUALS

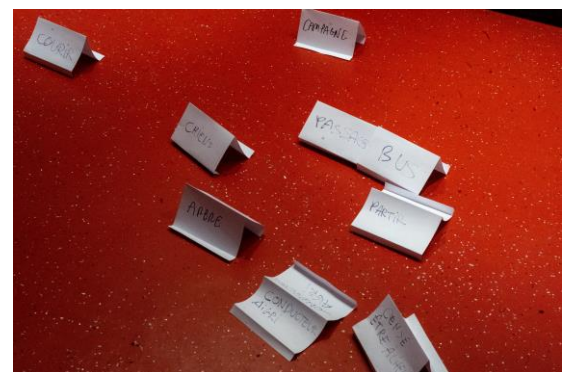


1. Table plan diagram for a fictional meeting, visual © nadjim bigou-fathi & soto labor, courtesy of the artists

2. Invitation visual for a presentation at Eeeh!, Nyon, Switzerland, Sept. 2021, photo © nadjim bigou-fathi

3. Cooking workshop Desserte Club #1 at the Micro-Folie Noisy-le-Sec with the participants of the cultural/language workshops at the Entraide à Tous Petits et Grands association in Noisy-le-Sec, Fev. 2023, photo © Nathanaëlle Puaud

4. Ciné-club with a year eleven visual arts class from Lycée Olympe de Gouges in Noisy-le-Sec at the Cinéma Le Trianon Romainville, Fev. 2023, photo © soto labor



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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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