

EXHIBITION

Fondation Thalie

ARLES

SARA OUHADDOU

Take a Seat, Have Some Tea

Rejim Maatoug, 2023 © Sara Ouhammadou, Mbarka Ben Belgacom

OPENING SATURDAY 29 JUNE, 2024, FROM 4PM TO 8PM
EXHIBITION FROM 30 JUNE TO 28 SEPTEMBER, 2024

Sara Ouhammadou is the second guest artist featured in the Fondation Thalie's summer programme in Arles. The Franco-Moroccan artist presents, for the first time, a set of photographs that explore the daily life of the artisans with whom she has collaborated with for nearly ten years: the fruit of various projects carried out in Morocco, Tunisia and Japan. The starting point for this ensemble is the relationship the artist maintains with members of her family—originally from Meknes—who are farmers and artisans.

Sculptural works punctuate the space here and there; they set the tone for the different photographic series, framed intentionally, like in a graphic novel. There is also stained glass, its symbolism carrying a vernacular language through shapes and colours... The artist surveys the entire history of glass from around the Mediterranean, conducting research between history and archaeology. "I wanted to hear the songs of childhood again, of immigration, to translate these into musical scores, like the great masters of zellige

(traditional Andalusian mosaic) who interpreted imaginary gardens through their savoir-faire," she says.

Sara Ouhammadou translates the Amazigh songs of her childhood through abstract alphabets that she composes in various mediums: ceramics, textiles, glass.

Her creative processes draw on the collective intelligence of rural areas, from the Atlas Mountains to the villages of the Rif, from the medinas of Fez to Marrakech. Her approach deconstructs motifs, innovates by imagining new tools around the works with the artisans' involvement. The title of the exhibition, "Take a Seat, Have Some Tea" [in Arabic: *Gaalsi, T'charbi kass d'atay*], is an invitation to enter intimately into these communities. Between photography and sculptural works, a certain long-form poetry becomes clear; a way of seeing the world against the injunctions of globalisation, thanks to an ecology of reuse that the artist includes within a resolutely contemporary plastic approach.

Curators: Nathalie Guiot and Ludovic Delalande



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SARA OUHADDOU

Sara Ouhaddou is born in France in a Moroccan family. This dual culture informs her practice as a continuous dialogue. She strikes a balance between traditional art forms and the conventions of contemporary art, aiming to place artistic creation's forgotten cultural continuities into new perspectives. She works in situ, producing works based on encounters with communities, craftsmen and researchers, while exploring heritage sites and objects. Each of her works is a project of learning, exchange of knowledge and intimate or universal stories.

A graduate of the École Olivier De Serres Paris, Sara Ouhaddou's work has been the subject of several international exhibitions including *Hirafen*, Ateliers C3T, Tunisie (2023), *Moroccan Trilogy*, Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid (2021) ; *Global resistance*, Centre Pompidou, Paris (2020) ; Manifesta Biennale, Marseille (2020) ; *Our World is burning*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2020), Marrakech Biennale, Maroc, (2016). In 2024, she took part in the Gherdeina Biennial and presented a solo exhibition at the MACAAL Museum of Contemporary Art in Marrakech and at the ifa-Galerie Berlin. She has also participated in programmes and residencies including Villa Albertine (2023), IASPIS Stockholm (2021/2022), Art Explora x La Cité Internationale des Arts (2021) and La Cité Internationale des Arts x Daniel et Nina Carasso (2020/2021).

FONDATION THALIE

Founded in 2014 by Nathalie Guiot, curator and philanthropist in the field of arts and culture, the Fondation Thalie hosts a programme of exhibitions, research and production residencies in Brussels and Arles, as well as an art collection and a programme of artistic and educational activities. The Fondation promotes dialogue between the visual arts and know-how in order to safeguard them, and often creative work

committed to the ecological transition, in particular with a programme of conferences and podcasts entitled "Créateurs Urgence Climat" (Creators facing Climat Emergency).

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Exhibition from 30 June to 28 September 2024
Price: 5 Euros

OPENING HOURS

Wednesday to Saturday, 12PM to 6PM
Free admission from 1st to 7 July (Rencontres d'Arles) and from 26 August to 1st September 2024 (Festival Agir pour le Vivant)

PRESS CONTACT

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