
EN ATTENDANT OMAR GATLATO
A Survey of Art from Algeria and Its Diaspora



Design: Akakir studio, 2021.

An exhibition commissioned and produced by
Triangle – Astérides, Centre d'art contemporain

12 February to 16 May 201

Tour Panorama, Friche la Belle de Mai, Marseille

Curated by Natasha Marie Llorens

In partnership with the Centre national des arts plastiques
in the frame of its curatorial research grant,
and with Box24

In coproduction with la Friche la Belle de Mai
and with support from Institut Français d'Algérie and Région Sud

With: Mohamed Aksouh, Arezki-Aoun, Kader Attia, Louisa Babari, Baya, Fayçal Baghriche, Abdallah Benanteur, Mahjoub Ben Bella, Adel Bentounsi, Halida Boughriet, Nasser Bouzid, Fatima Chafaa, Hakima El Djoudi, Hassen Ferhani, Abdelkader Guermaz, Mohammed Khadda, Mourad Krinah, Nawel Louerrad, Amina Menia, Ahmed Abdelaali Merzagui, Lydia Ourahmane, Sadek Rahim, Sara Sadik, Zineb Sedira, Massinissa Selmani, Fella Tamzali Tahari, Djamel Tatah, Hellal Zoubir, Sofiane Zouggar.

PRESS RELEASE

En attendant Omar Gatlato presents twenty-nine artists from Algeria and its diaspora. This unprecedented perspective on the Algerian artistic context includes art works from 1965 to the present day, including several new commissions. It is inspired by Merzack Allouache's classic film, *Omar Gatlato*, known as the first Algerian film to center on an individual experience of emancipation and self-discovery. Like the film that inspired it, *En attendant Omar Gatlato* exhibits work that, at the scale of everyday experience, is saturated with surreal humor, meticulous attention to the body, and ambivalent sense of belonging.

En attendant Omar Gatlato is also the title of a 1979 book published by Algerian lawyer, writer and feminist Wassyla Tamzali, devoted to early Algerian experimental film. Through her association of references to Samuel Beckett's play *Waiting for Godot* with Allouache *Omar Gatlato*, Tamzali provides a dual sensibility and an important conceptual way forward. These two portraits of anti-heroes trying to make sense of their day to day lives illuminate the manner in which artists and filmmakers engage decoloniality, or the critique of European colonial regimes of knowledge.

Like Beckett and Allouache the works by the twenty-nine artists in the exhibition offer diverse, polyphonic, unstable representations of life in Algeria and in its diaspora. Rigorously critical in their relation to colonialism's formal legacies, such as Orientalism and the monument, the works represent several generations' reflection on their society that remains an important model for how art continues to think through decolonization.

Algeria's eight-year struggle for independence from France (1954 -1962) and the euphoria of its achievement inspired the anti-racist struggles and independence movements of the 1960s and 1970s (most notably the African National Congress' fight against apartheid and the Black Panthers, etc.) Yet over the last fifty years this political legacy has hardened into a single-party system founded on the war's mythologization. Algeria's artists reject this national mythology in favor of the everyday experience both in their work and, for some, since February 2019 with their bodies in the street. This exhibition testifies their multivalent commitment to emancipation in all the forms in which it finds expression.

Triangle – Astérides, Centre d'art contemporain, has partnered with the Centre national des arts plastiques and an Algerian organization, Box24, to bring together an extraordinary range of artworks related to the Algerian context.

THE EXHIBITION IN BRIEF

- > 1300 sqm of exhibition space
- > 32 artworks, including 14 from the collection of the Centre national des arts plastiques (Cnap)
- > 2 new commissioned artworks by the Cnap for this exhibition
- > 12 Algeria based artists and 12 in its diaspora

THE ARTISTS

Mohamed Aksouh*

Born in 1934 in Saint-Eugène, now Bologhine (DZ)
Lives and works in Paris (FR)

Arezki-Aoun*

Born in 1955 in Ittourar (DZ)
Lives and works in Ivry-sur-Seine (FR)

Kader Attia*

Born in 1970 in Dugny (FR)
Lives and works in Berlin (GE)

Louisa Babari

Born in 1969 in Moscow (RU)
Lives in Paris and works in Algeria

Fayçal Baghriche**

Born in 1972 in Skikda (DZ)
Lives and works in Paris (FR)

Baya*

1931, Bordj El Kiffan – 1998, Blida (DZ)

Abdallah Benanteur*

1931, Mostaganem (DZ) – 2017, Ivry-sur-Seine (FR)

Mahjoub Ben Bella*

1946, Maghnia (DZ) – 2020, Tourcoing (FR)

Adel Bentounsi

Born in 1982 in Annaba (DZ)
Lives and works in Paris (FR)

Halida Boughriet

Born in 1980 in Lens (FR)
Lives and works in Choisy-le-Roi (FR)

Nasser Bouzid*

Born in Algeria
Lives and works in Marseille (FR)

Fatima Chafaa

Born in 1973 in Algiers (DZ)
Lives and works in Algiers (DZ)

Hakima El Djoudi*

Born in 1977 in Angoulême (FR)
Lives and works in Paris (FR)

Hassen Ferhani*

Born in 1986 in Algiers (DZ)
Lives and works in Marseille (FR)

Abdelkader Guermaz*

1919, Mascara (DZ) – 1996, Paris (FR)

Mohammed Khadda

1930, Mostaganem – 1991, Algiers (DZ)

Mourad Krinah

Born in 1976 in Algiers (DZ)
Lives and works in Algiers (DZ)

Nawel Louerrad

Born in 1981 in Oran (DZ)
Lives and works in Algiers (DZ)

Amina Menia

Born in 1976 in Algiers (DZ)
Lives and works in Algiers (DZ)

Ahmed Abdelaali Merzagui

Born in 1993 in Tlemcen (DZ)
Lives and works in Tlemcen (DZ)

Lydia Ourahmane

Born in 1992 in Saïda (DZ)
Lives and works in Algiers (DZ)

Sadek rahim

Born in 1971 in Oran (DZ)
Lives and works in Oran (DZ)

Sara Sadik**

Born in 1994 in Bordeaux (FR)
Lives and works in Marseille (FR)

Zineb Sedira

Born in 1963 in Gennevilliers (FR)
Lives and works between London, Paris and Algiers

Massinissa Selmani

Born in 1980 in Algiers (DZ)
Lives and works in Tours (FR)

Fella Tamzali Tahari

Born in 1971 in Algiers (DZ)
Lives and works in Algiers (DZ)

Djamel Tatath

Born in 1959 in Saint-Chamond (FR)
Lives and works near Avignon (FR)

Hellal Zoubir

Born in 1952 in Sidi Bel Abbès (DZ)
Lives and works in Algiers (DZ)

Sofiane Zouggar

Born in 1982 in Khemis Miliana (DZ)
Lives and works in Algiers (DZ)

* work from the collection of the Centre national des arts plastiques (Cnap)

** work commissioned by the Cnap as part of this exhibition

ABOUT THE CENTRE NATIONAL DES ARTS PLASTIQUES

Le Centre national des arts plastiques (Cnap) is one of the principal administrators of the French Ministry of Culture's policies within the realm of contemporary visual arts. It continually enriches the National Contemporary Art Collection, which it conserves and also promotes via loans and consignments to both French and foreign institutions. Comprising nearly 105,000 works acquired from living artists over the past two centuries, this extensive collection illustrates the variety of artistic movements and styles. An essential cultural entity, the Cnap encourages the arts in all their diversity, accompanying both artists and art-world professionals via various support services. Furthermore, it showcases its supported projects through different dissemination actions and events, notably publications, conferences and exhibitions.

Triangle – Astérides' partnership with the Cnap for the exhibition *En attendant Omar Gatlato* evolved out of the curator's curatorial research fellowship at the Centre in 2017. The Cnap is supporting two new commissioned artworks for the exhibition by Fayçal Baghriche and Sara Sadik which it will also acquire and through the loan of a number of works from its collection.

More info on: www.cnap.fr



ABOUT BOX24

Box24 is an experimental arts organization founded by Walid Aïdoud in 2008 in Algiers that supports experimentation and international collaboration, in part through long-term involvement with ARTIfariti, an annual art festival held in Western Sahara in solidarity with the struggle of the Saharawi people. Triangle - Astérides partnered with Box24 to widen the scope of the exhibition beyond established artists working in Algeria.



ABOUT THE CURATOR - NATASHA MARIE LLORENS

This exhibition inscribes itself in a broader research project on the history of aesthetics in Algeria and among the artists of its diaspora. Begun in 2016, this research encompasses several curatorial projects, a doctoral thesis on experimental cinema in Algeria during the period immediately following independence, and a research fellowship undertaken at the Cnap in 2017 entitled “Algérie : Creux de mémoire, traces d’archives”.

Natasha Marie Llorens is a Franco-American independent curator and writer. She recently defended a doctoral dissertation in the department of Art History at Columbia University in New York. She has presented exhibitions and curatorial projects in various venues in the United States and Europe, including the International Studio and Curatorial Program (Brooklyn), Aronson Gallery - Parsons Design School, Tabakalera (San Sebastian), Westfälischer Kunstverein, (Münster), and CUE Art Foundation (New York). She has been hosted for curatorial residencies at Marra Tein (Beirut, Lebanon), Rond-Point Projects in Marseille, Triangle Arts Association (New York) and the Jan Van Eyck Academie (Maastricht).

Natasha Marie Llorens is a graduate of the MA program at the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard. She is a core tutor at Piet Zwart in Rotterdam and Professor of Art and Theory at the Royal Institute of Art in Stockholm.

ABOUT TRIANGLE – ASTÉRIDES

Triangle France - Astérides is a 26 year old non-profit contemporary visual art organization based in “La Friche la Belle de Mai”, a former tobacco factory in the center of Marseille, where it supports artists and serves diverse and expanding audiences. Providing spaces for artistic creation and exhibitions, the organization’s stated mission is to be a catalyst for a broad dialogue between living artists and the public. Triangle France - Astérides develops a yearly program of exhibitions, public events, and new commissions, as well as highly respected residencies and studio programs dedicated to Marseille-based, French, and international artists; supporting artistic research, experimentation and production.

Since its founding in 1994, it has established itself as one of France's most innovative organizations supporting French and international artists who have not yet had wide public exposure or critical acceptance from a broader public. It supports emerging artists, as well as artists that are underrepresented in France by establishing long-term relationships with them to collaborate in the development, production and presentation of significant new projects.

In 26 years, the organization has hosted more than 600 artists in residence and produced more than 130 exhibitions, with a focus on equal representation, open debate, and multiple viewpoints regardless of race, gender, class, or creed. It has helped launch the careers of many artists who have gone on to worldwide prominence. Rooted in its local context, Triangle France - Astérides is a place of assertion of cultural rights, where audiences are appreciated for the singularity of their relation to art. As an active member of Triangle Network; an international network of over 90 arts organizations in 41 countries, it also underlines the positive value of transnational dialog, which constitutes the DNA of its project.

Triangle – Astérides’ core funders:



Triangle – Astérides is a member of:

TRIANGLE
NETWORK



PleinSud

PAC
le réseau
le festival
le lieu

PRESS IMAGES



Nasser Bouzid, *Sans titre*, 1990, FNAC 91436, Centre national des arts plastiques.
Photo: Nasser Bouzid.



Baya, *Paysage aux maisons et collines*, 1966, FNAC 29677, Centre national des arts plastiques, long-term loan at musée du quai Branly - Jacques Chirac. Photo: Othmane Mahieddine.



Exhibition view "En attendant Omar Gatlati", Triangle - Astérides, Centre d'art contemporain, 2021.
Fatima Chafaa, *My Father's Painting: Fatma d'Arc or Jeanne N'soumer* (detail), 2019. Photo: Aurélien Mole.



Hassen Ferhani, *143 rue du désert*, 2019, video installation. Courtesy the artist.



Hellaï Zoubir, *Icare*, 1978. Courtesy the artist.



Exhibition view "En attendant Omar Gatlati", Triangle - Astérides, Centre d'art contemporain, 2021.
Sadek Rahim, *Made in the USSR*, 2019.
Photo: Aurélien Mole.

PRESS IMAGES



Exhibition view "En attendant Omar Gatlato", Triangle - Astérides, Centre d'art contemporain, 2021.
Abdelkader Guermaz, *Paysage absurde*, 1976, FNAC 32 433, Centre national des arts plastiques.
Photo: Aurélien Mole.



Exhibition view "En attendant Omar Gatlato", Triangle - Astérides, Centre d'art contemporain, 2021.
Mohammed Khadda, *Sans titre*, circa 1962, private collection.
Photo: Aurélien Mole.



Halida Boughriet, *Corps de masse*, 2014. © Adagp, Paris 2021.



Fayçal Baghriche, *Le bras du cardinal*, 2020,
Commissioned by the Centre national des arts plastiques
as part of the exhibition "En attendant Omar Gatlato". ©
Adagp, Paris 2021.



Fella Tamzali Tahari, *Mare Nostrum*, 2019. Courtesy the artist.

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From Wednesday to Friday, 2:00–7:00 PM
Saturday and Sunday, 1:00–7:00 PM