

PRIVATE SALES

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | PARIS | 18 JANUARY 2024 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPECTRES VISIBLES

SELLING EXHIBITION

From 26 January to 11 February 2024



Ahmed Cherkaoui,

Mirrors, 1963

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PARIS – *Spectres Visibles* is a selling exhibition that **reflects the richness of artistic creation in North Africa**. The title of the exhibition evokes, on the one hand, the profusion of colours inherent to the artistic heritage of this region of the world. On the other hand, *Spectres Visibles* alludes to the subtle or explicit presence of references to the Maghreb in contemporary works.

The exhibition pays tribute to the aesthetic and intellectual quest of artists who contributed to the cultural decolonization of these countries. It also traces the individual journey of a generation of contemporary artists who have conducted research related to the concepts of migration,

hybridity, difference, and belonging to a region characterized by the intensity of its artistic exchanges.

These artists have enriched and diversified the Arabic and international art scenes. Their artworks can be seen as windows into understanding the development of the Maghreb's visual art in the modern era. Through their perspectives on land, reflections on the sacred, representations of the body, and reinterpretations of local cultural heritage, they forge a new aesthetic approach during a seminal moment: the emergence of a freshly decolonised region's visual identity.

Alongside these artists, there is a selection of contemporary artists. Hailing from North Africa, their unique trajectories and experiences place them in a wider global context. Whether based in North Africa, Europe, or the United States, their work deconstructs pre-existing identities by questioning new themes such as displacement, affiliation, and post-colonialism. As their artistic approaches evolve within interculturality, their work – consciously or unconsciously – embodies traces of their cultural heritage.

Curated by **Dr. Ridha Moumni**, Deputy Chairman of Christie's Middle East and North Africa, the exhibition has been conceived **in collaboration with the Selma Feriani Gallery, Loft Art gallery, Galerie, Claude Lemand, and cadet capela, also including pieces from the Dalloul Art Foundation.** The *Spectres Visibles* selling exhibition will present a selection of exceptional works ranging from painting and photography to sculpture and tapestry. These works invite us to discover the vitality and eclecticism of artistic creation in the Maghreb during modern and contemporary times.

The exhibition features modern artists such as **Malika Agueznay, Farid Belkahia, Abdallah Benanteur, Baya, Ahmed Cherkaoui, Hatem El Mekki, Jilali Gharbaoui, Mohamed Melehi, and Hassan El Glaoui**, alongside contemporary artists including **Amina Agueznay, Nadia Ayari, M'barek Bouhchichi, Nidhal Chamekh, Nadia Kaabi-Linke, Rachid Koraïchi, Amina Saoudi Aït Khay, Zineb Sedira, and Massinissa Selmani.**

The common thread in the work of these artists: breaking free from imposed forms in favour of an artistic language inspired by a liberated territory and its artistic heritage. As cultural actors deeply rooted in their societies, these artists have faced complex political and social dynamics. They carry a body of work that serves as a vector for multiple legacies while developing a fresh perspective on artistic practice and their own identity.

This exhibition – the **first Christie's has dedicated to the Maghreb art scene in France** – will exhibit very rare works, such as a triptych by Ahmed Cherkaoui, a pioneering figure in the Casablanca art school. The thick lines of his piece interact with each other, and refracted by vivid colours. Also featured is an early piece by Mohamed Melehi from his New York period, as well as

Le Chant de l'ardent désir, a pharaoh-inspired tapestry by Rachid Koraichi, on display for the very first time.

Other highlights from the show's include powerful self-portraits by Rafik El Kamel and a very beautiful creation by Amina Agueznay, at the boundary of different universes such as design, fashion, and artisanal weaving techniques. A large-scale photograph by Zineb Sedira, entitled *Sugar Routes II*, serving as a metaphor for the history of human migration across the oceans.



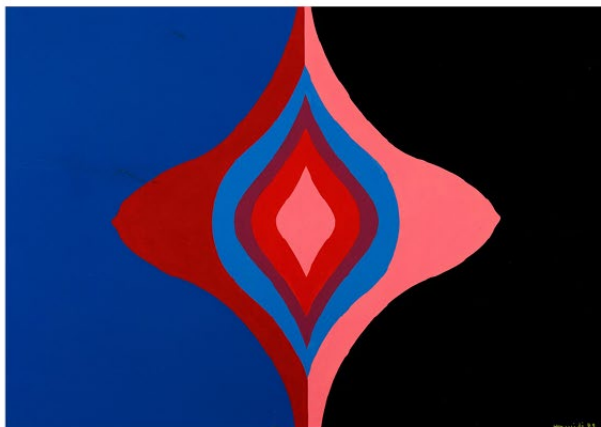
Amina Agueznay,
Portal 5, variation 2/2, 2022
Work by Amina Agueznay produced by
the tiskmad cooperative
© Christie's Images Ltd 2024



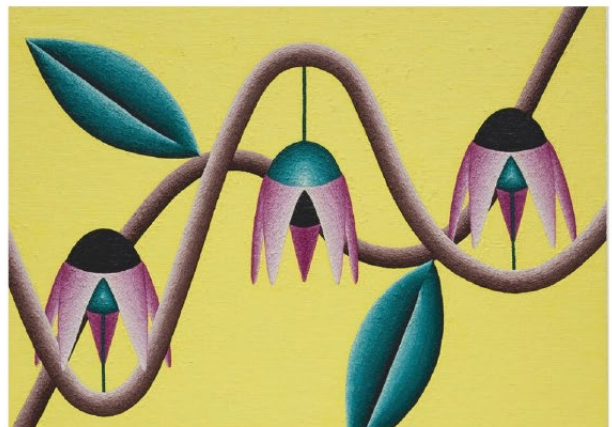
Baya,
Deux femmes, 1968
© Christie's Images Ltd 2024



Mohamed Melehi,
Untitled, 1962
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© Adagp, Paris, 2024



Mohamed Hamidi,
Untitled, 1972
© Christie's Images Ltd 2024



Nadia Ayari,
Waves II, 2023
© Christie's Images Ltd 2024

PRACTICAL INFO

Spectres Visibles - Selling exhibition from 26 January to 11 February 2024
Christie's, 9 Avenue Matignon, 75008, 10am to 6pm (except Sundays: 2pm-6pm)

Roundtable on 1 February at 6:30pm organised in collaboration with 1-54
featuring the artists M'barek Bouchichi, Nadia Kaabi-Linke and Massinissa Selmani.

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About the Selma Feriani Gallery

Selma Feriani Gallery was established early 2013 in Tunis. The gallery is housed in a 1960's former convent located in the heart of Tunis; the open courtyard of the original building remains a central exhibiting feature of the space. Over the years, the gallery has set up critically and publicly successful solo and group shows as well as staging public interventions internationally. Selma Feriani Gallery aims to discover exceptional young artists and support their career development over the long-term run.

www.selmaferiani.com

About the Loft Art Gallery Casablanca

Founded in 2009 by Myriem and Yasmine Berrada Sounni, Loft Art Gallery has worked since its inception to highlight the modern and contemporary art scene on the African continent. Based in Casablanca, in the trendy Golden Triangle neighbourhood, the gallery has quickly become an essential part of the contemporary African art scene and a major player in the Moroccan economic and cultural capital.

"Art has a great role to play. It connects people and, above all, different cultures. It offers hope and beauty when we need it most". Yasmine Berrada Sounni

Originally specialised in local contemporary art, the gallery has since expanded its offer to include established and emerging artists from the rest of Africa as well as Europe. With a permanent work of research and publication on art history and a programme that alternates monographic and collective exhibitions, Loft Art Gallery has contributed since its inception to the influence of the art scene within the kingdom.

www.lofartgallery.net

About the Galerie Claude Lemand

The Galerie Claude Lemand was founded in 1988 with an international open-mind on artists coming from all around the world, from different geographic, cultural and aesthetic backgrounds, who chose Paris as their capital of life, creation and international flourishing success, whether it be temporary or permanent.

Before opening his gallery, Claude Lemand was a university professor until 1988. His passion for painting, sculpture and artists' books led him to drop everything in June 1988, in order to focus on building up a collection and founding a gallery in Paris.

The gallery is therefore dedicated to promote those artists and to organise solo and group exhibitions for them. It further ensures the original edition of their sculptures and prints and it regularly publishes exhibition catalogues as well as a several important monographs.

Since its establishment, the gallery got into the habit of organising a thematic international exhibition every year, where artists represented by the gallery come together with other artists who have an international reputation, such as the exhibitions of 'Masters of the tondo', 'Painting & Poetry. Artists of the Book', 'From East to West', ...

www.claude-lemand.com

About cadet capela

cadet capela, founded in 2018 by Julien Cadet and Mathieu Capela, is a contemporary art gallery in the Marais district of Paris, situated at 54 rue Chapon and 13 rue Béranger. Celebrating a wide range of artistic mediums with a special emphasis on painting and sculpture, we showcase an eclectic mix of emerging and established artists. Our dual spaces provide a dynamic backdrop for diverse exhibitions. With a strong commitment to global outreach, cadet capela actively participates in international art fairs, promoting unique artistic talents from across the globe.

www.cadetcapela.com

About the Dalloul Art Foundation

The Ramzi and Saeda Dalloul Art Foundation (DAF) is a Beirut-based visual arts institution dedicated to making modern and contemporary Arab art accessible to local and international audiences through archiving, exhibitions, education, publications, public programs, and research. Its aim is to preserve and disseminate its permanent collection which includes works in drawing, installation, mixed-media, painting, photography, ceramics, and sculpture.

Providing a comprehensive survey of visual arts from most of the Arab region, DAF's extensive and massive collection reflects the diversity and boldness of Arab creativity, inspired by the complex realities of the region.

dafbeirut.org

About Christie's

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