

Press release

Muratcentoventidue Artecontemporanea

Nicène Kossentini

Dispersal

Galleria Muratcentoventidue Artecontemporanea is pleased to present *Dispersal*, a solo exhibition featuring works by Nicène Kossentini.

Now living and working in Tunis, Kossentini was born in Sfax, Tunisia in 1976. Although she studied in France, she returned to Tunis as the Assistant Professor of Experimental Cinema at the University of Tunis, a position she still holds. A photographer and filmmaker, Kossentini addresses culture, origin, and truth within Tunisian society in her work and aims to make sure it is not lost in the modern day.

Tunisian artist Nicène Kossentini's work centres on her interest in memory and personal and collective histories. Primarily working with photography and video, the artist examines her origins through the lens of her culture and using images of women from her family. Kossentini creates a collective narrative of female identity in Tunisia that is intricately tied to the landscape and the culture of the country. Images of her ancestors merge with verses of poetry and traditional geometric Tunisian patterns weave and twist in her videos- Kossentini thus blends the past the present of Tunisian culture.

Her work has been exhibited internationally including in Bahrain, Brazil, Germany, France, the UK, Switzerland and Russia .

The artist reflects about the transmission of the collective memory in the video **Stories**. In it, she recovers fragments of the stories that her grandmother used to tell her before she died: legends and stories that were transmitted from mother to daughter from generation to generation and that now is beginning to disappear in modern arab societies. She also explores her ancestry and her country's history in **Revenir**, a video piece where a ghostly figure peers at an old family photograph.

The video installation **'Heaven or Hell'** is inspired by the experimental film 'Anemic Cinema' that Marcel Duchamp made in 1926. It is an ornamental abstraction whose rotation alternates rotatory discs and extracted words from the Qur'an, written in spiral. This universe created of forms that decompose and come away from the center, and the words separated from their context, stripped of their true meaning, appear in a soundscape that evokes the sound of army footsteps running or the applause of a crowd. Is the metaphor or image of an "Arab Spring", that oscillates from the bright colors of the roots and the saturated sounds of the horizons. The video shows the anxieties and concerns buried in the collective unconscious versus an ongoing cultural loss and a present that dislocates.

The video **Myopia** question the uncertainty of the glance against the habituation of the vision and the generally accepted ideas by putting except out-fields what could be a human being.

The video raises the problem of imperceptible reference mark of the identity. The glance can not see below. A map of a complex urban place sticks to the retina, creating an imaginary border. The disability of the glance reflects the fragility of beings in front of the imperium of the customs. Finally in **La Disparation**, one of her first video, a piano player dissolves into wavelets that blur and distort his image.

Nicène Kossentini (1976,Sfax) lives and works in Tunis.

Solo Exhibitions

2014

The Flight of the Butterfly or the Myth of Icarus Revisited. Curated by Christine Buci-Glucksmann. Selma Feriani Gallery. Tunis, Tunisia

Histoires en 5 Haltes. Curated by Djalila Cadi-Hanifi. Urban installation. Algiers, Algeria

2012

Paraître. Galeria Sabrina Amrani. Madrid, Spain

2011

Boujmal. Selma Feriani Gallery. London, UK

2010

They Abused Her By Saying. La Boite-Espace d'Art Contemporain. Tunis, Tunisia

2009

What Water Gave Me. Ammar Farhat Gallery. Tunis, Tunisia

Selected Group Exhibitions

2015

Moving Image Art Across the Arab World highlights Curated by Diana Baldon and Rachael Rakes. Malmö Konsthall, Sweden

Entre nosotros (Between us) Video Art from the Middle East and North Africa in a global culture Curated by Sabrina Amrani. Etopia Center for the Arts and Technology. Zaragoza, Spain.

2014

Please rewind !. Sabrina Amrani Gallery. Madrid, Spain.

Songs of Loss and Songs of Love. Curated by Sam Bardaouil and Tim Fellrath. Gwangju Museum of Art. Gwangju, South Korea

Recreational Purpose. Bahrain National Museum. Manama, Bahrain

The Divine Comedy; Heaven, Hell, Purgatory by contemporary African artists. MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst. Curated by Simon Njami. Frankfurt, Germany

2013

Portraits. Selma Feriani Gallery. London, UK

25 years of Arabic Creativity. Institut du Monde Arabe. Paris, France

Still Fighting Ignorance & Intellectual Perfidy. Pori Art Museum. Finland

2012

Rosige Zukunft. Ifa-Galerie. Berlin, Germany

Chkoun Ahna. Carthage Museum. Tunis, Tunisia

Festival Miradas de Mujeres. Madrid, Spain

AIVA. Angelholm International Video Art Festival. Angelholm, Sweden

Frontières. B'chira Art Center. Tunis, Tunisia

Dégagements. Institut du Monde Arabe. Paris, France

2011

Photoquai. Biennale de photo de Paris. Musée Quai Branly. Paris, France

Magreb Dos Orillas. Circulo de Bellas Artes. Madrid, Spain

Traversée. Palais des Archevêques. Narbonne, France

No Sky, No Earth. Snow Falls Ceaselessly. Dar Mima, Tunisia

2010

Dialogue Among Civilizations. Durban, South Africa

Ils l'ont leurrée en disant... La boîte Espace d'art contemporain. Tunis, Tunisia

Split. Darb Centre. Cairo, Egypt

2009

Aftermath. The 25th Alexandria Biennial. Alexandria, Egypt

Forms and Topographies: African Cityscape in Flux. Berlin, Germany

La Rue. Ammar Farhat Gallery. Tunis, Tunisia

Périfériks. Centre d'art Neuchâtel. Neuchâtel, Switzerland

The 2nd Thessaloniki Biennial of Contemporary Art. Thessaloniki, Greece

Looking Inside Out. Kunstneres Haus. Oslo, Norway

1st International Video Art Festival. AllArtNow. Damas, Syria

2008

Reorientations. Contemporary Arab Representations. Brussels, Belgium

Le portrait. Ammar Farhat Gallery. Tunis, Tunisia

Liteside Festival. Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Without Borders. Thirtieth Biennial of Art of Pontevedra. Pontevedra, Spain

Fifth Mediterranean Biennial of Arts. Tunis, Tunisia

2nd Edition of the International Meetings of the Photography. Fes, Morocco

Women of Images: Private Space. Museum of Boulogne. Billancourt, France

L'Art au féminin. Museum of Contemporary Art. Algiers, Algeria

2007

The City and Beyond. African Meetings of Photography. Bamako, Mali

Women of Images: Private Space. Museum of Tunis Kheireddine Palace. Tunis, Tunisia

2006 **The Revealed Image. Orientalism / Contemporary Art.** Museum of Tunis Kheireddine Palace. Tunis, Tunisia

Collections

Museum of Modern Art. Tunis, Tunisia

The British Mueum, London, England

Fondation Blachère, France

Sindika Dokolo Foundation, Luanda, Angola

Kamel Lazaar Foundation. Tunis, T