

Hirafen

Nov 4, 2023 — Mar 20, 2024 | Atelier du centre technique du tapis et du tissage (C3T), Tunis, Tunisia

The *Hirafen* exhibition offers a unique dialogue between contemporary art and crafts. Nineteen multidisciplinary artists have been invited to draw on the expertise of Tunisian weaving and braiding crafts to create specific works of art as part of a research and production residency in Tunisia. Through their respective artistic practices, these artists of different origins and generations have each developed a singular approach that delves into the variety of dimensions of an intangible heritage to be discovered, and whose non-linear history is marked by changes, influences and ruptures.

From the north to the south of Tunisia, in towns and villages, in the public areas of the medinas and in the intimacy of the home, women and men have always woven and embroidered thread and braided natural fibres gathered from their surrounding environment. Their age-old gestures have generated works whose rich diversity of materials, colours and motifs are the result of a wide range of skills and techniques that have been passed down through the time.

Exploring the handicraft tradition provides artists with a field in which to experiment, but also to connect with making, the gesture of the hand and, more broadly, with nature and history. The idea behind this exhibition is to create an opportunity for dialogue between artists and craftsmen and women, and to raise the question of how we can work together to make things. Knowledge continues to be passed on and gestures repeated ad infinitum, to preserve a collective memory that is still very much alive, as demonstrated by the *Hirafen* exhibition, where the diversity of its many voices enriching the narrative.

Exhibition curators:

Ludovic Delalande

Nadia Jelassi

Hirafen is the 5th edition of Talan l'Expo and marks the 10th anniversary of its creation.

ARTIST LIST

Majd Abdel Hamid (1988, Syria), lives and works between Paris and Beirut

Joël Andrianomearisoa (1977, Madagascar), lives and works between Paris, Antananarivo and Magnat l'Étrange

Asma Ben Aïssa (1992, Tunisia) lives and works in Tunis

Meriem Bouderbala (1960, Tunisia), lives and works in Tunis

Dora Dalila Cheffi (1990, Finland) lives and works between Tunis and Helsinki

Binta Diaw (1995, Italy) lives and works between Milan and Dakar

Jennifer Douzenel (1984, France) lives and works in Paris

Aïcha Filali (1956, Tunisia) lives and works in Tunis

Mohamed Amine Hamouda (1981, Tunisia) lives and works in Gabès

Sonia Kallel (1973, Tunisia) lives and works in Tunis

Abdoulaye Konaté (1953, Mali) lives and works in Bamako

Aymen Mbarki (1983, Tunisia) lives and works in Tunis

Chalisée Naamani (1995, France) lives and works in Paris

Sara Ouhaddou (1986, France) lives and works between Paris and Marrakech

Zineb Sedira (1963, France) lives and works between Paris, Algiers and London

Aïcha Snoussi (1989, Tunisia) lives and works between Sète and Tunis

Moffat Takadiwa (1983, Zimbabwe) lives and works in Harare

Ali Tnani (1982, Tunisia) lives and works in Tunis

Najah Zarbout (1979, Tunisia) lives and works in Sousse