

ABDELKADER BENCHAMMA

Abdelkader Benchamma (born 1975, Mazamet) lives and works between Paris and Montpellier, and studied Fine Art at Ecole Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris. He imposes constraints upon his process to create delicately executed and dynamic drawings of states of matter. His drawings take their inspiration from visual scenarios that stem from reflections on space and its physical reality, its limits and its zones of contact with mental space. They operate with diversions, modulating objects to testify for possible malfunctions in our relationship with the other and with things. Shifting of reality, intrusion of the invisible, indeterminate matters undergoing transformation, minuscule catastrophes are at the heart of Benchamma's work.

Inspired by different thought processes that go from science to esotericism and from literature to history of art, the artist creates artworks with uncertain boundaries, the movement of which destabilises the visitor by playing with the codes of figuration and abstraction. These organic ensembles can make us think of landscapes, not in the traditional sense, but more because the flow they outline brings to mind the movement of natural elements like air, clouds, earth, space. Often using black and white for its simplicity and graphic strength, the artist develops a language through which he gets the visitor to doubt the reality of their perception, by making them enter unstable, dynamic and elusive worlds. Moving matter that enveloped us at the Drawing Centre in New York (2015-2016), a cave animated by a furious circular vortex at the Sharjah Biennial (2017), these metaphysical installations question our relationship to what is imperceptible, infinite and invisible. He has had several solo exhibitions in prominent institutions such as Musée Regional d'art Contemporain, Serignan (2020), Le Centquatre, Paris (2018) and will be exhibiting at the Power Plant, Toronto, as well as Fondation Schneider, Wattwiller (both 2021).

His works were included in *Future of a Promise*, a Pan Arab exhibition during the 54th Venice Biennale (2011) and *Told / Untold / Retold* at Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha (2010), and *Syncopation: Contemporary encounters with the Modern Masters*, The Pola Museum of Art, Japan (2019). Recipient of the Occitanie-Médicis Prize (2018) and the Paris-based Drawing Now Prize (2015), he was also nominated for the Le Meurice Prize in the same year.

EDUCATION

2003 École Supérieure des Beaux Arts de Paris

RESIDENCIES

2018-19 Villa Medici, Rome, Italy
2017 Beirut Art Residency, Lebanon
2016 a.r.i.a Residency, Algeria

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022 *Fondation Schneider*, Wattwiller, France (upcoming)
2021 *Egregore*, Collection Lambert, Avignon, France
Power Plant, Toronto
2020 *Fata Bromosa*, Musée Regional d'art Contemporain, Serignan, France
2019 *Engramme*, Templon Gallery, Paris
Rumeur des cercles, Galerie les Chantiers Boite Noire, Montpellier, France
An Artist, A Work, Hélénis Special Commission Foundation, Montpellier, France

- 2018 *L'horizon des évènements*, Le Centquatre, Paris
Echos de la Naissance des Mondes, Collège des Bernardins, on the occasion of the Nuit Blanche, curated by Gael Charbau, Paris, France
- 2017 *Sous la terre, des étoiles*, Art Kulte, Rabat
- 2016 *Abdelkader Benchamma*, Islands, Maison du livre de l'image et du son, Villeurbanne, France
The Great Invisible Battle, Blueproject Foundation, Barcelona
Curiosites & Merveilles, Christie's, Paris
The Unbearable Likeness, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai
- 2015 *Random*, FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, France
Representation of Dark Matter, The Drawing Centre, New York
- 2014 *Le Soleil comme une plaque d'argent*, Espace Culturel de la Ville de Montpellier, Carré Sainte Anne, Montpellier
Simulacrum, Agnes b Project, New York
La Forme Animale, GVCC Gallery, Casablanca
- 2013 *Le soleil comme une plaque d'argent*, Carré Saint Séverin, Paris, Commissariat Daria de Beauvais
Abdelkader Benchamma, Gallery Federico Luger, Milan
The Invention of the Cave, Gallery agnes b, Hong Kong
- 2012 *Corrupted Theories*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai
- 2011 *Le signal faible*, ADN Galeria, Barcelona
Bruits de Fond, Frueshorge Contemporary, Berlin
Dark Matter, Galerie du Jour agnes b., Paris
La ligne de base du hasard, Galeri Chantiers Boite Noire, Montpellier
- 2009 *The apparent stability of things*, GalerieBoiteNoire, Montpellier
All these masses are just pieces from the same part, Gallery Frederico Luger, Milan
- 2008 *Même les choses invisibles se cachent. Part 2* – CAC, Istres, France
Même les choses invisibles se cachent. Part 1 – ADN Galeria, Barcelona, Spain Abdelkader Benchamma, Centre d'art contemporain La galerie, Vitry-sur-Seine, France
- 2007 *Abdelkader Benchamma*, Galerie du Jour agnés b, Paris
They think that once they are there..., Galerie du Jour agnés b, Hong Kong
- 2005 *Incidents Invisibles*, Project room, Galerie du Jour agnés b, Paris

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Rayon Fossil*, Collection Lambert, musée d'art contemporain, Avignon
- 2019 *Syncopation: Contemporary encounters with the Modern Masters*, The Pola Museum of Art, Japan
Symétries et soupirs, IN SITU Patrimoine et Art Contemporain, Abbaye de Lagrasse, France
Un autre monde dans notre monde, Frac PACA, Marseille, France
Eldorama, Curated by Jérôme Sans and Jean-Max Colard with the collaboration of Isabelle Bernini Tripostal, Lille
100 artistes dans la ville, curated by Nicolas Bourriaud, Montpellier, France
- 2018 *Melancholia*, Villa Empain – Boghossian Foundation, Brussels
(Un)conscious: A series of small serendipities, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai
- 2017 *On aime l'art...!*, Collection agnes b., Fondation Yvon Lambert, Avignon, France
Tamawuj, 13th Sharjah Biennial, curated by Christine Tohme
EcoSystème, commissaire: Mohamed Bourouissa, Château d'Oiron, France Monts et Merveilles, Le Bel Ordinaire, Pau, France
- 2016 *Épreuves uniques*, Atelier Michael Woolworth, Paris, France
Le nom d'une île, Le Pavillon Blanc, Printemps de septembre de Toulouse, Colomiers, France A quoi tient la

- beauté des étreintes, FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, France
Se souvenir des Belles Choses, MRAC, Sérignan, France
- 2015 *Nice Drawings*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai
aide-mémoire: footnotes (Part II), Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah
Un regard sur la collection d'agnes b., LAM, Villeneuve d'Ascq Traits d'esprit, Galerie du jour agnes b – Paris
Après avoir tout oublié, Asterides - Friche Belle de mai, Marseille, France
ROC, Commissariat Hughes Reip, Galerie du jour agnes b., Paris, France
- 2013 *Chromophobia*, Duo exhibition with Jessica Mein, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai
Turbulences II, The Boghossian Foundation, Villa Empain, Brussels
Paper Trail, The Barjeel Foundation, Katara, Doha
- 2012 *The Island/A Game of Life*, Manarat al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi
Drawing Now, salon du dessin contemporain, Galerie Chantiers Boite Noire/ Galeria ADN/ Gallery, Frueshorge, Carrousel du Louvre, Paris
- 2011 *The Future of a Promise*, 54th Venice Biennale
Music Covers!, Point Ephemere, Paris, France
- 2010 *Told/ Untold/ Retold*, Mathaf, Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha
Biennale d'art contemporain, Le Havre 2010, Maritime Museum, Le Havre
Reading Room, Nomas Foundation, Rome
- 2009 *Memory Time*, Printemps de Septembre *La ou je vais je suis déjà*, curated by Christian Bernard, Espace des arts, Colomiers
Salon du dessin contemporain, Carreau du Temple, agnés b collection, Paris
- 2008 Contemporary drawings, LARM Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark *La degelee Rabelais*, Chateau d'O, collection Frac Languedoc Roussillon, Montpellier
Narrations, Galerie Nancy Margolis, New York
- 2007 *Explosions*, Nouvelles acquisitions, Frac Languedoc-Roussillon, Montpellier
Below the Light, Federico Luger Gallery, Milan
Drawing & Dreaming, ADN galeria, Barcelona
- 2006 *Nous nous sommes tant aimés*, Collections of St Cyprien, Saint Cyprien
Drawn, Xpace Gallery, Toronto
- 2005 *Do-Ka*, La Condition Publique, Roubaix
- 2004 *Draw!*, Galerie du Jour. Agnés B., Paris
Dessin?, Carré St Anne, Montpellier
- 2001 *Dessins en cours...*, ENSBA, Quai Malaquais, Paris

AWARDS

- 2024 Nominated for Prix Marcel Duchamp, Paris
- 2018 Winner of the Occitanie-Médicis Price, France
- 2015 Drawing Now Prize, Paris
Nominated for Prix Le Meurice, Paris

COLLECTIONS

- Musée régional d'art contemporain, Sérignan, France
FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, France
Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha
FRAC Occitanie Montpellier, Montpellier, France
DRAC Centre, Orléans, France

Barjeel Foundation, Sharjah
FRAC Languedoc-Roussillon, Montpellier
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PUBLICATIONS

- 2015 *Simulacre*, Abdelkader Benchamma, Published by Art [] Collector
- 2014 *Random, L'Association*, co-edited with the galerie du jour agnes b and the Frac Auvergne Le soleil comme une plaque d'argent mat, Lienart
- 2013 *Vitamin D2: New Perspectives in Drawing*, Phaidon Publications
- 2011 *Abdelkader Benchamma, Dark Matter*, Edition Galerie du jour Agnès b/ Galaade
- 2011 *The Drawer*, Edition the Drawer, Paris, France
- 2011 *The Future of The Promise*, 54th Biennale de Venise, Edition Ibraaz
- 2010 *Told Untold Retold*, Mathaf / Edition Skira
- 2010 Roven magazine, Paris
- 2010 CheckPoint N°2, Edition La Plateforme
- 2009 *La Dégelée Rabelais*, Edition Frac Languedoc Roussillon, France
- 2008 *Fuckt*, Contemporary Drawings, Revolver Publishing
- 2008 Collection Agnès b., Edition JRP Ringier
- 2008 *In the Arab World Now*, Edition Galerie Enrico Navarra
- 2006 *Drawings and dreamings*, Edition ADN Galeria, Barcelona
- 2006 *Nous nous sommes tant aimés*, Edition Collection Saint-Cyprien / K. Mennour
- 2005 *C'est ici que l'on met les titres*, Edition Galerie du Jour agnes b
- 2000 *Dessins e cours... Aujourd'hui a l'école des Beaux-arts*, Edition ENSBA