

IVDE in Brussels



Abdelkader Benchamma, *Simulacre*, 2015, Collage, ink and graphite on paper, 60 x 75 cm

Dubai-based Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde is delighted to announce the launch of IVDE BXL. After establishing one of the first contemporary art spaces in the UAE, B21 Gallery in 2006, Belgian Isabelle van den Eynde founded her eponymous space in Dubai's Alserkal Avenue in 2010. The gallery represents a pluralistic roster of artists from Europe, South-West Asia and Africa, though strongly affiliated with the Middle East. Through exhibitions, book publishing and international fair participation, the gallery prides itself on closely working with its artists to create insightful, and often provocative presentations that challenge the conventions of a commercial art gallery.

This spirit will continue into IVDE BXL, a space on Rue St. Georges that is neither a conventional gallery nor a project space, but rather a gathering point where the gallery's artists will be challenged into thought-provoking projects, collaborating with each other and with the local arts community. Leading up to the opening of the gallery in spring 2016, IVDE BXL will organise an eclectic series of pop-up exhibitions. The first in its series will be *La Bataille de Los Angeles* by French-Algerian artist Abdelkader Benchamma, a décor-like setting in the gallery's vitrine on view from September 10th to coincide with Brussels Art Days. The artist will present his exploding drawing style, recalling the mysterious event in American history on the night of February 24th in 1942, when an unidentified object appeared in the sky above Los Angeles, causing widespread paranoia. Predominantly occupied with the construction and perception of alternative worldviews, conspiracy theories and the tendency of mythologizing inexplicabilities, Benchamma takes his inspiration from cosmology, science fiction and existentialist literature and theatre.

A solo exhibition of the artist's works will be simultaneously exhibited at Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde's booth at Art on Paper, a drawing salon that runs from September 11th till September 13th in Bozar, Brussels. Benchamma will present a series of dreamy collages depicting surreal marbled décor pieces with trompe l'oeil effects, alongside a larger theatrical charcoal drawing. Evoking an alienating atmosphere through a set of abandoned constructed environments, the show functions as a prelude to the artist's solo exhibition at the gallery's Dubai space in March 2016.

Benchamma's work has recently been exhibited in various solo exhibitions such as the FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand (2015) and Carré Saint-Anne, Montpellier (2014), among others. He was recently commissioned for the *Stairway Project* by the prestigious Drawing Centre, New York to create the wall drawing, *Representation of Dark Matter*, in the stairwell and the entrance of the building, on view until April 2016. Recipient of Paris-based The Drawing Now prize, his work can be found in several public collections such as Mathaf: Museum of Modern and Contemporary Arab Art, Doha; Musée de Beaux-Arts, Orléans and FRAC Languedoc-Roussillon, Montpellier.

For further information

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