

## 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.

## EDUCATION

2003 École Supérieure des Beaux Arts de Paris

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *L'horitzó d'esdeveniments*, EACC Castelló, Castelló, Spain  
TBD, Espai d'Art Contemporani de Castellón (EACC), Valencia, Spain
- 2025 TBD, Cabinet de dessin des Beaux-arts de Paris, Paris, France  
*Rumors from the Skies*, Gallery Isabelle, Dubai
- 2024 Het Noordbrabants Museum (HNBM), Den Bosch, The Netherlands (upcoming)
- 2023 *Solastalgia, Archeologies of Loss*, The Power Plant, Toronto, Canada  
*Oeuvres Croisées*, Librairie des Colonnes, Tangier, Morocco  
*Géologie des déluges*, Fondation Schneider, Wattwiller, France  
*Cosma*, Galerie Templon, Paris
- 2022 Sant' Euno Church, in collaboration with Palazzo Butera and FIAF, Palermo, Italy
- 2021 *Rayon Fossile*, Collection Lambert, Avignon, France  
*Echoes*, Ruptures et Associés, Paris, France
- 2020 *Signes*, Galerie Templon, Brussels, Belgium  
*Rayon Fossile*, ADN Gallery, Barcelona
- 2019 *Symétrie et Soupirs*, Abbaye de Lagrasse, Lagrasse, France  
*Fata Bromosa*, Musée Regional d'art Contemporain, Serignan, France  
*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 événements*, Le Centquatre, Paris  
*Echos de la Naissance des Mondes*, Collège des Bernardins, on the occasion of the Nuit Blanche, curated by Gaël 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  
*Curiosités & 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

- 2025 TBD, Design Biennial, Alger, Algeria  
Islamic Arts Biennale, *All That Is In Between*, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia  
*Lire le ciel*, MUCEM, Marseille, France  
*Metro ! Le Grand Paris en Mouvement*, Paris, France
- 2024 *Le jour des Peintres*, Musée d'Orsay, Paris, France  
*La loi de l'imaginaire*, FRAC Auvergne and Musée d'Art et Archéologie, Aurillac, France  
Prix Marcel Duchamp 2024, Centre Pompidou, Paris
- 2023 *Prendre le Soleil*, Luce Lebart et Marta Ponsa, Hangar Y, Meudon, France  
*Capitulo IV : Historia Lago/Algo*, Mexico City, Mexico  
*Neither the Sky, Nor the Earth*, Lago/Algo, Mexico City, Mexico  
*Histoire de Pierre*, Villa Medici, Rome, Italy  
*Constellation*, Musee d'Art Moderne, Céret, France  
*Immortelle*, MO.CO, Montpellier, France
- 2022 *Ce que nous avons perdu dans le feu*, Villa Arson, Nice, France
- 2021 *Comics Strip !*, Collection Lambert, Avignon, France  
*Un autre monde // Dans notre monde*, Lieu-commun artist run space, Toulouse, France
- 2020 *Un autre monde // Dans notre monde*, FRAC – Grand Large, Dunkerke, France  
*Artistes à la une : Toget'HER 2021*, Monnaie de Paris, Paris, France
- 2019 *Un autre monde // Dans notre monde*, FRAC PACA, Marseille, France  
*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*, Tripostal, Lille  
*100 artistes dans la ville*, Montpellier, France  
*Air, Stone, Water*, Fondation Helenis, 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*, 13<sup>th</sup> 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*, Château 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 Prize, France
- 2015 Drawing Now Prize, Paris  
Art Collector Prize, Paris  
Nominated for Prix Le Meurice, Paris

## RESIDENCIES

- 2026 Villa Albertine, New York, USA
- 2022 Palazzo Buttera, The French Institute, Palermo, Italy

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

## COLLECTIONS

Grand Paris Express, permanent installation, metro station Mairie de Vitry-Sur-Seine, France  
Musée régional d'art contemporain, Sérignan, France  
FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, France  
Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar  
FRAC Occitanie Montpellier, Montpellier, France  
DRAC Centre, Orléans, France  
Musée de Beaux-Arts Orleans, Orleans  
Barjeel Foundation, Sharjah, UAE  
Farjam Collection, Dubai, UAE  
FRAC Languedoc-Roussillon, Montpellier  
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## PUBLICATIONS

2021 *Abdelkader Benchamma, Rayon Fossile*, Cet ouvrage accompagne une exposition à la Collection Lambert, Actes Sud  
2015 *Simulacre*, Abdelkader Benchamma, Published by Art Collector  
2014 *Random*, 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 a Promise*, Edition Ibraaz  
2010 *Told Untold Retold*, Mathaf / Edition Skira  
2010 Roven magazine, Paris  
2010 CheckPoint N°2, Edition La Plateforme  
2009 *La Déglée 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 en cours... Aujourd'hui à l'école des Beaux Arts*, Edition ENSBA