

ABDELKADER BENCHAMMA (b. 1975, Mazamet, France)

Lives and works between Paris and Montpellier, France.

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
- 2025 *Des Astres*, ADN Galeria, Barcelona, Spain, 2025
Rumors from the Skies, Gallery Isabelle, Dubai
- 2024 Het Noordbrabants Museum (HNBm), Den Bosch, The Netherlands
- 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 Soupairs*, Abbaye de Lagrasse, Lagrasse, France
Fata Bromosa, Musée Régional 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 Federico 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 agnès b, Paris
They think that once they are there..., Galerie du Jour agnès b, Hong Kong
- 2005 *Incidents Invisibles*, Project room, Galerie du Jour agnès b, Paris

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Apocalypse, Hier et demain*, Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF), Paris, France
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
Capitolo 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, Musée 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, 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, Nomad 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, agnès 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. Agnès 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 Medicis, 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 Orléans, Orléans
Barjeel Foundation, Sharjah, UAE
Farjam Collection, Dubai, UAE
FRAC Languedoc-Roussillon, Montpellier
ARTOTHEQUE of Pessac

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 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 en cours... Aujourd'hui à l'école des Beaux Arts*, Edition ENSBA