



PRESS RELEASE

Marrakech, 17 June 2026

MACAAL Hors les Murs (Off-Site) Presents

In the Blink of an Eye

A Solo Exhibition by Daoud Aoulad-Syad

In collaboration with the French Institute of Morocco



© Daoud Aoulad-Syad / Courtesy Galerie 127

As part of its MACAAL **Hors les Murs** (Off-Site) programme, the Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden (MACAAL) is curating *Le temps d'un battement de cil* (*In the Blink of an Eye*), a solo exhibition by Moroccan photographer and filmmaker **Daoud Aoulad-Syad**. The exhibition will be on view from 17 June to 31 August 2026 at the **Galerie Delacroix of the French Institute of Morocco**, as part of the inaugural edition of **Photo Tanger**, an international photography festival.

The exhibition is organised in collaboration with the **French Institute of Morocco** and supported by **Fondation Alliances**, a partner of the festival.

For more than 45 years, Daoud Aoulad-Syad has developed a photographic practice deeply rooted in Moroccan popular culture. Street performers, travelling entertainers, fairground workers and ordinary people occupy a central place in his work, shaping a visual narrative attentive to everyday gestures, encounters and the subtle forms of presence that animate public space.

Renowned for his highly expressive black-and-white analogue photography, the artist reveals a less frequently exhibited aspect of his practice through a selection of colour works. Bringing together thirty-six images, twenty-four of which have never before been printed, the exhibition offers a fresh perspective on his long-standing exploration of Morocco and its human landscapes. The number itself is significant: it echoes the thirty-six exposures of analogue film, a direct reference to the photographic processes to which the artist remains deeply attached.

Photographing from within rather than from a distance, Daoud Aoulad-Syad has built a body of work grounded in proximity. His images seek neither exoticism nor spectacle; instead, they reveal the density of everyday life, the constant flow of movement, moments of waiting, commercial activity and the ordinary forms of coexistence that shape social life.

Conceived by scenographer **Sara Ayoub**, with exhibition design production by **Mouad Laalou**, the exhibition transforms the Galerie Delacroix into a space for wandering inspired by the rhythms of the street. The visitor journey unfolds across three sections: *The Square (Sa7a)*, dedicated to popular forms of gathering; *The Alleyway (Znika)*, centred on scenes of everyday life and intimate movements; and *The Market Gallery (Kisarya)*, exploring commercial dynamics and popular trading spaces.

At the end of the exhibition, a film by Daoud Aoulad-Syad extends the visitor experience. Its inclusion reflects the way his practice has long moved between photography and cinema, two mediums shaped by the same attention to gestures, encounters and the rhythms of daily life.

Through this new selection, *In the Blink of an Eye* offers a view of Morocco in the 1980s through the gestures, presences and rhythms of everyday life.

Practical Information

In the Blink of an Eye

Daoud Aoulad-Syad

Dates: 17 June – 31 August 2026

Venue: Galerie Delacroix, French Institute of Tangier

86 Rue de la Liberté, Tangier

macaal.org

if-maroc.org

ABOUT MACAAL

The Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden (MACAAL) in Marrakech is a private non-profit museum. One of the first of its kind on the continent, MACAAL is dedicated to the promotion of African art through various education and exhibition programs that allow it to cultivate the interest of broad audiences. Through the acquisition and exhibition of works by both established and emerging artists, the museum fosters the understanding of contemporary African art and showcases the creative energy and cultural diversity characteristic of the continent. MACAAL displays art from Morocco and its neighboring countries across different mediums. Beyond its permanent collection, exhibitions highlight art that opens a dialogue with the continent and present both African and international artists.

ABOUT DAOUD AOULAD-SYAD

Photographer, director and screenwriter Daoud Aoulad-Syad was born in Marrakech in 1953. After earning a PhD in Physical Sciences from the University of Nancy in 1981, he began working in the film industry after taking part in a film workshop at FEMIS in 1989.

In 1991, he directed his first short film, *Mémoire Ocre*. This was followed by *Entre l'absence et l'oubli* in 1993, and *Al Oued* in 1995.

He made his first feature film, *Adieu Forain*, in 1998, followed by *Le Cheval de Vent* (2001), *Tarfaya* (2003), *En attendant Pasolini* (2007), *La Mosquée* (2010), *Les Voix du Désert* (2017) and *Le Lac Bleu* (2025).

His photographic work has been the subject of various exhibitions, including *Photomed*, Sanary-sur-Mer (2013); *Daba Maroc-Bruxelles*, Belgium (2012); *Galerie municipale du Château d'eau*, Toulouse (1999); *Mois de la photo de Bienne*, Switzerland (1998); *Museum Voor Volkenkunde*, Rotterdam, Netherlands (1996); *Musée d'Aquitaine, ARPA*, Bordeaux, (1991) and at the *Institut du monde arabe*, Paris (1990).

He has also published four books of photographs: *Marocains* (1989), *Boujaâd, Espace et mémoire* (1999) and *Territoires de l'instant* (2000), Daoud Aoulad-Syad, MEP (2015).

Daoud Aoulad-Syad is represented by Galerie 127.

ABOUT SARA AYOUB

Sara Ayoub is an architect graduated from ENSA Paris-La Villette. Her practice articulates architecture, scenography, and material research around what persists in an architecture when time or use transforms it. She develops Neo-Ruins, a research framework examining the tension between foreign elements and vernacular forms, pursued in residence at Art Omi, New York. Her work has been presented at the Venice Architecture Biennale and INHA in Paris (IAAC/3dpa), and at Dar Bellarj Foundation in Marrakech (Archéologies).

ABOUT THE FRENCH INSTITUTE OF MOROCCO

The French Institute of Morocco is a unique platform for dialogue between France and Morocco in the fields of culture and knowledge. As the largest French institute in the world, it is a pillar of the relationship between the two countries. It serves all audiences and is active in education, mobility, cooperation, and cultural dissemination, carried this year by the 2025/2026 season dedicated to youth, *"J lioum, Ici et maintenant"*, with a constant demand for quality.

The French Institute of Morocco:

- provides French language training and certification.
- supports student mobility.
- supports book and reading policies with 12 media libraries.
- develops university, scientific, educational, and cultural cooperation between France and Morocco.
- designs and implements cultural mediation actions around artistic creation.
- organizes a rich and varied cultural and audiovisual program.
- hosts artists in residence.

ABOUT FONDATION ALLIANCES

Founded in 2009, Fondation Alliances is a not-for-profit association backed by Groupe Alliances, the leading real-estate operator in Morocco, and whose mission is to support the social and cultural development of Morocco through specific actions. The foundation advocates for art accessible to all, through the development of significant cultural mediation to benefit all social backgrounds, thus participating in highlighting contemporary Moroccan and African art through a rigorous approach.

In addition to MACAAL, Fondation Alliances has initiated five other projects:

- The Al Maaden Sculpture Park: Inaugurated in September 2013, the Al Maaden Sculpture Park features monumental sculptures by Moroccan and international artists, created exclusively in situ at Al Maaden, in Marrakech.
- Lcc Program: Launched in 2013, this programme—originally known as La Chambre Claire—is an annual event to support contemporary photography through

the promotion and exhibition of an emerging artist.

- Programme Passerelles: Created in 2014, Passerelles is a programme designed to raise

awareness about visual art, intended for young people from exurban areas, through workshops, tours, and encounters.

- MACAAL Residence: A residential research and production programme inaugurated in 2019.

- MACAAL Bootcamp: An intensive training programme designed for young professionals in the African art world, which includes a series of workshops, masterclasses, and teamwork projects supervised by recognised professionals from various sectors.