

## ***HAVE YOU SEEN A HORIZON LATELY?***

25 February - 19 July 2020



Akira Ikezoe, *Coconut Heads around the Ceramic Studio*, 2019.

Oil on canvas, 157 x 127cm.

Image courtesy of the artist and Proyectos Ultravioleta gallery

The Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden (MACAAL), Marrakech is delighted to announce *HAVE YOU SEEN A HORIZON LATELY?*, a group exhibition opening on 25 February 2020. Taking its title from a song by Yoko Ono, the exhibition explores the politics of space and place and is an invitation to see and know the world differently. The exhibition features work from a selection of emerging and established international artists including Yoko Ono (USA), Kapwani Kiwanga (Canada-France), Rahima Gambo (Nigeria) and Amina Benbouchta (Morocco) and is curated by Marie-Ann Yemsi. Through a variety of media and with several new commissions, *HAVE YOU SEEN A HORIZON LATELY?* sees participating artists question their lived environment in a sensitive and committed way.

Whether inspired by architecture, urban archaeology and landscape or personal geographies in relationship to the body and history, the work of these contemporary artists resonates strongly with some of the most pressing issues in the world today. Questions around ecology, the unequal distribution of wealth and power, the colonisation of territories, situations of oppression, and fixed and reductive conceptions of identity are all themes explored in the exhibition.

Reflecting on their own histories, a number of artists use their surroundings as a departure point. Maxwell Alexandre draws inspiration from his life in the Rocinha favela in Rio de Janeiro to create a complex and committed narrative around a tense Brazil. His in-situ installation of paintings on brown paper created for MACAAL addresses social, cultural and political issues. Akira Ikezoe's paintings reflect on the experience of navigating cultural differences between typical depictions of "East" and "West". His paintings present figures, known as *Coconut heads*, which reflect on themes of cultural misconceptions and socio-economic power imbalances.

Kiluanji Kia Henda's video installation looks at urban and architectural elements of his hometown of Luanda, engaging with the colonial past of Angola and the African continent. Kapwani Kiwanga looks at the archive as a historical, political and symbolic power, demonstrated in her "Flowers for Africa" series. Artist and architect Felipe Arturo's practice looks at urbanism in relation to politics, history and geography. His work is deeply influenced by vernacular architecture and the construction and production techniques that resist colonial and post-colonial processes. An anthropological interest in the living conditions of minorities is explored in Daniel Otero Torres' work. *Lluvia*, his impressive installation presented at MACAAL is the result of his encounters with the Emberá community, where he studied their system for decontaminating polluted water. Gaëlle Choisne addresses issues of disaster, the exploitation of resources and the remains of colonialism in a dynamic video installation.



Gaëlle Choisne, *N.E.V.A.Q.N.A.L.A.*, 2016.  
 Video 8'36", mixed media, variable dimensions.  
 Courtesy of the artist © Chloé Vlaud

Many of the artistic projects in *HAVE YOU SEEN A HORIZON LATELY?* call for resistance. For example, Amina Benbouchta's work references the challenges of living as a woman in public and private, questioning how to position oneself in a structured, male-dominant world. Rahima Gambo explores the narrative of "walking", female bodies, psycho-spiritual-geography, urban environment and autobiography through documentary storytelling. Sandrine Pelletier is inspired by the expression of raw energy, pushing the limits of materials such as wood, glass and metal; a material metamorphosis the artist likens to a "reified rite of passage". Throughout her career, Yoko Ono has maintained a deep faith in art's ability to transform and uplift. For this exhibition, she presents a text-based work inviting viewers to grasp the tumultuous landscape of the world.

The exhibition is curated by Marie-Ann Yemsi who works alongside scenographer Franck Houndegla. Conceived as a poetic journey where one theme leads through to another, the exhibition creates a network of interlinking positions and considerations, showing art's unique ability to question our limits and challenge our perceptions.

*HAVE YOU SEEN A HORIZON LATELY?* is accompanied by an extensive educational and cultural programme including school visits, curator-led tours, talks, encounters and screenings.



Yoko Ono, *HAVE YOU SEEN THE HORIZON LATELY?*, 1967/2019.  
Installation view of *The Reflections Project* organized by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, New York  
Photographer: Isabel Asha Penzlien. Copyright: Yoko Ono.



Amina Benbouchta, *Eternel retour du désir amoureux*, 2019.  
Installation, wood, neons, objects, sound, variable dimensions.  
Courtesy of the artists

**PARTICIPATING ARTISTS:**

Maxwell ALEXANDRE (Brazil)

Farah AL QASIMI (United Arab Emirates)

Felipe ARTURO (Colombia)

Amina BENBOUCHTA (Morocco)

Gaëlle CHOISNE (France)

Rahima GAMBO (Nigeria)

Akira IKEZOE (Japan)

Kiluanji KIA HENDA (Angola)

Kapwani KIWANGA (Canada – France)

Yoko ONO (USA)

Daniel OTERO TORRES (Colombia)

Sandrine PELLETIER (Switzerland)

Running alongside *HAVE YOU SEEN A HORIZON LATELY?*, MACAAL also presents *Untitled: Seydou Keita*, an open air exhibition by Malian photographer Seydou Keita (1921-2001) organised in collaboration with the Contemporary African Art Collection (Caacart). Pasted on the walls of the Marrakech medina, the large-scale photographic prints, which are part of the Jean Pigozzi collection, depict portraits of people and families in the 1940s and the early 1960s. The exhibition will run from February until March.

## NOTES TO EDITORS:

### **About Marie-Ann Yemsi**

Marie-Ann Yemsi is an independent curator and art consultant. In 2005, she founded her own Paris-based agency, Agent Créatif(s), which has developed a renowned expertise in cultural production and art consulting with a focus on emerging artists and artistic scenes in Africa and its Diaspora.

She has curated several international exhibitions, including *African Odysseys*, Brass Cultural Center, Brussels (2015), *The Days that Comes*, Galerie des Galeries, Paris (2017) and *A Silent Lines, Lives Here*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2018). She was the Artistic Director of *Afrotopia*, the 11th edition of the Rencontres de Bamako - African Biennale of Photography in Mali (2017–2018). She is the guest curator of the Palais de Tokyo for *Ubuntu, a Lucid Dream*, a collective exhibition which will be presented from June 18 to September 13, 2020.

Marie-Ann Yemsi lives and works in Paris.

### **About MACAAL and Fondation Alliances**

MACAAL is a philanthropic initiative of Moroccan art collectors Othman Lazraq and his father Alami Lazraq. It forms part of their charitable Fondation Alliances, a not-for-profit association which focuses on supporting cultural development in Morocco. One of the first of its kind on the continent, MACAAL is dedicated to the promotion of contemporary art through various exhibition and mediation programmes designed for broad public appeal. In addition to the permanent collection, made of the Lazraq family's private collection of modern and contemporary African art, exhibitions cast new light upon art that dialogues with the continent, presenting artists of African and international origin. The Museum thus promotes the understanding of contemporary art, revealing the creative energy and cultural diversity that are characteristic of the continent.

Created in 2009, Fondation Alliances is a non-profit association backed by Alliances Group, a leading integrated real estate group in Morocco, whose vocation is to provide support in Morocco through concrete social and cultural action. The Foundation advocates for the idea of art accessible to all, by developing significant cultural mediation in favour of all social backgrounds, thus acting to create awareness of contemporary Moroccan and African art through a rigorous approach. In addition to MACAAL, Fondation Alliances has set up five other not-for-profit initiatives:

- The Al Maaden Sculpture Park: inaugurated in September 2013, Al Maaden Sculpture Park incorporates monumental sculptures by Moroccan and international artists, exclusively created for Al Maaden's site in Marrakech.
- The Lcc Program (formally La Chambre Claire), launched in 2013, is an annual award supporting contemporary photography through the promotion and exhibition of an emerging artist.

- Programme Passerelles (trans. bridges) encourages engagement with local young people through workshops and classes on contemporary art alongside museum visits. The programme acts as a bridge between local audiences and the wider cultural sphere.
- The MACAAL Residence: a programme of residency, research and production, inaugurated in 2019.
- MACAAL Bootcamp is an intensive four-day program which supports young art world professionals through mentorship with leaders in their field such as Koyo Kouoh and Touria el Glaoui as well as through a series of workshops and masterclasses on core skills.

#### PRESS CONTACT:

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#### EXHIBITION FACTS:

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|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Title:</b>         | <i>HAVE YOU SEEN A HORIZON LATELY?</i>                   |
| <b>Address:</b>       | MACAAL, Al Maaden, Sidi Youssef Ben Ali, 40000 Marrakech |
| <b>Telephone:</b>     | +212 676 92 44 92  |
| <b>Website:</b>       | www.macaal.org   |
| <b>Dates:</b>         | 25 February -19 July 2020                                |
| <b>Opening Hours:</b> | Tuesday - Sunday, 10am - 6pm                             |
| <b>Instagram:</b>     | @macaal_   |
| <b>Facebook:</b>      | Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden             |

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