

PRESS RELEASE

Exhibition opening *Tempus Fugit*

19 December 2020 – 21 February 2021

MACAAL welcomes *Tempus Fugit*, a group photography exhibition produced and directed by MAFODER Group under the curatorship of M'hammed Kilito.

The exhibition features eight Moroccan photographers, bringing together work created during the confinement and deconfinement periods around a shared project: to document this particular time and space, each in his or her own way. The works led to the creation of a diverse photographic corpus of over 50 prints, each one a representation of everyday life as time stood still.



Mehdy Mariouch, *Untitled*, 40 x 60 cm, 2020 © Mehdy Mariouch

“This project places a particular emphasis on narration. The aim is to connect multiple stories by attributing to each photographer the liberty to freely express their vision, experience and, *in fine*, to keep a record of it.” M’hammed Kilito

Thus, Fatima Zohra Serri offers us portraits that reveal both melancholy and poetry, between distance, solitude, and dreams of escape. Similarly, Walid Bendra fixes the portrait of an urban architecture emptied of its inhabitants. For his part, Hicham Benohoud seeks to structure and reorganise his living space by means of entangled lines and directions, like so many possibilities. Photojournalist Yassine Toumi documents with objectivity the organisation of a country under siege, while in the same vein, Seif Kousmate adds a note of humanity through the attitudes, gestures, and habits of daily life.

Photographers, historians, storytellers of the everyday. The final photographic body of work reunites the many stories showing different visions and approaches, intimate experiences either shared or solo; a mosaic of personal points of view, bits of individual stories that enter into dialogue, responding to one another in a resolutely minimalist scenography designed by Zineb Andress Arraki to reconstitute a thorough cartography of this atypical moment in time.

Following a successful collaboration in the context of the *HAVE YOU SEEN A HORIZON LATELY?* exhibition in February 2020, MACAAL reiterates its collaboration with MAFODER Group. **“If we chose, as a cultural action, to call upon the talents of artist photographers, it is this group and their point of view as “historians of now” that in our esteem are the most able to shed light upon and bear witness to what we have experienced. They hold up a troubling mirror to what each one of us has lived through during this period.”** - Ibrahim Slaoui, CEO of MAFODER Group, who initiated this project to provide support for Moroccan photographers, and enlisted M’hammed Kilito as its curator.

“In his book *The Myth of Sisyphus*, Albert Camus argues that it is when Man becomes aware of the absurdity his own condition that he can reinvent it, bringing sense to the world. The production of this photographic project stretches from the beginning of confinement in Morocco until a month after its suspension. Each photographer had free rein to document this period and to offer his or her own vision and individual analysis. A shift in the perception of space and of time, our relationships to each other and to ourselves.

Between photojournalism, graphic interplay, stagings, artistic and poetic experimentations, *Tempus Fugit* intersects and interweaves moments of life, contemporary archives that reveal the diverse facets of today’s Morocco.” - M’hammed Kilito

Participating artists:

Walid Bendra	Mehdy Mariouch
Hicham Benohoud	Fatima Zohra Serri
Imane Djamil	Yzza Slaoui
Seif Kousmate	Yassine Toumi

In the interest of offering our different audiences a programme schedule that is as rich as it is accessible, *Tempus Fugit* will be accompanied by an educational and cultural programme that will include school visits and guided tours (by reservation), creative activities and encounters with artists. In order to reach a large public audience, this access will include a digital programme schedule (MACAAL Webinars & MACAAL Takeovers).

About M'hammed Kilito

M'hammed Kilito (born in 1981, Russia) is an independent Moroccan photographer based in Rabat, Morocco. He is represented internationally by Loft Art Gallery and Native Agency. As a photographer and visual storyteller, he is constantly engaged in capturing narratives that evolve from a comprehension of the relationship between his collaborators and their environments, covering questions related to cultural identity, the sociology of work, and the human condition.

In 2020, M'hammed was selected by The British Journal of Photography as one of the 18 emerging world photographers to follow, selected as a 6x6 Global Talent by World Press Photo, became a National Geographic Explorer, received the photography prize from La Fondation des Treilles and was awarded the CAP Prize, for contemporary African photography.

He participated in the 2019 edition of the Eddie Adams Workshop, where he received the National Geographic Award. In 2018, M'hammed participated in the Arab Documentary Photography Programme, a programme co-sponsored by Magnum Foundation, AFAC and the Prince Claus Fund, during which he continued work on his ongoing project *Portrait of a Generation* on the realities facing Moroccan youth. In 2016, he received a grant from the Kingdom of Morocco's Ministry of Culture and began to photograph the *Destiny* series on the relationship between work and social determinism, which was exhibited at the PhotoESPAÑA festival (Madrid), the Institut Français (Rabat), the Addis Foto festival (Addis Ababa), the Revela'T festival (Barcelona) and the African Institute (Sharjah).

His work has been presented in festivals and museums such as Sharjah Art Foundation (Sharjah), Tate Modern (London), Musée National de la Photographie (Rabat), Beirut Image Festival (Beirut), Photo Vogue Festival (Milan), Helsinki Photo Festival (Helsinki), and Breda Photo Festival (Breda), among others. His photographs have been published in magazines and journals such as *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The British Journal of Photography*, *Vogue Italia*, *L'Express*, *VICE Arabia* and *El País*.

M'hammed holds a masters in political science at the University of Ottawa and a BA degree in political science from the University of Montreal.

About MAFODER



At MAFODER, art and industry are inseparable.

MAFODER Group is a Moroccan SME family holding known for its castings and steel foundry activity, precast concrete and urban street furniture. The Group is present in Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. MAFODER works in close collaboration with architects and designers for the development of urban planning products.

In 2012, MAFODER Foundry was the first industrial concern in Morocco to open its doors to national and international street artists to paint one-of-a-kind murals up to 12 metres high. The Moroccan artist Morran directed and animated the project over a period of 24 months, and as a result the factory has become an immense open-air art gallery. Famous French printmakers such as Kongo, Colors and Neok in 2012, or the Hopare in 2014, also participated in the project alongside young emerging national talents. For many years, MAFODER has been committed to supporting the artistic and cultural sectors. In 2018, the industrial group collaborated with EFE-Maroc, a support association for job-seeking young people, to produce the successful theatrical event *Khedmouni*, a play written by Youssef Lahrichi on the subject of youth employability and performed by the *19h Théâtre* troupe.

In terms of fabrication, MAFODER also produced many works of art that have been shown at the Musée Mohammed VI in Rabat, including the wood sculpture by artist Adiba Mkinsi, and in 2020 supported the production of major works for the exhibition *HAVE YOU SEEN A HORIZON LATELY?* at MACAAL during the 1-54 Art Fair.

“We are happy to reinvent our environment by enriching it with new perspectives, and we affirm our desire to work toward the promotion of art through innovation and to make our production facilities available to talented artists.” - Ibrahim Slaoui

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.

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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.

To ensure compliance with current health standards, masks are required on the MACAAL grounds. The number of people allowed inside the Museum is limited, and markings clearly indicate the sense of direction to visit the exhibition. Hydro-alcoholic gel dispensers are placed at various locations within the Museum.

INFORMATION

Tempus Fugit

19 December 2020 – 21 February 2021

Curator: M'hammed Kilito

Scenography: Studio Zineb Andress Arraki

Artistic Director: Meriem Berrada

Exhibition produced by **MAFODER**

MACAAL

Opening days: Wednesday – Sunday,
10 am – 6 pm

Same days & hours for the MACAAL Shop &
MACAAL Café

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Website: www.macaal.org

Facebook: Museum of African Contemporary Art
Al Maaden / Instagram: @macaal_

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