

lilia ben salah

Positions and Points of View / Partis Pris et Points de Vue

8 septembre – 8 octobre 2022

Amel Bennys, Baya Mahieddine, Camille Pradon, Farah Khelil,

Inji Efflatoun, Malaika Temba, Zoulikha Bouabdellah

Lilia Ben Salah presents *Positions and Points of View*, the inaugural exhibition of her new gallery centrally located in the Matignon neighborhood of Paris. On view from September 8th-October 8th, 2022 this exhibition defines the gallery's dynamic identity as a venue for representing transnational artists with strong connections to the Middle-East and Africa. Transnational is a way of understanding cultural hybridity and encourages the idea that art, artists and art histories are connected beyond their places of origin.

In the late 20th century there was an urgency in the artworld to put a name to the post-colonial diasporic artist's production by emphasizing authenticity through a definable cultural provenance. This exhibition instead, imagines lines of connectivity and fluidity in the contemporary world defined by belonging to a transpectival "global club" of representation which travels beyond local cultural currency, political fluctuations and ethnocultural backgrounds. The impetus for the show is to celebrate the bold and imaginative multiplicity of voices from cross-cultural cosmopolitan contexts and places.

Positions and Points of View encourages the exchange and flow of art and ideas. Working in a diverse selection of media and practices, but always in relation to painting itself, the seven transnational women artists in this group show demonstrate the potential for line, color and form to address both real-world concerns—political and spiritual truths, women's rights and the environmental crisis —and ontological questions around painting itself. *Positions and Points of View* is grounded by the work of two pioneering historical modernist women artists, Inji Efflatoun and Baya, from Egypt and Algeria respectively.

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Both artists' lived experiences and paintings are foundational for the five contemporary emergent artists Lilia Ben Salah has chosen to showcase along with them.

Positions and Points of View includes French Tunisian Amel Bennys' abstractions; Russian born Algerian French Zoulikha Bouabdellah mixed media works; Carthage born Paris based Farah Kehlil's conceptual constructions; New York based Tanzanian American Malaika Temba's textile collages and Paris and Tunis based Camille Pradon's painterly photographs.

Trained at the Rhode Island School of Design and based in New York City, Malaika Temba embodies the nature of this cohort of artists—she grew up in South Africa, Uganda, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia, and globality influences her work in profound ways. “I feel an influx of cultural perspectives and use different lenses to go about my day.” Indeed this is what Lilia Ben Salah aspires to with her new gallery –to convene and celebrate different positionalities and viewpoints in Paris.

Natasha Boas Ph.D

International Curator

San Francisco-New York-Paris

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Amel Bennys
I miss you baby, 2022



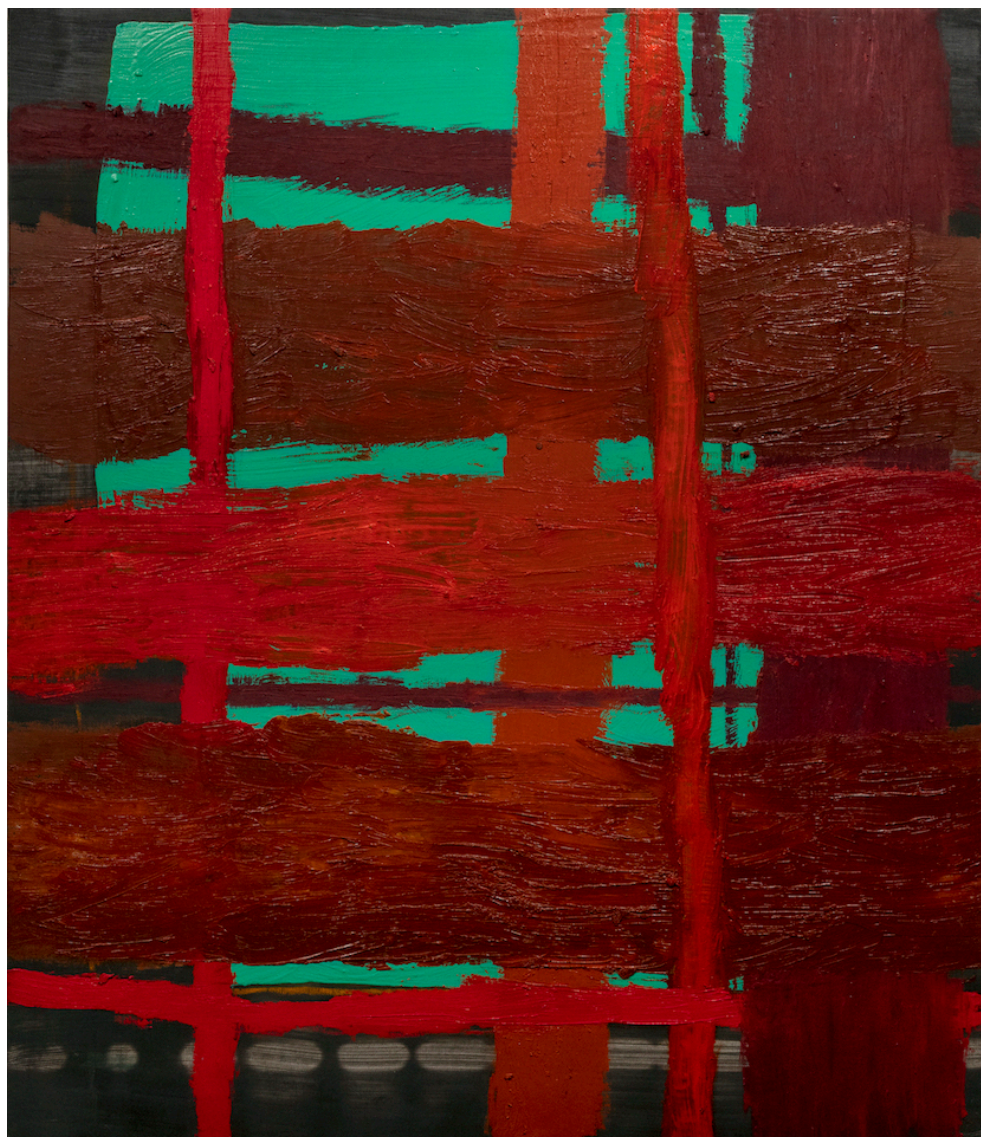
Pigments, aluminum, huile en bâton sur toile
Pigments, aluminum, oil stick on canvas

136 x 147 cm
53 1/2 x 57 7/8 in

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Amel Bennys

Under the sky- exactement, 2022



Pigments, acrylic and oil sticks on canvas
Pigments, acrylique, huile en bâton sur toile

80 x 69 cm
31 1/2 x 27 1/8 in

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Baya Mahieddine

Coupe de fruits et oiseau, 1984



Gouache sur papier
Gouache on paper

100 x 147 cm
39 3/8 x 57 7/8 in

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Baya Mahieddine
Femme et poisson, 1974



Gouache sur papier
Gouache on paper

49.3 x 32.6 cm
19 3/8 x 12 7/8 in

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Camille Pradon
Pierre de veille, 2022



Tirage pigmentaire sur papier Fine Art
Pigment print on Fine Art paper © Adagp Paris 2022 - Pradon

120 x 80 cm
47 1/4 x 31 1/2 in
Edition of 5

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Camille Pradon
Pierre de veille, 2022

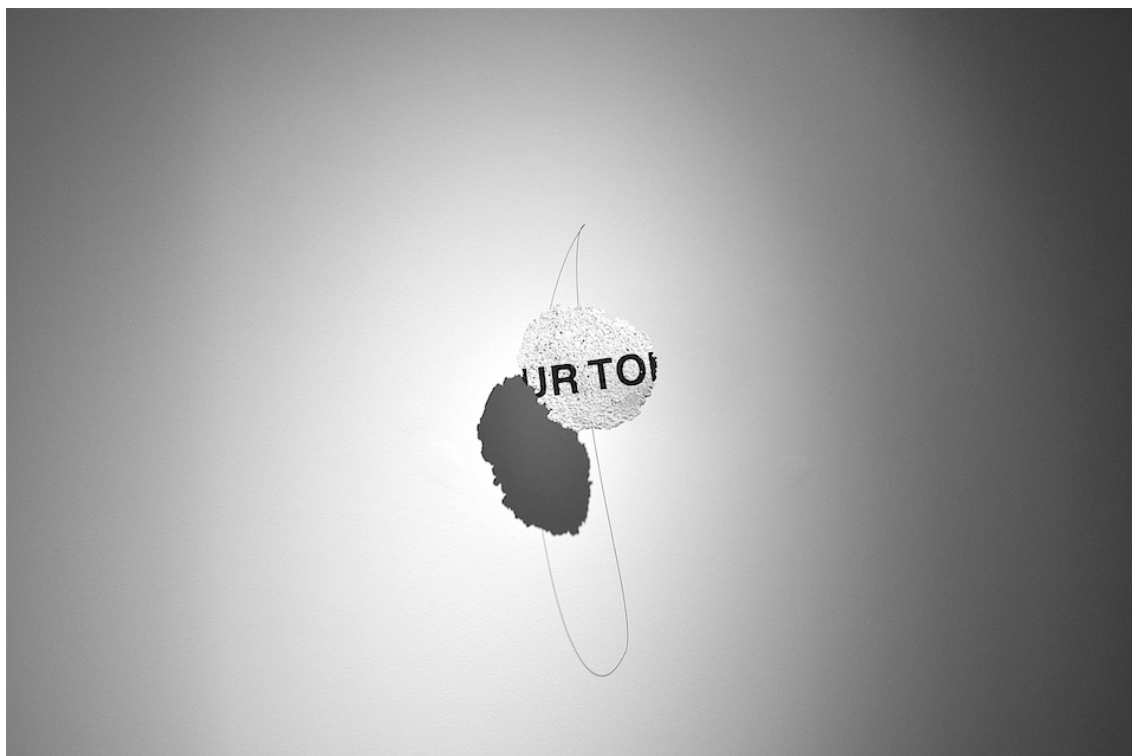


Tirage pigmentaire sur papier Fine Art
Pigment print on Fine Art paper © Adagp Paris 2022 - Pradon

120 x 80 cm
47 1/4 x 31 1/2 in
Edition of 5

Farah Khelil

Histoire en flottaison, 2022



Papier mâché (Histoire de l'art Ernst Gombrich), corde à piano, acrylique et ombre
Paper mache (Art History Ernst Gombrich), piano wire, acrylic and shadow

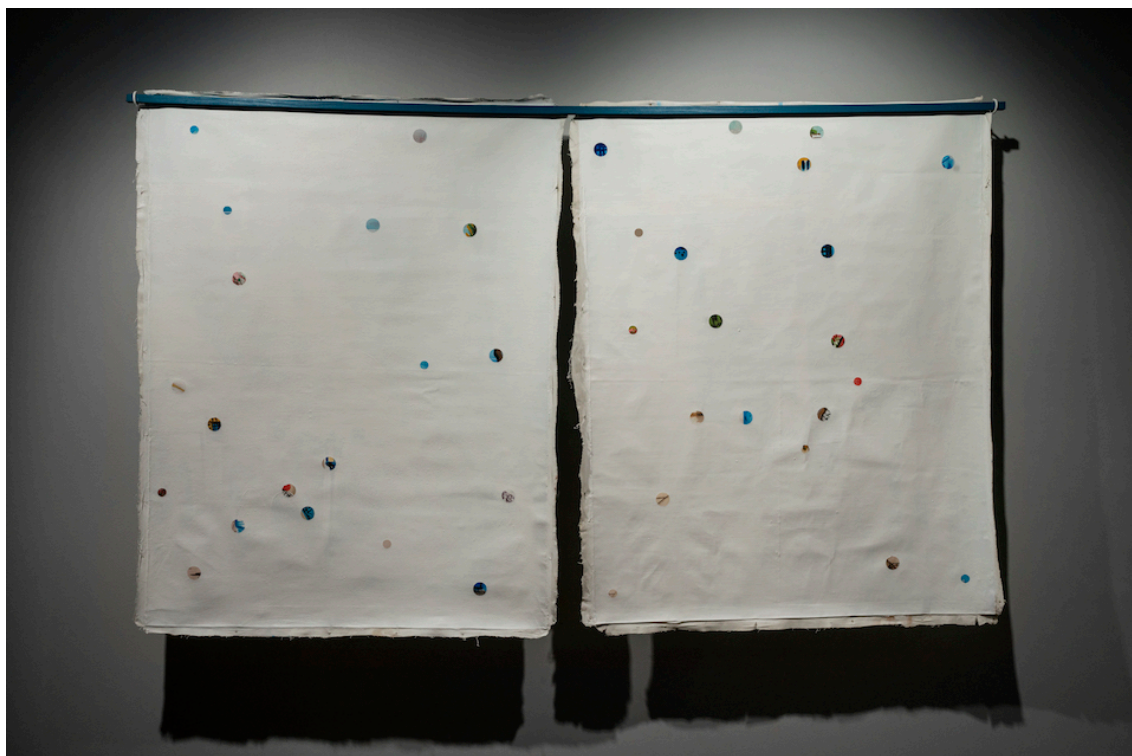
Diam. 25 cm

Diam. 9 7/8 in

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Farah Khelil

Pan de mur, 2022



Acrylique sur toile et tasseau
Acrylic on canvas and cleat

93 x 151 cm
36 5/8 x 59 1/2 in

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Inji Eflatoun

La cueillette des dattes, 1981



Oil on masonite

Huile sur isorel

37 x 49 cm

14 5/8 x 19 1/4 in

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Inji Efflatoun

Les cueilleuses de fleurs, 1970



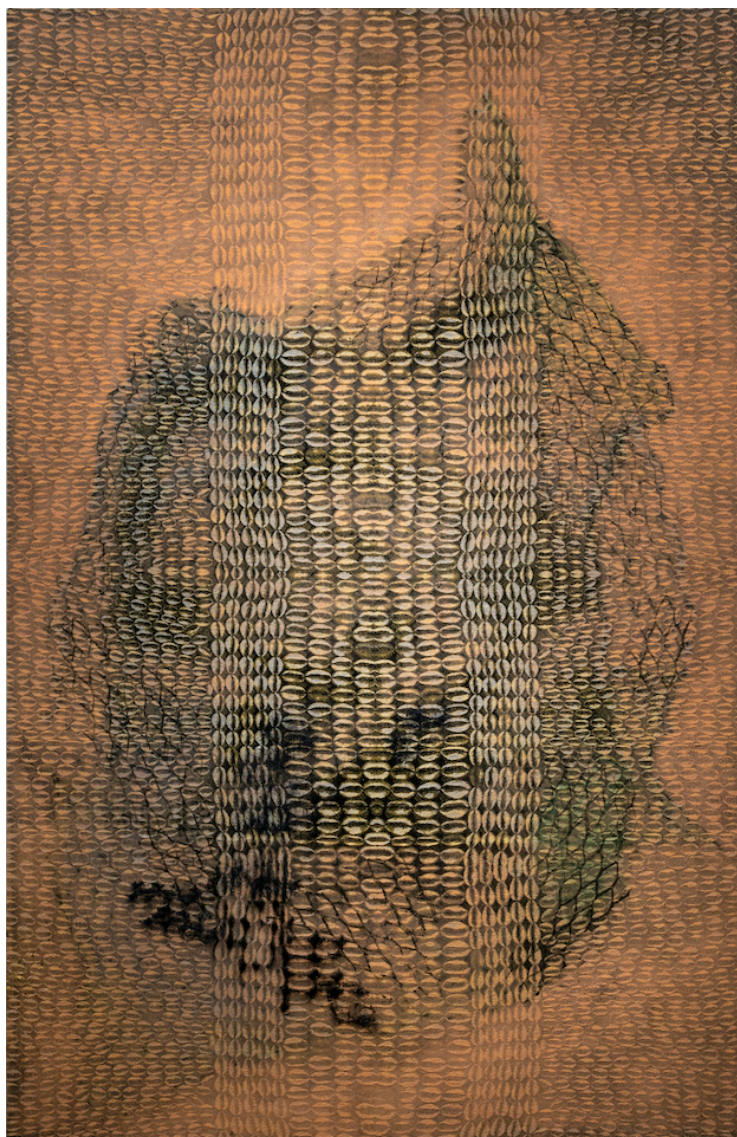
Watercolor, gouache, ink on paper
Aquarelle, gouache, encre sur papier

28 x 40 cm
11 x 15 3/4 in

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Malaika Temba

Out of the strings she had heard all her life, a net, 2021



Tissage Jacquard, peinture en aérosol, peinture textile, laine feutrée
Jacquard woven fabric, spray paint, fabric paint, felted wool

167.6 x 109.2 cm
66 x 43 in

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Malaika Temba
Mashallah Truck, 2022



Tissage Jacquard, craie et fils
Jacquard woven fabric, chalk, and thread

116.8 x 167.6 cm
46 x 66 in

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Zoulikha Bouabdellah

Envers Endroit, 2022



Collage, paper laid on canvas
Collage, papier marouflé sur toile

75 x 60 cm
29 1/2 x 23 5/8 in

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Zoulikha Bouabdellah

Jeu de jambes, 2022



Inks on paper and fabric
Encres sur papier et tissu

101 x 80 cm
39 3/4 x 31 1/2 in

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Amel Bennys (Tunis, 1970)

Born in 1970 in Tunis, Amel Bennys lives and works in Paris and Tunis. She completed MFA from Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts of Paris in 1991. Amel Bennys is best known for her large-scale mixed media paintings and wood/metal sculptures that are inspired by her own memories and experiences. Whatever materials and processes Amel Bennys uses to create her artworks, the main force behind her art, which lies between painting, sculpture, installation, and writing, is the encounter and loss. Amel works through a layering of emotional responses to cope with a well-defined social environment, and the relationship she has with it. In 2012, she was invited by the Josef & Anni Albers Foundation, Bethany, CT. In 2013, she moved to Brooklyn, Bed Styu, NY, and then to East Harlem. In 2018, she had a solo exhibition at the Silas Von Morisse gallery in NY, followed by an exhibition at the Lehman College Museum in February 2019. The same year, she receives the Jackson Pollock - Lee Krasner Foundation Award. Her work has been featured in Le Monde Diplomatique, huffpost, Daily Art Fair, ARTE/ FR3. Her works are part of many prestigious collections such as the Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio. In March 2019, she was arbitrarily banned from the United States by the Trump administration. Loss of the workplace and her New Yorker life. As if reality here then joined her artistic obsessions.

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Baya Mahieddine (Borj El Kifan, 1931 – 1998)

Self-taught Algerian artist Baya Mahieddine was born in 1931 and died in 1998. As an adolescent, Baya was encouraged by a French couple, living in Algeria, to pursue art. Fabled gallerist Aimé Maeght and writer André Breton, organized her first exhibition in Paris in 1947 at the age of sixteen. Baya's colourful mélange of surreal, childlike imagery, rich in symbols and ornamentations from her Arab-Berber origins drew the attention of Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso, with whom she later collaborated in his renowned studio in Vallauris. Since, her work has been exhibited extensively in various museums and galleries. In 1982, Baya had an exhibition at the Museum Cantini in Marseilles inaugurated by French President François Mitterrand. In July 1987, she was honored by Algerian president Chadli. In 2018, Grey Art Gallery at New York University organized her first North American exhibition "Baya: Woman of Algiers". Baya's work is the subject of various publications and her works can be found in numerous public and private collections worldwide.

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Camille Pradon (Oullins, 1993)

Camille Pradon is a visual artist working between Paris and Tunis. Using the image as a sensitive material, she conducts in-depth research on the concepts of displacement and fragmentary narratives. From video, installation, photography to drawing and ceramics, Camille Pradon fosters a formal language that plays on the porosity between mediums. Her work is regularly exhibited in France and abroad, including at the Manchester Museum of Natural History (UK), Cité internationale des arts and Villa Belleville (Paris), Lyon Contemporary Art Biennale, the Gabes Cinema Fen Festival (Tunisia) and the Wallonie-Bruxelles Centre (Paris). Her essays are part of various art publications including *Le Magazine du Jeu de Paume* and *Point Contemporain*. Camille Pradon graduated from the Higher School of Art and Design of Saint-Étienne in 2015, and studied at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Bologna, Italy. In 2020 and 2021, she held a residency at the Cité internationale des arts de Paris, the Villa Salammbô from the French Cultural Institute of Tunisia and the Grand Tour Residency Program from French Cultural Institute Italia. She lives and works between France and Tunisia.

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Farah Khelil (Carthage, 1980)

Farah Khelil studied at the Institut Supérieur des Beaux-arts of Tunis and holds a PhD in arts and sciences of art from the Sorbonne School of Arts. Her work, both visual and conceptual, drawing on an intimate and philosophical thought, combines artist's books, painting, photography, video, drawing, and installation. She questions the relationship to image, language and history. She has taken part in numerous exhibitions worldwide, such as the Transmitter Space (New York, 2016), the Handel Street Projects Gallery (London, 2017) and the Venice Biennale (2019). She has been exhibiting widely, including at the Selma Feriani Gallery (2018), the National Archaeological Museum of Umbria (Italy, 2019) and the Jardin des Plantes du Parc du Belvédère (Tunis, 2021). Her work is part of various private and public collections such as the Frac Poitou-Charentes, Centre des livres d'artistes (Limousin), Fond d'art contemporain de Paris and the British Museum.

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Inji Efflatoun (Cairo, 1924-1989)

Born to a wealthy family from Cairo's French-speaking aristocracy, Inji Efflatoun started painting very early on and was introduced by Egyptian surrealist painter Kamel el-Telmissany to the "Art et Liberté" ("Art and Freedom") movement, and engaged from 1940 in intense militant activity. One of the first women to study in the arts department of the University of Cairo, she campaigned for gender equality in Egypt and Europe and published several manifestos. Inji Efflatoun became renowned in the 1950s in Egyptian and international artistic circles. Her work was presented at the new Egyptian Pavilion at the 1952 Venice Biennale and at the 2nd São Paulo Biennale in 1953. In the late 50s, probably influenced by her meeting with the Mexican muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros, her style moved further towards socialist realism. In 1959, she was arrested for her clandestine political activism by Nasser's forces and imprisoned for over four years. From her liberation in 1963 to her death in 1989, Inji Efflatoun devoted herself to painting with sporadic political engagement. Her work was shown in Egypt and Europe, and she became a respected figure in the art world. She continued to manifest her interest in the working class through her art. However, her style has become more contemplative, with greater importance given to reserve, which she calls "white light". Inji Efflatoun's pictorial work and militant legacy, documented in her writings and memoirs, are part of the modern history of Egypt and have widely circulated in the Arab world. Part of her work is shown at the Museum of Modern Art in Cairo. It has been the subject of a growing interest in Europe in the past few years as well as studied and written about in universities in Europe and the United States.

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Malaika Temba (Washington DC, 1996)

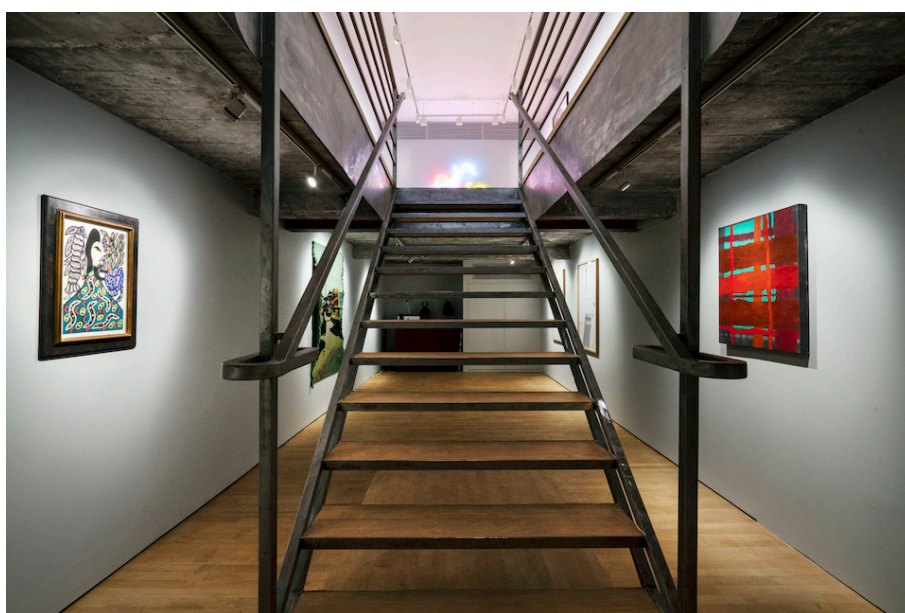
Malaika Temba is a Textile Artist currently based in New York. She has been moving her entire life: to Saudi Arabia, Uganda, South Africa, Morocco, then Maryland. Her lens and creative process are global, nourished by these experiences, and also influenced by art at the intersection of visuals and sound. In addition to her studio practice, Malaika has worked as Assistant Art Director and Print Designer at Pyer Moss, a Design Consultant at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and is currently an Adjunct Professor in the Textiles Department at the Rhode Island School of Design. Malaika is originally from D.C. and Tanzania and graduated with a BFA in Textiles from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2018. Malaika has worked for contemporary artists including Jim Drain, Kenya (Robinson), and Anthony McCall. She has shown her work at Miami Art Week, the 2019 MET Gala, and on the runway at New York Fashion Week. She has been featured in exhibitions at venues such as Mindy Solomon Gallery in Miami (solo), Allouche Gallery in New York (group), and The Yard in New York (group), and features in public and private collections worldwide. She is the 2021 recipient of National Young Arts Foundation's Jorge M. Pérez Award.

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Zoulikha Bouabdellah (Moscow, 1977)

Zoulikha Bouabdellah grew up in Algiers, moving in 1993 to France, where she obtained her masters from ENSBA-Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-arts Paris-Cergy in 2002. Multidisciplinary artist, her work combines video, photography, drawing, sculpture, and installation. She directed the 2003 video *Dansons*, in which she melds French and Algerian archetypes by executing a belly dance to the French national anthem. In 2005, she participated in *Africa Remix* at the Centre Pompidou, and three years later in the Tate Modern's festival *Paradise Now! Essential French Avant-garde Cinema 1890-2008*. Zoulikha Bouabdellah has participated in numerous exhibitions, including at the Mori Art Museum, the Brooklyn Museum, the Menil Collection, the Museum für Moderne Kunst and the Centro Atlantico de Arte Moderno. Her installations, video, and drawings question icons, dominant representations, motifs, and ornaments by juxtaposing them to geopolitical dynamics and global issues linked to conflicts, sexuality, or the status of women. This deconstruction of view operates through a reflection upon culture, production, and industrialization. Zoulikha Bouabdellah has been awarded the Abraaj Capital Art Prize, the Prix Meurice pour l'Art Contemporain, and the Villa Medici Hors les Murs. Her works are part of public and private collections in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, China, and the United States.

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