

Monia Ben Hamouda

Biography & CV

Born 1991. Milan, Italy

Lives and works between al-Qayrawan, Tunisia and Milan, Italy.

Monia Ben Hamouda (Milan,1991), is a Tunisian-Italian visual artist, working between al-Qayrawan and Milan.

Following the belief that each individual is inextricably connected to their family tree and the psychological universe of their ancestors, Ben Hamouda attempts to master her influences in a contemporary and constantly changing landscape. Born into a Muslim community as the daughter of an Islamic calligrapher, she navigates and confronts her generational heritage through what she calls a shamanic process – creating works that act as gestural exorcisms of the expectations placed upon her by tradition and the politicized present, drawing their power from the urgency of expression. Her visual language, which translates into a broad range of formal approaches, is steeped in cultural-religious symbology and rituals.

She earned a BFA at Brera Academy of Fine Art in Milan and is currently an Affiliated artist resident at the American Academy in Rome. She was awarded with the Maxxi Bvlgari Prize (2024), the Vordemberge-Gildewart Foundation Grant (2024), the Fondazione Merz Prize (2024), the Museion Audience Award (2024), the Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant (2022), the Italian Council for Contemporary Art (2023; 2024).

Her work is featured in public collections such as: MAXXI, Rome; FRAC Bretagne, Rennes; Museion, Bolzano; Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin; TBA21 Thyssen - Bornemisza Collection, Madrid; FRAC Corsica, Corse.

Education

BFA at Brera Academy of Fine Art, Milan IT.

Solo Exhibitions

2025 *Solo show*, Curated by Gioia del Molin, Museo Casa Rusca, Locarno
Solo show, curated by Thomas Conchou, La Ferme du Buisson, Noisiel (France)

YA'ABURNEE – يقبرني, curated by Anissa Touati, Selma Feriani Gallery, La Goulette (Tunisia)

2024

MAXXI BVLGARI PRIZE IV, curated by Giulia Ferracci, MAXXI National Museum of 21st Century Art, Rome
NYX, double exhibition with Maude Léonard-Contant, Istituto Svizzero, Milan

2023 *About Telepathy and other Violences*, ChertLüdde, Berlin
The Destruction of the Idols of Ka'ba, Casa Encendida, Madrid
2022 *Remarkably Clear, Almost Invisible*, curated by Anthony Discenza, Ashes/Ashes, New York
Wudu Diorama, curated by Anthony Discenza, Lower Cavity, Boston
Hamra, curated by Karen Vestergaard Andersen and Helen Nishijo Andersen, Ariel Feminism, Copenhagen
The eye, the hands, The Lunacy of Lunar Sightings, curated by Anissa Touati, Jevouspropose, Zurich
2021 *Night of Hinnā*, ChertLüdde, Berlin
Two suns upon Shatt al Jarid, curated by Nestor Garcia Diaz, Carles Àngel Saurí, Paula García-Masedo, Pols, Valencia
2019 *Extended protection, Allegoric Defence*, curated by Camilla Edström Ödemark, Gallery CC, Malmö
2017 *MIRANDA*, Pane Project, Milan
It Won't Only Kill You, it will Hurt the Whole Time You're Dying, Double solo with Michele Gabriele, OJ, Istanbul

Group Exhibitions

2025 14th Taipei Biennial 2025: *Whispers on the Horizon*, Curated by Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath, Taipei
Group show, Curated by Francesco Urbano Ragazzi, Palazzina Bagni Misteriosi, Milan
2024 Milan Drawing Week, Spazio Lima, Milan
A soft edge to break a sword, ChertLüdde Potsdamer Straße 97, Berlin
Kin, Spiritvessel, Espinavessa
Survival Kit, Curated by Jussi Koitela, Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art, Riga
Sex Reenchanted, Curated by Mehveş Ungan, Heidelberger Kunstverein, Heidelberger
Renaissance, Curated by Leonie Radin, MUSEION Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Bolzano
EXPOSURE. Art, culture, fashion in and out of the showcase, Curated by Katya Inozemtseva, MUDEC – Museum of Cultures, Milan
2023 *Darker, Lighter, Puffy, Flat*, curated by Laura Amann, Kunsthalle Wien, Wien
L'autre Musée, The Treasures Of A Major Contemporary Art Collection, Frac Bretagne, Rennes Paris Internationale, w/ ChertLüdde, Paris
Spirit Vessel Residency, curated by Sira Piza and Andrew Birk, Espinavesa
My Demons My Angels, ChertLüdde, Berlin
Olga Fröbe-Kapteyn – Deep Knowledge, Kunsthalle Mainz, Mainz
Retrofuture, collection, MACRO – Museum of Contemporary Art of Rome, Rome
www, curated by Natalia Serkova & Vitaly Bezpalov, Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen
2022 *The Lying Body: Only the Futures Revisit the Past*, curated by Emanuele Guidi, Arge/kunst, Bolzano

A Feminine Lexicon, curated by Pia Diamandis, Giacomo Donati and Elena Tortelli, Museo Salvatore Ferragamo, Florence

2021 *Cry me a River*, curated by Treti Galaxie, Combo – Official lounge Artissima, Turin

Museo Diffuso Contemporaneo, Serralunga d'Alba
Ducato Prize winners exhibition, Volumnia, Piacenza
Perno 4, curated by Musketeers, project coordinator Clarissa Tempestini,
Museo Diffuso Contemporaneo, Serralunga d'Alba
Ducato Prize winners Exhibition, Volumnia, Piacenza

2020 *Endless Nostalgia*, curated by Treti Galaxie, 101 Numeri pari, Museo Pecci Prato, Piazza del Campidoglio Rome and Online

Collagen Shadows, curated by Zoë De Luca, ADA, Rome
Blade Banner, curated by Dafne Boggeri, Sprint & Istituto Svizzero,, Museo Civico di Scienze Naturali, Milano

Love Data – Alios 16 me Biennale d'Art, Contemporain Théâtre Cravey Pavillon, La Teste-de-Bûch

2019 *NORTHERN LIGHTS*, curated by Something Must Break, Alta art space, Malmö

Unsupported Message Format, curated by Pierre Clement, Galerie Valeria Cetraro, Paris

Orrido 120 residency, curated by Something Must Break and Zoe De Luca, Swan Station, Buce del Piombo

Swamp Horses, curated by Andrew Birk, *Spirit Vessel + ALTAN*, Espinavesa

2018 *WET*, Haunt project space, Yogyakarta

Swamp Thing versus Man-thing, curated by Anthony Discenza, Et.al gallery, San Francisco

First I Have to Put my Face On, Like a Little Disaster, curated by Cristina Gigliotti, Polignano a Mare

Hope, curated by New Scenario, Universitätssammlungen Kunst, Dresden

Trigger Party #6, curated by Siliqoon, Marselleria Permanent Exhibition, Milan

Fantasy Direct vol II, The Wrong – Digital Art Biennale, Nathan Road, Hong Kong

2017 *The Bunt*, curated by Fred Powell, Ginny Projects, London

Assiette ou Virage et Dérapage, curated by Something Must Break, Milan

2016 Milano Film Festival, Milano

VideoEspanso, RivoliDue Fondazione per l'Arte, Contemporanea, Milan

2014 *L'Intimità dell'immagine come luogo in comune*, curated by Gianni Caravaggio, Viafarini DOCVA, Milan

Curatorial Projects

2024 *To Romanticize with Indecision*, Curated by Monia Ben Hamouda & Michele Gabriele, Cassina Projects, Milan

Residencies & Lectures

- 2025 Residency at American Academy in Rome - Bvlgari MAXXI American Academy
in Rome Affiliated Artist in collaboration with MAXXI and Whitney Museum, Rome
- 2024 Artist Talk at MAXXI - Museo nazionale delle arti del XXI secolo
Artist Talk at Italian Embassy in Riga, Latvia
- 2023 Artist Talk at Kunsthalle Mainz, Germany
- 2022 Lower Cavity Residency Holyoke, Massachusetts
- 2021 Talk at Artissima Fair, Turin
Visiting Professor at Istituto Marangoni, Florence
Visiting Professor at Hochschule für Bildende Künste, Dresden
- 2019 Orrido 120 residency, Swan Station, Buco del Piombo
- 2016 Academy Awards residency, Viafarini, Milan
- 2015 Filmidee summer residency, Filmidee, Sardinia
- 2014 Jury member at Filmmaker Festival, Milan