

Jellel Gasteli
Biography & CV

Born 1958. Tunis, Tunisia
Lives and works in Tunis, Tunisia

Jellel Gasteli is a prominent photographer whose practice is closely tied to Africa, the Maghreb region, the Mediterranean, the Sahara, as well as to his French-Tunisian heritage. His photographic approach was once grounded in large-scale black-and-white silver prints and transitioned to digital photography through an appropriation of colour. Vernacular walls -the subject of his fascination- are surfaces shaped by time, gesture, and context and serve as both his subject and frame. These fragments of urban façades, found in cities like Tunis, Tangier, Marrakech, and Cairo, carry layers of anonymous, unintentional marks that resonate with the aesthetic sensibilities of certain painters such as Mark Rothko, Nicolas De Stael...etc. He considers photography a form of subtractive abstraction drawn from reality, using it in a strict, unembellished manner to provoke a shift in perception. His artworks are in a constant dialogue with architectural surfaces; walls where successive layers of paint and plaster reveal the transience of time. As new colours overwrite older ones, the materials and hues that are captured in his work are transformed into witnesses of history.

Gasteli's photographs have been shown in several prestigious institutions such as the 32Bis, Tunis, Tunisia; Institut du Monde Arabe, France; the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., U.S.A and the Museum Für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany as part of the group exhibition *The Divine Comedy: Heaven, Hell and Purgatory Revisited by contemporary African artists*.

His work can be found in several prestigious public collections including the Fonds National d'Art Contemporain, France; the Institut du Monde Arabe, France; La Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris, France; the Solomon R. Guggenheim in New York, U.S.A.; the Museum Kunst Palast, Düsseldorf, Germany; the Sindika Dokolo Collection, Luanda, Angola and the Tunisian Ministry of Culture in Tunis.

Education

1985 Graduate from the National School of Photography. Arles. France

Solo Exhibitions

2025
Hortus. Selma Feriani Gallery. Tunis. Tunisia

2021
En Tunisie. Selma Feriani Gallery. Sidi Bou Said. Tunisia

2018

Carnets de Tanger et de Marrakech. Selma Feriani Gallery. Sidi Bou Said. Tunisia
Carnets de Tanger et de Marrakech. Galerie Le Salon H. Paris. France
Barkhanes. Le 32bis. Tunis. Tunisia

2017

Les Carnets de Tanger et Marrakech. Institut Français de Tunisie. Tunis. Tunisia

2012

Rock the Kasbah. Dégagements...la Tunisie un an après. Institut du Monde Arabe. Paris. France

2010

Objects in The Mirror Are Closer Than They Appear. Lubumbashi Biennale. Lubumbashi. RDC

2002

Série blanche. Institut du Monde Arabe. Paris. France

Group Exhibitions

2025

Structures. The Joburg Contemporary Art Foundation. Johannesburg, South Africa

2017

The Straight Six: Afrique Capitales. Gare Saint Sauveur. Lille, France
Biennale des photographes du monde arabe contemporain. Institut du Monde Arabe. Paris, France

2016

Dak'Art. Biennale de l'Art Africain Contemporain de Dakar. Sénégal

2014

The Divine Comedy: Heaven, Hell, Purgatory revisited by Contemporary African Artists. Washington D.C., U.S.A.

2007

7th Rencontres de Bamako. Bamako. Mali

2005

Eclipse: Africa Remix. Italy

Collections

Fonds National d'Art Contemporain. Paris. France
Institut du Monde Arabe. Paris. France
Maison Européenne de la Photographie. Paris. France
Solomon R. Guggenheim. New York. U.S.A.
Museum Kunst Palast. Düsseldorf. Germany
Sindika Dokolo Foundation. Luanda. Angola

Ministry of Culture. Tunis. Tunisia

Publications

2025 Genius of the place: Al-Bunt - Texte de Nabil Naoum, Saudi Arabia Ministry of Culture. Skira editore

2019 En Tunisie (réédition) - éditions Lalla Hadria, textes de Abdelwahab Meddeb et de Albert Memmi

2018 Barkanes - éditions Lalla Hadria.

2001 Il Fiore Sbocciato - éditions AF Bari, texte de Abdelwahab Meddeb.

2001 Série Blanche - co-édition éditions Eric Koehler, Alesco et Agnès B.

1998 En Tunisie - éditions Eric Kœhler, textes de Abdelwahab Meddeb et de Albert Memmi.

1991 Blanches Traverses du Passé - éditions Fata Morgana, texte de Abdelwahab Meddeb.

1991 Tanger Vues Choieses - éditions Eric Kœhler, textes de Paul Bowles. Bourse Villa Médicis Hors Les Murs. Ministère français des Affaires étrangères.