

Malek Gnaoui

Biography & CV

Born 1983. Gabes, Tunisia

Lives and works Tunis, Tunisia

The work of Malek Gnaoui engages issues around social conditions and the notion of human sacrifice. Working across video, ceramics, printmaking, installation, sound and performance, his approach towards materiality enabled him to develop an alternative practice that combines everyday materials with traditional techniques, such as grinding bricks into powder which becomes lithography pigment. He often introduces powdered brick to clay to produce sculptures with a specific quality. The physical involvement of production allows a performative aspect to emerge. The artist employs sculpture, video, and installation as his mediums to delve into the concept of the "spiritual". He accomplishes this by critically examining popular imagery and traditional practices within his work.

Malek Gnaoui graduated from the L'Ecole d'Art et de Décoration in Tunis and trained at the ceramics center of Sidi Kacem Jlizi in Tunis, Tunisia.

He has recently exhibited ambitious projects and exhibitions at October Salon (Belgrade Biennale), Belgrade, Serbia / KANAL Centre Pompidou, Brussels, Belgium / Sharjah Biennale, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates / Dom Museum, Vienna, Austria / Dream City biennale, Tunis, Tunisia / Shubbak Festival, London, UK / Jaou, Tunis, Tunisia / Institute of Islamic Culture, Paris, France.

Gnaoui's work forms part of many prestigious collections of art including the Fondation H, Antananarivo, Madagascar / Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK / The British Museum, London, UK / The Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden, Marrakech, Morocco / La Boîte Centre d'art contemporain, Tunis Tunisia / Fatma Kilani Collection, Tunis, Tunisia / The Kamel Lazaar Foundation, Tunis, Tunisia.

Education

2006 L'Ecole d'Art et de Décoration. Tunis. Tunisia

Selected Solo Exhibition

- 2020 Essaïda-Carthage: Between the past and the Future.
Curated by Matthieu Lelièvre. Sidi Bou Said. Tunisia
- 2015 Fabrica 0464. Selma Feriani Gallery. Sidi Bou Said. Tunisia
- 2014 Abattoir. Selma Feriani Gallery. London. UK
- 2008 Abattoir. Talmart Gallery. Paris. France
Yahia Gallery. Tunis. Tunisia

Group Exhibitions

- 2024 60th October Salon (Belgrade Biennale), Belgrade, Serbia
 2024 Dream City from Tunis to Brussels. KANAL Centre Pompidou. Brussels. Belgium
 2023 Sharjah Biennale. Sharjah. United Arab Emirates
 2022 Dream City Biennale. Tunis. Tunisia
 2021 Arm & Reich. Dom Museum. Vienna. Austria
 Banal Complexities. Philomena Plus. Vienna. Austria
 Des Airs. La Boîte. Tunis. Tunisia
 2020 Untitled. Selma Feriani Gallery. Tunis. Tunisia
 2019 Dream City Biennial. Tunis. Tunisia
 Material insanity. MACAAL. Marrakesh. Morocco
 Climbing Through the Tide. Curated by Basak Senova.
 B7L9 Art Station. The Kamel Lazaar Foundation. Tunis. Tunisia
 2019 Sculptures. Selma Feriani Gallery. Sidi Bou Said. Tunisia
 2017 Dream City Biennial. Tunis. Tunisia
 Jaou. Tunis. Tunisia
 Shubbak festival. London. United Kingdom
 2016 Masnaa. Casablanca. Morocco
 2015 Dream City biennial. Tunis. Tunisia Politics II.
 Talmart Gallery. Paris. France
 Kitsh. A. Gorgi Gallery. Sidi Bou Said. Tunis.
 Tunisia Friche la Belle de Mai. Marseille. France
 Ouverture. B'chira Art Center. Tunis. Tunisia
 2014 Miniartextil. Montrouge. France
 Dé-Généation. A.Gorgi Gallery. Sidi Bou Said. Tunis. Tunisia
 Autour de la Terre. Tribute to Earth. Le Violon Bleu Gallery.
 Sidi Bou Said. Tunis. Tunisia Slash. A. Gorgi Gallery. Sidi Bou Said. Tunis.
 Tunisia
 Politiques II. Centre d'Art Vivant de Tunis. Tunis. Tunisia
 2013 Politiques. Talmart Gallery. Paris. France
 Auto-Portrait. B'chira Art Center. Tunis. Tunisia Act II.
 B'chira Art Center. Tunis. Tunisia
 2012 Politiques I. Centre d'Art Vivant de Tunis. Tunis.
 Tunisia Frontière. B'chira Art Center. Tunis. Tunisia
 Palais Kheireddine - Musée de la ville de Tunis. Tunis. Tunisia
 Inaugural exhibition. B'chira Art Center. Tunis. Tunisia
 2011 Exhibition at Arcima Gallery. Paris. France Duo exhibition.
 Arcima Gallery. Paris. France
 2010 6th edition of the Salon of Sculpture and Ceramics. Sfax.
 Tunis. Tunisia
 2009 De Céramique. Sfax. Tunis. Tunisia
 Exhibition at Palais El Abdellia. La Marsa. Tunis. Tunisia Annuelle des Artistes
 Plasticiens Tunisiens au Musée de la Ville de Tunis. Tunis. Tunisia
 2008 Trio exhibition. Yahia Gallery. Tunis. Tunisia

Annuelle du Centre National de la Céramique d'Art. Tunis. Tunisia
2007 Exhibition at Yahia Gallery. Tunis. Tunisia
Exhibition at Cherif Fine Art Gallery. Sidi Bou Said. Tunis. Tunisia
Annuelle du Centre National de la Céramique d'Art. Tunis. Tunisia
2006 Exhibition at Palais El Abdellia. La Marsa. Tunis. Tunisia

Collections

Fondation H. Antananarivo. Madagascar
Dom Museum. Vienna. Austria
Victoria & Albert Museum. London. United Kingdom
British Museum. London. United Kingdom
The Kamel Lazaar Foundation. Tunis. Tunisia
The Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden (MACAAL). Marrakech.
Morocco
La Boîte Centre d'art contemporain. Tunis. Tunisia
Fatma Kilani Collection. Tunis. Tunisia.

Artist Residence

October Salon Belgrade Biennale Residency
Philomena Plus. Vienna. Austria
Cité des Arts Paris. France
Centre des Arts Vivants de la Ville de Rades. Tunis.
Tunisia National Centre of Art Ceramics. Tunis. Tunisia