

Thameur Mejri

Biography & CV

Born 1982. Tunis, Tunisia

Lives and works Nabeul, Tunisia

Thameur Mejri investigates complexities of human existence by identifying parallels between paradoxical ideas of violence, innocence, guilt and shame. He blurs the boundaries between public and private in an effort to confront individual and collective values, particularly in contemporary Tunisian society. Mejri examines what happens in the painting and through the painting, where indifference bids farewell, and affect becomes activated; it strikes back with force.

The human figure acts as a central element throughout his compositions, the vigorous manner in which Mejri places the figure onto the canvas, reflects the relationship between painting and painter, suggesting self-portraits that battle to fully emerge and reveal themselves. There is an interplay between painting and film. He approaches painting as a film director and he films with the vision of a painter, allowing for the qualities of each discipline to manifest upon one another; the chaos and movement in his paintings are a testament of this. Through his drawings, vast compositions on stretched or floating canvases as well as murals, Thameur Mejri's works question the notions of humanism and the construction of human beings on a social scale, by representing several paradoxes that emerge from political and cultural practices.

He graduated from the Institute of Fine Arts in Tunis, and he is currently teaching at the Higher Institute of Fine Arts in Nabeul.

He has exhibited widely, including the 13th Cairo Biennial, Cairo, Egypt / Dakar Biennale of Contemporary African Art, Dakar, Senegal / The New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, USA / The Museum of Contemporary Art in Lyon, France / N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, Detroit, USA / New York International Independent Film and Video Festival, New York, USA / Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) L.I., New York, USA. He also has had solo exhibitions at Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK / Gallery 1957, Accra, Ghana / Selma Feriani Gallery, Tunis, Tunisia / B7L9 Art Station. The Kamel Lazaar Foundation, Tunis, Tunisia / Montague Contemporary, New York, USA / Uitstalling Art Gallery, Genk, Belgium.

Mejri's work forms part of many prestigious collections of art, including Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE / The Sindika Dokolo Foundation, Luanda, Angola / Dalloul Art Foundation, Beirut, Lebanon / The New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, USA / The Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden (MACAAL), Marrakech, Morocco / The Museum of Contemporary Art in Lyon, France / The Kamel Lazaar Foundation, Tunis, Tunisia.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2024 Works 2023-2024. MAD Art Gallery. Poznań. Poland.
- 2024 Fallen Archetypes. Selma Feriani Gallery. Tunis. Tunisia.
- 2023 Beneath the Stains of Time. Uitstalling Art Gallery. Genk. Belgium.
- 2022 Solo show Curated by Pier Paolo Pancotto. SECCI Gallery. Milano. Italy.
- 2022 Ashes to Dreams. Montague Contemporary. New York. USA.
- 2022 Until My Veins Collapse (States of Emergency). Curated by Salma Tuqan & Matthieu Lelièvre. The Museum of Contemporary Art in Lyon. Lyon. France.
- 2021 States of Exception. Curated by Matthieu Lelièvre. B7L9 Art Station. The Kamel Lazaar Foundation. Tunis. Tunisia.
- 2020 Walking Targets. Curated by Matthieu Lelièvre. Selma Feriani Gallery. Tunis. Tunisia.
- 2019 Eroded Grounds. Gallery 1957. Accra. Ghana.
- 2017 Heretic Spaces. Elmarsa Gallery. Dubai. UAE.
- Before you split the ground. Jack Bell Gallery. London. UK.
- 2012 Disaster Pieces. Elmarsa Gallery. Tunis. Tunisia.
- 2010 mâle (Dieu) épouvantail. Artyshow Gallery. Tunis. Tunisia.

Group Exhibitions

- 2024-2025 Afropolitan: Contemporary African Arts. The New Orleans Museum of Art. USA.
- 2024 A Tapestry of Contemporary African Art. Curated by Laura Day Webb and John Cino. MOCA L.I, In collaboration with Montague Contemporary. New York. USA
- 2023 African Abstraction II. Montague Contemporary. New York. USA
- 2022 African Abstraction. Montague Contemporary. New York. USA
- 2019 13th Cairo biennale. Cairo. Egypt
 - Incarnations: African Art as Philosophy (Sindika Dokolo Art Collection).
- BOZAR Centre for Fine Arts. Brussels. Belgium
 - What is a Box. Elmarsa Gallery. Tunis. Tunisia
- 2018 Cultural Narratives. Selections Art Magazine. Dubai. UAE
 - Tunisian Pavillon. XIII Dakar Biennale of Contemporary African Art 2018. Dakar. Senegal
 - Mitli Mitlak (Like you. Like me). N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art. Michigan. USA
- 2016 Yesterday is Tomorrows Memory. Elmarsa Gallery. Dubai. UAE Place de la Gare. Ghaya Art Gallery. Sidi Bou Said. Tunisia Effervescence. Institut des cultures d'islam. Paris. France
- 2015 You Love Me. You Love Me Not. Galeria Municipal Almeida Garrett. Porto. Portugal
 - Coup de crayon. Ghaya Art Gallery. Sidi Bou Said. Tunisia
 - Intervalles. Elmarsa Gallery. Tunis. Tunisia
 - Untitled. Elmarsa Gallery. Tunis. Tunisia
 - 8th Edition Printemps des Arts Plastiques de La Marsa. Palais Abdellyah. Tunis. Tunisia

Collection. Kanvas Art Gallery. Tunis. Tunisia
2009 Point Rouge Gallery. Montreal. Canada
7th Edition Printemps des Arts Plastiques de La Marsa. Palais Abdellyah.
Tunis. Tunisia
Annual Exhibition of the Visual Artists Association. Tunis. Tunisia
2008 6th Edition Printemps des Arts Plastiques de La Marsa. Palais Abdellyah.
Tunis. Tunisia
2007 Group Exhibition. The Infusion Gallery. Los Angeles. USA
2005 Galerie Ali Guermessi. Tunis. Tunisia

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Selected Film Screenings

2009 Art Now Film Festival. Damascus. Syria
The New York Film Festival. New York. USA Festival de l'Image et Art Video.
Sicily. Italy
2008 Filmclick Online Festival
Le Cinéma Libre. Tunis. Tunisia
2007 Add to film fest section: 2007 - New York International Independent film
and video festival.
2006 Image Video Art Festival. Hammamet. Tunisia
International Film Festival of Kelibia. Kelibia. Tunisia

Awards

2007 Best Experimental Short Film. New York International Independent Film
and Video Festival. Los Angeles. USA

Collections

The New Orleans Museum of Art. USA
Barjeel Art Foundation. Sharjah. UAE
The Sindika Dokolo Foundation. Luanda. Angola
The Museum of Contemporary Art in Lyon, France
Dalloul Art Foundation. Beirut. Lebanon
The Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden (MACAAL). Marrakech.
Morocco
The Kamel Lazaar Foundation. Tunis. Tunisia