

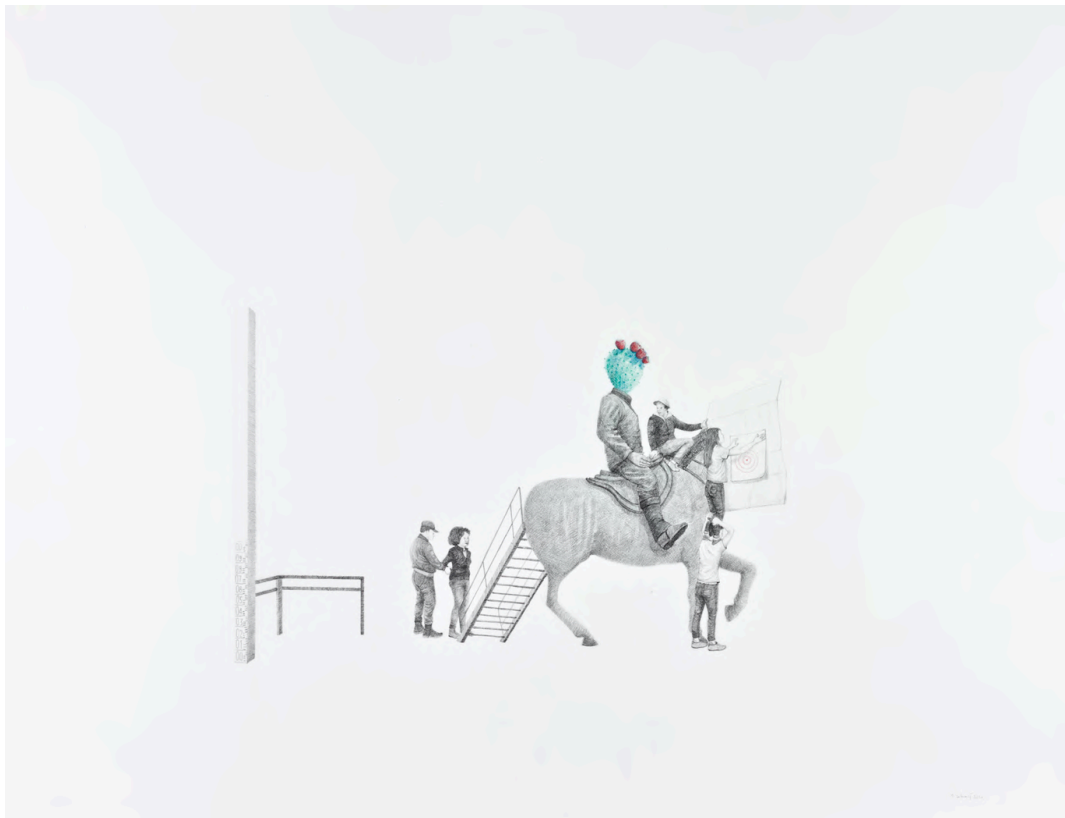
MASSINISSA SELMANI

*Rien sinon du rêve au doigt*

Solo show – May 19<sup>th</sup> to June 26<sup>th</sup> 2021.

*For his second solo show at the gallery, Massinissa Selmani pursues his exploration of themes that are dear to him, around drawing and the absurd, while orienting his work towards new avenues of reflection. For the first time, he presents sculptures that echo the scenes represented in his drawings. Some of his new series take on a more political feature, inspired by recent events and acts of violence. Indeed, the artist's works are constructed from the confrontation and juxtaposition without logical coherence, of real elements that he draws from his collection of press cuttings and imagination. Through this process of drawing that combines documentary form and fiction, the artist highlights the ambiguous and absurd aspect of reality. His works thus subtly divert our perception of images and plays on the border between the real and the unreal.*

*In homage to the poet Jean Sénac, the title of the exhibition "Rien sinon du rêve au doigt" is borrowed from one of his poems entitled "Trouvure".*



*Prélude de l'élan visible #2, 2020, Graphite and coloured pencil on paper, 50 x 65 cm*

For the first time in his work, Massinissa Selmani introduces installation in the form of sculptures and unique objects. This use of a new medium gives a concrete aspect to his drawings and underlines all the more the incongruity of the situations he represents. The materialisation of the drawings in three dimensions plunges the visitor into the heart of the artist's universe, composed of improbable scenes, facts and postures that seem almost familiar. At the same time tragic and comic, these images evoke territories and situations of conflict through a disturbingly strange staging, insinuating doubt about the veracity of media representations and, more broadly, questioning testimony through drawing.

Indeed, politics is at the heart of the artist's work, which constantly questions the place of the individual in the collective. For instance, the *Prélude de l'élan visible* series, is inspired by recent events: police brutality, filmed arrests, closed borders, burned cars, unbolted statues. The occultation of the context by the white background of the sheet brings a certain lightness to the drawings, allowing the artist to draw our attention to the situation rather than to the action taking place. Through a subjective reinterpretation of the details of these media events, Massinissa Selmani attempts to reveal the unfathomable and to make us see something else with serendipity.

Some of the works are accompanied by textual fragments from poems by Jean Sénac and Paul Nougé. Massinissa Selmani mixes words together, inspired by the Surrealists. Enigmatic phrases resonate with the sketches, contributing to the mysterious character of the environment that invades the gallery. The exhibition is thus conceived as a fictional conflict zone, plunging the visitor into an oneiric world where time is suspended, as political as it is poetic.

Alongside these new explorations, Massinissa Selmani continues anterior series such as the *Aube insondable* initiated in 2018, in which the artist moves away from his press inspiration to conceive enigmatic, floating and imaginary spaces through a play on values and the suggestion of forms; or the *Altérables*, introduced in 2010, in which the artist reinterprets photographs taken from the written press through a process of stratification on tracing paper, which adds elements and gives new meanings to the original scenes.

*Massinissa Selmani is born in 1980 in Algier. He lives and works in Tours, France.*

*After a degree in computer science in Algeria, he integrated the École supérieure des Beaux-arts de Tours.*

*Massinissa Selmani was awarded by a special mention of the jury at the 56th Venice Biennale in 2015. He participated in a large number of solo and group exhibitions in France and abroad.*

*Laureate of the Art Collector Prize and the SAM Prize for Contemporary Art in 2016, Massinissa Selmani also exhibited in 2017 at the 13th Sharjah Biennial (UAE), the Drawing Biennial (London) and, in 2015, the Dakar Biennial and the 13th Biennale de Lyon.*

*His work is now part of important public and private collections, such as the Musée national d'art moderne, Centre Pompidou (Paris); the Musée d'art contemporain de Lyon, the Frac Centre and the Samdani Art Foundation (Bangladesh).*



*L'aube insondable #4*, 2020, Graphite and coloured pencil on paper, 75 x 100 cm



*Untitled #7*, 2021 (Altérables), Photocopy, graphite and colour pencils on tracing paper, 15,5 x 19,8 cm



*Après l'ordinaire #1, 2021, Coloured pencil on photocopy, Graphite and coloured pencils on tracing paper, adhesive, 50 x 38,5 cm*

