

Nicène Kossentini
Selma Feriani Gallery
Art Basel Hong Kong | 1C34

SELMA
FERIANI
GALLERY

8 Place Sidi Hassine
2026 Sidi Bou Said, Tunis
(+216) 71 74 48 83
Info@selmaferiani.com
Selmaferiani.com

Selma Feriani Gallery
Gallery Statement

Selma Feriani Gallery was established during early 2013 in Sidi Bou Said, Tunisia and represents emerging and mid-career artists from the MENA region and the globe. The gallery is housed in a 1960's former convent located at the heart of Sidi Bou Said in Tunisia; the open courtyard of the original building remains a central exhibiting feature of the space.

Over the years, the gallery has set up critically and publicly successful solo and group shows as well as staged public interventions internationally. *Selma Feriani Gallery* aims to discover exceptional young artists and moreover support their career development over the long term run. We see our gallery as a space where artists and their body of work can be discovered, investigated, nurtured and then placed.

The body of artists' work represented is predominantly concept-based aiming towards expressive or descriptive content. These young artists represent an attitude, and an ethos concerning the role of art in a wider intellectual, cultural, social and political context; constantly challenging the boundaries of visual art to express their interpretation of the contemporary art scene as well as questioning the fraught and kinetic era we live in.

The guiding principles in selecting an artist have been an instinctive conviction about the importance or potential of their work and a perception that they are leaders within their chosen field of endeavour. Thus there is no stylistic or generational thread running through the program but strong elements of aesthetic and intellectual stimulation. Furthermore, our goal also extends to closely work side by side with international museums and non-commercial institutions in view to develop long-term critical appreciation of our artists' body of work.

Selma Feriani Gallery continues to attend high profile international art fairs such as Art Basel in both Basel and Hong Kong, Art Dubai, Paris Photo, ABC Berlin, Drawing Now in Paris and 1:54 in London; presenting groundbreaking on-site projects in order to achieve maximum exposure and critical appreciation. Finally, our portfolio of artists are invited to participate at biennials (Venice, Sao Paulo, Sharjah and Vienna amongst other) and their body of work continue to be added to major private and museum collections such as the New Museum in New York, LACMA in Los Angeles, Tate Modern and British Museum in London, Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris to name a few.

Nicène Kossentini
Artist Statement

Nicène Kossentini was born in Sfax, Tunisia and currently lives and works between Tunis and Paris. Her videos, photographs, sculptures, works on paper and paintings question the current events in the world. In this perspective, she always slips down the quest of aesthetic, beauty and poetry to confront cold violence.

Each of her works is an invitation to experience a symbiosis with a space of life that is both close and uncertain. Playing with black and white contrasts and zones of semi-visibility, Kossentini creates singular and minimalist environments. Her photographs and videos track the traces of sites and faces on the verge of disappearance, hypnotizing the spectator looking forward to an imminent event. The voluntarily slow movement of her videos restores the phenomenological dimension of time to suggest a better sense of place, rendering it strangely enigmatic.

According to art historian Christine Buci-Blucksman, three kinds of looks that can be called *Icarian Eye* are running throughout Nicene Kossentini's body of work: Look up, look from above and across, or look dipping down. Looking for a floating or lacking horizon, Nicene Kossentini is making the sky a 'matrix' between reality and fiction.

With her photographic and video work of temporal landscapes, Kossentini not only evokes her home – which she describes as 'secret gardens', but also evokes the secret gardens that may reside in each one of us. This metaphorical conception of space, a mental space that is neither fictional nor real, invites the spectator to plunge into an indecisive world between presence and absence, between forgetting and remembering.

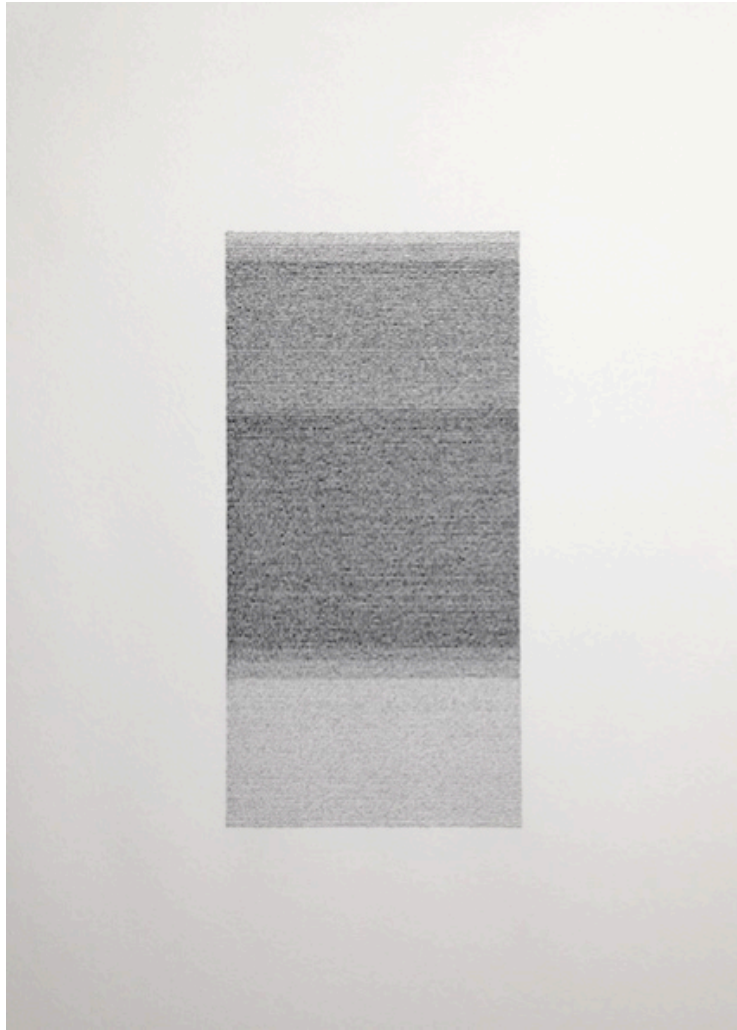
Nicène Kossentini's work has been shown during several solo and collective exhibitions including: the MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst; Frankfurt, Germany; Gwangju Museum of Art; Gwangju, South Korea; The National Museum of Bahrain; Manama, Bahrain; Pori Art Museum; Finland; Museum of Tunis and Kheireddine Palace; Tunis, Tunisia; Museo Arte Contemporanea Ticino; Bellinzona, Switzerland; National Centre for Contemporary Arts; Moscow, Russia; Museum of Contemporary Art of Algiers; Algeria and Circulo de Bellas Artes; Madrid, Spain.

Nicène Kossentini
Ecoulement series

Ecoulement is based on a superimposition of three layers of text manuscripts by the great sufi, philosopher and poet Muhyiddin Ibn Arabi. As in her previous series *Shakl*, Nicène Kossentini insists on the act of copying relentlessly the ancient texts of Arab philosophy. Her very small and uninterrupted handwriting complicates the reading. It becomes illegible as the lines are being superimposed. The words flow and lose their meaning, turning into sheer abstract forms.

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Ecoulement
Nicène Kossentini
2016

Ink on paper etching
75h x 57w cm
Unique
Ecoulement series



Ecoulement (artwork detail)

Nicène Kossentini

2016

Ink on paper etching

75h x 57w cm

Unique

Ecoulement series

Born 1976. Tunis, Tunisia

Diploma of Arts Appliqués Fine Arts Institute of Tunis. Tunis, Tunisia

Diploma of Études Approfondies en Arts Marc Bloch University. Strasbourg, France

Currently Assistant Professor of Experimental Cinema University of Tunis. Tunis, Tunisia

Lives & Works Tunis, Tunisia

Solo Exhibitions

- 2016 Fugitive. Casa Árabe. Córdoba, Spain
2015 Dispersal. Muratcentoventidue. Arte Contemporanea. Bari, Italy
2014 The Flight of the Butterfly or the Myth of Icarus Revisited. Curated by Christine Buci-Glucksmann. Selma Feriani Gallery. Tunis, Tunisia
Histoires en 5 Haltes. Curated by Djalila Cadi-Hanifi. Hamma Gallery. Algiers, Algeria
2012 Paraître. Galeria Sabrina Amrani. Madrid, Spain
2011 Boujmal. Selma Feriani Gallery. London, UK
2010 They Abused Her By Saying. La Boite-Espace d'Art Contemporain. Tunis, Tunisia
2009 What Water Gave Me. Ammar Farhat Gallery. Tunis, Tunisia

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2016 Effervescence. Curated by Michket Krifa. Institut des Cultures d'Islam. Paris, France
L'Iris de Lucy. Musée Départemental d'art Contemporain de Rochechouart.
Rochechouart, France
L'Iris de Lucy. Contemporary African Women Artists. MUSAC. Leon, Spain
Art Dubai Film. Dubai, U.A.E.
2015 Moving Image Art Across the Arab World. Malmö Konsthall, C-Salen. Malmö, Sweden
2014 Recreational Purpose. Bahrain National Museum. Manama, Bahrain
The Divine Comedy; Heaven, Hell, Purgatory by contemporary African artists. MMK
Museum für Moderne Kunst. Curated by Simon Njami. Frankfurt, Germany
Songs of Loss and Songs of Love. Curated by Sam Bardaouil and Tim Fellrath.
Gwangju Museum of Art. Gwangju, South Korea
2013 Portraits. Selma Feriani Gallery. London, UK
25 years of Arabic Creativity. Institut du Monde Arabe. Paris, France
Still Fighting Ignorance & Intellectual Perfidy. Pori Art Museum. Finland
2012 Rosige Zukunft. Ifa-Galerie. Berlin, Germany
Chkoun Ahna. Carthage Museum. Tunis, Tunisia
Festival Miradas de Mujeres. Madrid, Spain
AIVA. Angelholm International Video Art Festival. Angelholm, Sweden
Frontières. B'chira Art Center. Tunis, Tunisia
Dégagements. Institut du Monde Arabe. Paris, France
2011 Toquai. Biennale de photo de Paris. Musée Quai Branly. Paris, France
Magreb Dos Orillas. Circulo de Bellas Artes. Madrid, Spain
Traversée. Palais des Archevêques. Narbonne, France
No Sky, No Earth. Snow Falls Ceaselessly. Dar Mima, Tunisia
2010 Dialogue Among Civilizations. Durban, South Africa
Ils l'ont leurrée en disant... La boîte Espace d'art contemporain. Tunis, Tunisia
Split. Darb Centre. Cairo, Egypt
2009 Aftermath. The 25th Alexandria Biennial. Alexandria, Egypt
Forms and Topographies: African Cityscape in Flux. Berlin, Germany
La Rue. Ammar Farhat Gallery. Tunis, Tunisia
Périféricks. Centre d'art Neuchâtel. Neuchâtel, Switzerland
The 2nd Thessaloniki Biennial of Contemporary Art. Thessaloniki, Greece
Looking Inside Out. Kunsternes Haus. Oslo, Norway

- 1st International Video Art Festival. AllArtNow. Damas, Syria
2008 Reorientations. Contemporary Arab Representations. Brussels, Belgium
Le portrait. Ammar Farhat Gallery. Tunis, Tunisia
Liteside Festival. Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Without Borders. Thirtieth Biennial of Art of Pontevedra. Pontevedra, Spain
Fifth Mediterranean Biennial of Arts. Tunis, Tunisia
2nd Edition of the International Meetings of the Photography. Fes, Morocco
Women of Images: Private Space. Museum of Boulogne. Billancourt, France
L'Art au féminin. Museum of Contemporary Art. Algiers, Algeria
2007 The City and Beyond. African Meetings of Photography. Bamako, Mali
Women of Images: Private Space. Museum of Tunis Kheireddine Palace. Tunis,
Tunisia
2006 The Revealed Image. Orientalism / Contemporary Art. Museum of Tunis Kheireddine
Palace. Tunis, Tunisia

Selected Residencies

- 2016 Second Rybon International Artists Workshop. Iran
2013 Ministry of Culture Residency. Bahrain
2012 A.R.I.A/ Artist Residency in Algiers. Algeria

Collections

British Museum. United Kingdom
Fondation Blachère. France
Kamel Lazaar Foundation. Tunisia
Museum of Modern Art. Tunisia
Sindika Dokolo Foundation. Angola