

Born 1983 in Gabes, Tunisia, Malek Gnaoui
Lives and works in 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.

His approach showcases a vibrant acuity that not only questions materiality as a starting point but also engages with broader societal and political contexts.

His artistic practice is distinguished by its reflection on bodies, elements, particles and masses. The physical involvement of production allows a performative aspect to emerge. Gnaoui's use of a diverse range of mediums leads him to delve into the concept of the "spiritual", critically examining popular imagery and traditional practices. His exploration spans from ancient civilizations to contemporary times, weaving together collective memories.

He has recently exhibited ambitious projects and exhibitions at 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 / The Kamel Lazaar Foundation, Tunis, Tunisia.

He 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.

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 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

Artist Residence

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