

SULGER-BUEL GALLERY



Slimen El Kamel

Born 1983, in Sidi Bouzid, Tunisia

Lives and works in Tunis, Tunisia

Slimen El Kamel was born in Mazouna in the region of Sidi Bouzid in Tunisia. Nurtured in the popular narrative, his childhood was moulded by the imagination of the rural environment where the tradition of folk tales and poetry flourished. His studies at the Higher Institute of Fine Arts in Tunis allowed him to crystallise this literary and intellectual heritage into a singular artistic practice. A practice whose genesis opens through writing and draws its resources from its texts, sometimes poetic or literary, sometimes memorial or improvised. The daily writing exercise, while it delimits, extends the horizons of its physical universe.

Not far from free figuration, the artist questions the relationship between the real and the imaginary through the dramatization of the constellated image. Images of memory, of a reality taken from everyday media, intersect in a pictorial field where, on the surface of a picture, the rustling of a dialogue begins without end, not for the narrative of a fact, but for a festival of narratives.

His more recent work considers the links between the human body and everyday consumable objects. El Kamel considers the ways in which virtual and lived reality hinge upon visual and auditory channels of communication. Through figurative, symbolic and abstract forms he creates at once a narrative unfolding on the canvas and a subtle critique of the effects of mass culture on traditional ways of life.

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London SE1 0BZ

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El Kamel holds a Masters in painting from the Tunis Institute of Fine Arts. He has participated in exhibitions and art fairs in Africa and Europe. El Kamel was an art resident at the Living Arts Center at Rades for a year and paid multiple artistic and research visits to Paris, Algeria, and Bahrain. He was a finalist of the inaugural Sovereign MENA Art Prize in partnership with Start. This prize awards 30 of the most exciting mid-career artists across the MENA region with an exhibition in Alserkal Avenue, Dubai (2016). El Kamel's selected group exhibitions include *Yesterday is tomorrow's memory: a group show of work from North Africa*, Elmarsa, Dubai (2016), *NOW* (2017) and *Trop Comprendre* at Sulger-Buel Lovell (2017), curated by Andrew Lamprecht. El Kamel's solo exhibitions include *Underskin* at Sulger-Buel Lovell (2018). The artist is also active as an art critic.

Education

(M.A) Fine Art (Painting Major), Tunis Institute of Fine Art, Tunis, Tunisia

Public and Private collections

Ex-Prime Minister of Qatar (Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani)

Blacher Foundation

MACAAL Museum

Lazar Foundation

Jean-Marc Decrop Art Collection

Fondation Gandur pour l'Art

Jean-Paul Agon former CEO l'Oreal

Awards

2016 Cachan Biennale Prize (Winner), Cachan, France

Residencies

2018 Blachère Foundation, Dakar, Senegal

2009 The Living Arts Center, Rades, Tunisia

Solo Exhibitions

2019 *Pulse*, Kloser Contemporary Art, Online gallery

2018 *Underskin*, Sulger-Buel Gallery, London, UK

2011 *Carapace*, Artyshow Gallery, La Marsa, Tunisia

Select Group Exhibitions

2021 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair (Sulger-Buel Gallery), NY USA

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- 2020 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair (Sulger-Buel Gallery), New York, USA
- 2019 El Marsa Gallery, Tunis, Tunisia
Contemporary Tunisian Aesthetics, Museum of Modern Art Kuwait, Kuwait
1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair (A.Gorgi Gallery), London, UK
1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair (Sulger-Buel Gallery), New York, USA
- 2018 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair (A.Gorgi Gallery), London, UK
1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair (Sulger-Buel Gallery), Marrakesh, Morocco
Dakar Art Biennale, Dakar, Senegal
- 2017 *NOW (Slimen El Kamel & Neill Wright)*, Sulger-Buel Gallery, London, UK
1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair (A.Gorgi), London, UK
Trop Comprendre curated by Andrew Lamprecht, Sulger-Buel Lovell, London, UK
Art Paris Art Fair (A.Gorgi), Paris, France
AKAA Art Fair (Sulger-Buel Gallery), Paris, France
1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair (Sulger-Buel Gallery), Marrakesh, Morocco
Cape Town Art Fair (Sulger-Buel Gallery), Cape Town, South Africa
Turbine Art Fair (Sulger-Buel Gallery), Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2016 Elbirou Gallery, Sousse, Tunisia Art Dubai (El Marsa Gallery), Dubai, U.A.E.
Yesterday is Tomorrow's Memory, El Marsa Gallery, Dubai, U.A.E.
1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair (A.Gorgi Gallery), London, UK
Biennale d'Art Contemporain de Cachan (Laureate), Paris, France
- 2015 *Talan*, Tunis, Tunisia
SMAP Art, Union of Arts, Tunis, Tunisia
Art Dubai Dubai, U.A.E.
- 2012 *Black board*, Acropoleum of Carthage, Tunis, Tunisia
Mahmoud Messadi Memorial Exhibition, Tunis, Tunisia

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