

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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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.

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Education

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

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

2018 *Underskin*, Sulger-Buel Lovell, London, United Kingdom

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

Select Group Exhibitions

2019 El Marsa Gallery, Tunis, Tunisia

Contemporary Tunisian Aesthetics, Museum of Modern Art Kuwait, Kuwait

1-54 Art Fair – New York (Sulger-Buel Gallery), New York, U.S.A

1-54 Art Fair – Marrakech (Sulger-Buel Gallery), Marrakech, Morocco

2018 1-54 Contemporary Art Fair – London (Agorgi), London, United Kingdom

1-54 Contemporary Art Fair – Marrakech (Sulger-Buel Lovell), Marrakech, Morocco

Dakar Biennale, Dakar, Senegal

2017 *NOW*, Slimen El Kamel & Neill Wright, Sulger-Buel Lovell, London, United Kingdom

1-54 Art Fair – London (Agorgi), London, United Kingdom

Trop Comprendre curated by Andrew Lamprecht, Sulger-Buel Lovell, London, U.K

Art Paris Art Fair (Agorgi), Paris, France

Akaa Art Fair (Sulger-Buel Lovell), Paris, France

1-54 Art Fair – Marrakech (Sulger-Buel Lovell), Marrakech, Morocco

Cape Town Art Fair (Sulger-Buel Lovell), Cape Town, South Africa

Turbine Art Fair (Sulger-Buel Lovell), Johannesburg, South Africa

2016 Elbirou Gallery, Sousse, Tunisia

Art Dubai (El Marsa Gallery), Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Yesterday is Tomorrow's Memory, El Marsa Gallery, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

1-54 Art Fair – London (Agorgi), London, United Kingdom

Biennale d'Art Contemporain de Cachan (Laureate), Paris, France

2015 *Talan*, Tunis, Tunisia

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SMAP Art, Union of Arts, Tunis, Tunisia

Art Dubai Dubai, United Arab Emirates

2012 *Black board*, Acropoleum of Carthage, Tunis, Tunisia

Mahmoud Messadi Memorial Exhibition, Tunis, Tunisia

Select Press, Reviews & Articles

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