

THE GOOD SEVEN YEARS

RAFRAM
CHADDAD

Aug 31 — Oct 31
B7L9 Art Station

السبعة السنين
الباهين
رfram حداد



KAMEL LAZAAR
FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE

Rafram Chaddad

The Good Seven Years

Solo show

From August 31st to October 31st

B7L9 Art Station

“Narration is a crucial element of my work as it allows me to shift the discourse towards the everyday rather than the canonical. It's something that we, as artists, can achieve, and it's part of our role.”

-Rafram Chaddad-

The Kamel Lazaar Foundation invites you to the upcoming exhibition titled *The Good Seven Years* by the artist Rafram Chaddad. Crafted as an exceptional visual and sensory experience, the exhibition delves into the artist's rich family heritage, offering profound reflections on the interplay between past and present, memory and identity.

Rafram Chaddad's visual and material artistic exploration draws inspiration from his family's aesthetic journey. He employs the video camera as a tool to retrace his family members' voyages, using footage of 'louages' (public transport van) between Tunis and the island of Djerba to establish connections across different eras. Navigating meticulously composed environments of objects, sounds, and lights, visitors to *The Good Seven Years* are prompted to engage with the artist's world through layers of culinary memories, sights, and aromas that evoke the concept of memory ('fqida').

The exhibition tackles essential questions: How have talismanic objects such as icons, amulets, and clothing shaped and continued to shape various places and identities? The works on display, akin to fragments of a fragmented memory, delve deeply into these notions.

The Good Seven Years embodies the artist's return to his roots and origins. Like sand gently filling a small wooden fishing boat, the motif of "Seven Years" takes on profound significance, fostering cultural exchange and stimulating contemplation about the enduring influence of embodied traditions.

The exhibition offers a captivating journey through time and space, merging past and present in a mesmerizing visual and sensory symphony.

The opening of Rafram Chaddad's first solo show in Tunisia *The Good Seven Years* is scheduled on Thursday 31 August at 7:00 pm at B7L9 along with the book launch of the artist at 8:00 pm which will be hosted on the B7L9 Rooftop by curator Phillip Van den Bossche in the presence of Yigal Nizri, author of the biographical review of the book.

ABOUT THE ARTIST - RAFRAM CHADDAD

Born in Djerba in 1976, an island off the southern coast of Tunisia, Rafram Chaddad is an artist whose photographs, films, and multimedia installations explore archives, migration narratives, and the sense of belonging. His work defamiliarizes the familiar and familiarizes the strange. Operating between Tunis and New York, Chaddad's work reflects personal experiences while commenting on broader socio-political issues such as migration, displacement, identity, and belonging.

Over the past two decades, he has created numerous short films and installations exhibited worldwide in cultural institutions, galleries, and museums, including Kunst im Tunnel in Düsseldorf, Kunstraum in New York, and Kayu Lucie Fontaine Gallery in Bali. Chaddad has held solo exhibitions at the Mucem Museum in Marseille and the Maximilian Forum in Munich. Since 2021, Chaddad has served as a visiting critic in Columbia University's Master of Fine Arts program.

PHILLIP VAN DEN BOSSCHE - CURATOR

Born in 1969, Phillip Van den Bossche is an influential figure in the art world. His tenure as curator of contemporary art at the Van Abbemuseum from 2001 to 2007 included exhibitions featuring artists like Richard Long and Lily van der Stokker. As director of Mu.ZEE from 2007 to 2019, he enriched the collection with works by James Ensor and others.

Since 2019, he has split his time between Marrakech and Ostend, supporting young Moroccan artists. In 2023, he co-founded the Malhoun Art Space in Marrakech, showcasing emerging talents. Phillip's educational contributions include lectures at institutions like MoMA, and his essays for art magazines cover topics from Richard Long to Surrealism. Besides his career, he has collaborated on a children's book and holds a passion for vinyl music. Armed with a background in art history and a commitment to nurturing talent, Phillip Van den Bossche significantly influences the art world's trajectory.

B7L9 ART STATION

The B7L9 is the first art station in Tunis located in a rural suburb that offers a full annual program of artistic and cultural events. As the first permanent location of the Kamel Lazaar Foundation, the B7L9 is a tool to promote the implementation of the Foundation's missions and actions: Provide a place for artists to experiment, develop and exhibit their practice and conduct research; Offers the artistic and scholarly community a place for exchange, sharing, meeting and debate to explore new ideas and concepts; Democratize contemporary art and cultural offers in general by encouraging guest artists to interact with local communities through workshops, seminars, events or outreach programs.

KAMEL LAZAAR FOUNDATION

Since its founding in 2005, the Kamel Lazaar Foundation for Art and Culture has launched several actions and projects whose local and regional impact highlight the vitality and diversity of the cultural scene in the MENA region.

KLF's aim is to reflect and implement a postcolonial regional discourse, to rewrite an art history that gives back its place to the different localities, and create bridges and parallels between the different schools and artistic movements that are no longer exclusively articulated around the history of occidental art.

The KLF supports the production and accompaniment of artists, research, publication and exhibition initiatives and develops partnerships and exchanges with international cultural actors, in order to promote Tunisia as a hub for contemporary art.

EXHIBITION INFORMATION

The Good Seven Years exhibition will open on August 31 at 7:00 pm and will run till October 31st. B7L9 Art Station is open from Wednesday to Sunday, 11am to 7pm

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