

LIFE ON THE CAPS

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B7L9___TUNIS

**MERIEEM
BENNANI**

PRESS RELEASE

Meriem Bennani

Life on the CAPS

Solo Exhibition

22 June - 17 August 2023

At B7L9 art station

Following Lydia Ourahmane's spellbinding internationally-touring exhibition *Tassili*, a spiritual, poetic and personal journey by the artist, the Kamel Lazaar Foundation is delighted to present the international exhibition *Life on the CAPS*, a trilogy of films by the Brooklyn-based artist Meriem Bennani. This will be the first time these three films are brought together in an exhibition, and the first exhibition of this work on the African continent and Arabic-speaking world.

With insight, humour, and gravity, Meriem Bennani presents her dreamlike world as a critical deconstruction of our modern society. Between 2018 and 2022, these three films create a universe of the near future that mirrors our own through a mixed technique of computer animation and video.

Steeped in the stories and references of her hometown Morocco and North African culture, Meriem draws us into a role play that allows her to fictionalize and augment reality, inspired by family members and people she met through YouTube and social media. In her work, she exposes, in turn, of border controls and the restrictions on countries of the southern hemisphere, and the concept of the 'nation state' and ideas of cultural unity.

With a humourous approach that is at once tender, sharp, and salient, Meriem Bennani invites us to reposition our view in the world and attempts to draw our attention to sensitive issues affecting humanity as it faces up to increasingly divisive politics.

Music plays a special role in the film, forming an integral part of the unique culture created by the CAPSis. Social media clips, music videos, performances, and documentary footage showcase a variety of culture produced in the fictional world of the CAPS, with music performed by real musicians and rappers. By creating this fictional universe and using contemporary means of storytelling, Bennani offers us the chance to see aspects of our own world in a new light.

Meriem Bennani's new book of the same title as the exhibition will be launched on the occasion of the exhibition. Her most comprehensive publication to date, it was edited by BIDOUN and published by the Renaissance Society. Completing the artist's trilogy, it will be presented on the opening day in the presence of the two editors, Negar Azimi and Tiffany Malakouti, and curator Myriam Ben Salah.

Life on the CAPS is co-commissioned by the Renaissance Society - Chicago with Nottingham Contemporary.

Life on the CAPS will be open to the public at B7L9 from 22 June to 17 August 2023.

The vernissage is scheduled for 22 June 2023 at 6.30pm at B7L9 in the presence of the artist.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Meriem Bennani (b. 1988 in Rabat, Morocco) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She has been developing a shape-shifting practice of films, sculptures and immersive installations, composed with a subtle agility to question our contemporary society and its fractured systems, individual identity, and ubiquitous dominance of digital technologies. Bennani's work has been shown at the Whitney Museum of American Art, MoMA PS1, The Guggenheim Museum, Art Dubai,

The Fondation Louis Vuitton, Public Art Fund, The Kitchen and CLEARING among other venues. This exhibition is made possible by Marilyn and Larry Fields. Major annual support for the Renaissance Society is provided by 247 and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Additional annual support is provided by The MacArthur Fund for Culture, Equity, and the Arts at Prince and The Provost's Discretionary Fund at the University of Chicago. This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

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 opening of *Life on the CAPS* will take place on June 22 at 6.30pm
B7L9 Art Station is open from Wednesday to Sunday, 11am to 7pm

Farouk Shabou, B7L9 Manager
T: + 216 29 263 013 / farouk@klf.tn

Ryma Gtari, Communication Officer
T: + 216 54 294 222 / ryma@klf.tn

For more information about the exhibition:
Karim Sultan, Curating department chief
Karim@klf.tn - Whapp : + 44 79 49 75 99 02