

LYDIA OURAHMANE

# Tassili تاسيلي

16 MARCH – 20 MAY 2023

B7L9 ART STATION



KAMEL LAZAAR  
FOUNDATION

COMMISSIONED AND PRODUCED BY  
SCULPTURECENTER, NEW YORK; KAMEL LAZAAR FOUNDATION, TUNIS;  
RHIZOME, ALGIERS; FONDATION LOUIS VUITTON, PARIS; MERCER UNION, TORONTO;  
AND NOTTINGHAM CONTEMPORARY



B7L9 المحطة الفنية  
Art Station

# Press release

## *Tassili*

An exhibition by Lydia Ourahmane

Curated by Karim Sultan

From March 16th to May 20th

At the B7L9 art station of the Kamel Lazaar Foundation

The Kamel Lazaar Foundation is very pleased to present *Tassili* by Lydia Ourahmane, a film shot in Tassili n'Ajjer (South-East Algeria).

The exhibition will be held from March 16th to May 20th 2023 at the B7L9 Art Station in Bhar Lazreg and will be curated by Karim Sultan.

## The artist and the work

Lydia Ourahmane presents *Tassili*, a film shot in Tassili n'Ajjer. An archaeological area included into the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, which is located in the Sahara Desert, near the border between southeastern Algeria and Libya. Tassili n'Ajjer is home to a huge number of ancient cave paintings and cave formations that illustrate life in the Sahara Desert during prehistoric times.

Following an initial reconnaissance trip, Lydia Ourahmane embarked on a 13 days journey with a team of contributors, friends and local guides. She explored the immensity of this arid plateau with her group, experiencing the hostile conditions of this territory, the access of is limited due to administrative restrictions.

Lydia Ourahmane's film is a meditative experience with a captivating presentation of images – of a felt ancient presence, lost waterways and long-extinct forests – all while travelling through a territory which is disintegrating under the weight of time's gravity.

Utilising in multiple techniques, including high-definition digital cinema videography, analog film, and photogrammetry scanning, these day and night images, focusing on the painted walls or embracing the immensity of this lunar-like landscape, are astounding and meditative. The show is imposing and mesmerizing. A specific soundtrack, whose syncopated rhythm is punctuated by digital animation drawn from the scans of the landscape, has been commissioned to four musical collaborators which include some of the foremost electronic musical artists of today: Nicolas Jaar, Félicita, Yawning Portal and Sega Bodega. *Tassili* was first shown at the SculptureCenter in New York in May 2022, then travelled during the autumn of the same year to Toronto, Paris and Nottingham. In 2023 it was shown in Algiers. Its journey will end at the B7L9 Art Station - Tunis.

*Tassili* by Lydia Ourahmane was commissioned and produced in partnership with SculptureCenter in New York; Nottingham Contemporary in Great Britain; Fondation Louis Vuitton in Paris; Mercer Union in Toronto; Rhizome in Algiers; and the Kamel Lazaar Foundation in Tunis.

## Biography of the artist

Lydia Ourahmane (born in 1992 in Saïda, Algeria) is an artist based between Algiers and Barcelona, a multidisciplinary artist (video, sound, performance, installation, and sculpture) who is considered the most talented artist of Algerian descent of her generation.

*Tassili* is her first institutional solo exhibition in Tunisia, and was her first institutional solo exhibition in New York, where the work premiered. Ourahmane's practice focuses on spirituality, contemporary geopolitics, migration and histories of colonialism.

Recent solo exhibitions included: *Survival in the afterlife*, Portikus in Frankfurt and De Appel in Amsterdam (2021); *Barzakh*, Kunsthalle in Basel and Triangle-Asterides in Marseille (2021); *Solar Cry*, CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts in San Francisco (2020), etc.

Lydia Ourahmane was among the artists shown during the 2017 Jaou - Tunis Contemporary Art Festival.

## **B7L9 Art Station**

The B7L9 is the first art station in Tunis located in a rural suburb that a full annual program of artistic and cultural events. As the first permanent location of KLF, 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.
- Offer the artistic and scholarly community a place for exchange, sharing, meeting and debate to explore new ideas and concepts.
- To democratise contemporary art and cultural practices 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.

## **Useful information**

Date: From March 16th to May 20th

Venue: the B7L9 art station - Bhar Lazreg, Tunis, Tunisia.

Exhibition opening hours: Wednesday to Sunday, from 11 am to 7 pm.

The preview will be held on March 16th, 2023 at 6 pm at the B7L9 Art Station.

Opening hours during the month of Ramadan:

From 11:00 to 16:00 and 20:30 to 23:00 (Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday)

From 11:00 to 16:00 and 20:30 to midnight (Friday & Saturday)

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