

WAITING FOR THE LIGHT TO CHANGE

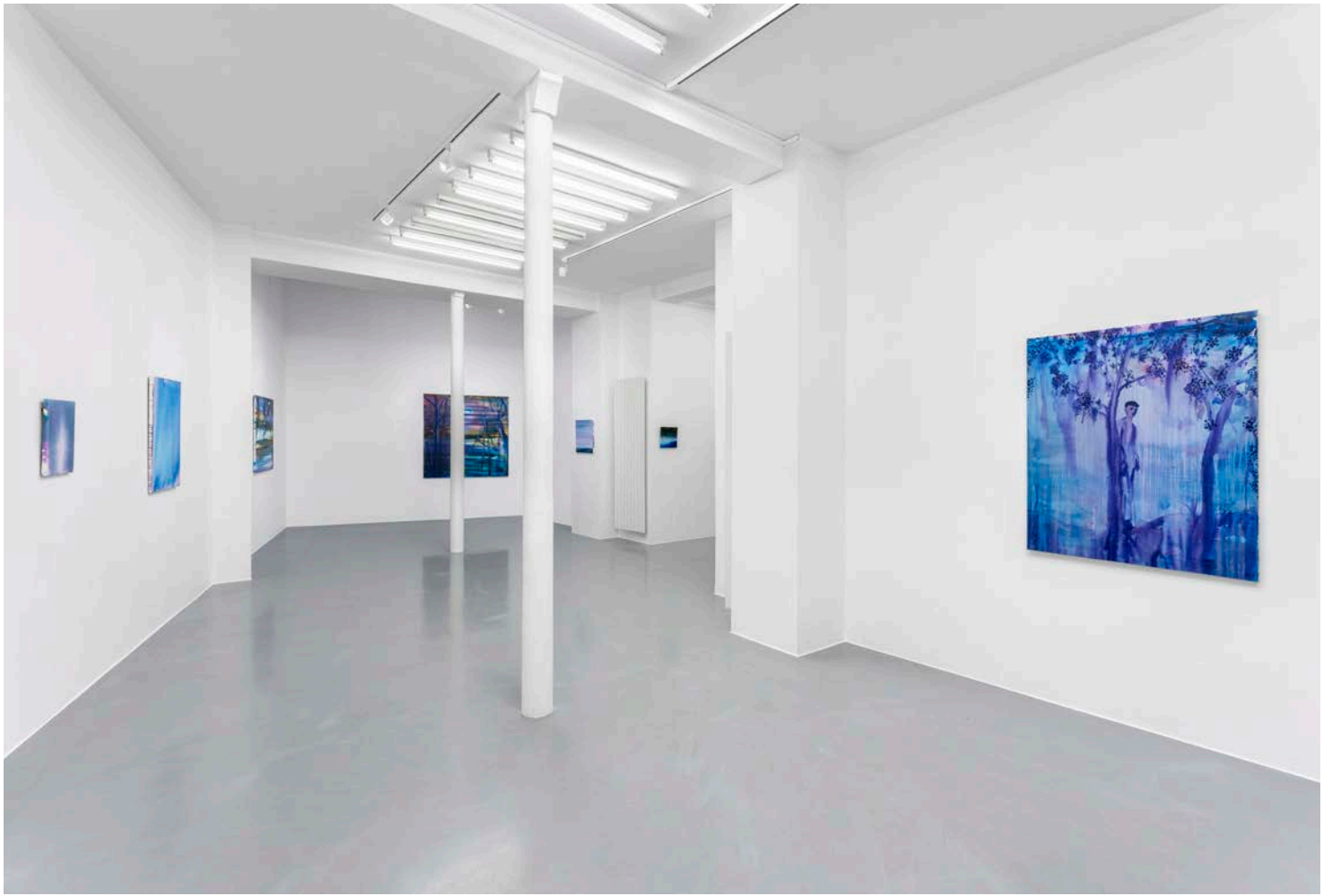
11 JANUARY – 1 MARCH 2025

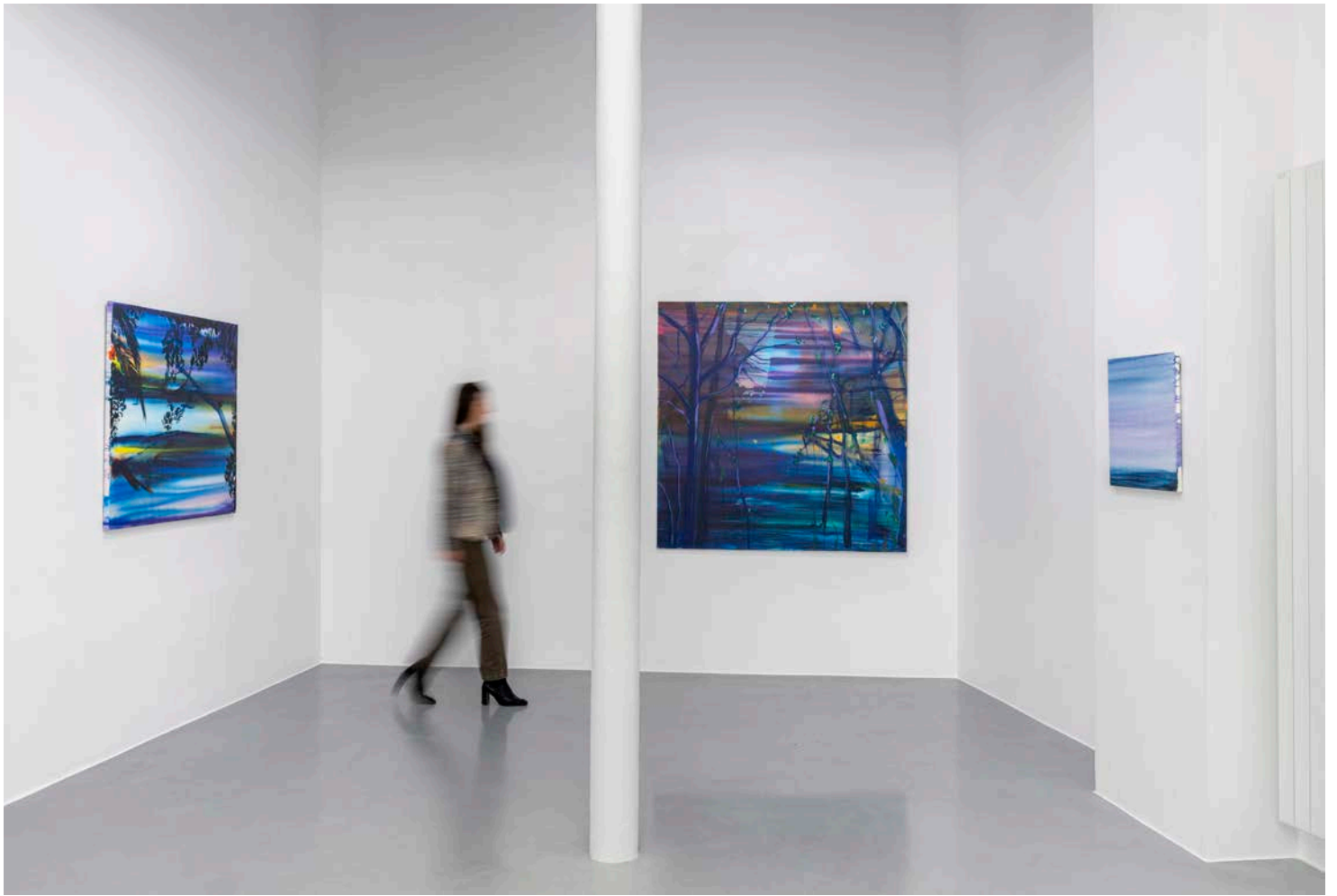


OMAR MAHFOUDI

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WAITING FOR THE LIGHT TO CHANGE

Would representing the light be about catching the intangible through the retranscription of its impression – the very phenomenon that influenced Claude Monet to entitle his work *Impression, soleil levant* (1872-1873), unintentionally foreshadowing the eponymous movement's name of Impressionism? These painters went out of their studio willing to capture the multiple facets of the landscapes, whose faces mutate with the rhythm of the sun.

Painter Omar Mahfoudi experiences the light from the window of his studio. He embraces the image of the day as it passes, giving way to night, the time of dreams. As he remembers the sensation left behind, colour escapes from his brushes, embracing the chromatic palette that transforms the sky. His solo exhibition *Waiting for the Light to Change* unveils as a stroll from dusk to dawn, a nocturnal expedition in search of clarity.

On the walls, one landscape follows another. The ideal playground for moving light, they exhibit Mahfoudi's chromatic experimentations. In his eternal quest for pigment, the colourist ventures into the mysteries of the night. How can colour exist in the dark? Mahfoudi associates the exploration of light with the study of its absence.

The light is revealed, sometimes pure in a monochromatic abstraction, and sometimes shy to dress up the night. The scenes wear amethyst and topaz hues, bathing the daytime panoramas in the unknown. The figures that emerge become shadows. The artist addresses obscurity and the sources of light crossing the gloom. If the sun belongs to the day, the night is not devoid of a

heavenly body either. In a cyclical movement, the moon changes into the sun. The repetition of forms allows the imagination to awaken, leading Mahfoudi's painting towards abstraction. The figures vanish. The matter mixed with water erases the lines until the horizon is blurred. The ocean and the sky merge, ending up reflecting each other.

Painting the environment is an essential part of Mahfoudi's pictorial vocabulary, presenting itself as an escape. The artist recognises his approach in the words of British painter David Hockney who, interviewed in 2019 by the Van Gogh Museum during his exhibition at the same Amsterdam-based institution, said: 'It's not the landscape that's boring, it's the depictions of it that had become boring and I thought that you can't be bored of nature.' Forests and oceans appear on the canvas as the pretexts to embody the existential and technical questions of their creator, taking life in reality as a form of expression of his inner life.

Unfolding as a manifesto for colour, *Waiting for the Light to Change* materialises a lack of closeness to nature and light, a nostalgic need to return to the essential - a metaphor for the gradual erasure of narrative in favour of pure painting that speaks for itself. Naturally, night guides Mahfoudi in his pursuit of abstraction, bringing him closer to the idea of the dream whose memory marks his work. Wouldn't waiting for the light to change finally mean touching the abstract?



OMAR MAHFOUDI

OMAR MAHFOUDI WAS BORN IN 1981 IN TANGIER, MOROCCO. HE LIVES AND WORKS IN PARIS.

Omar Mahfoudi grew up not far from the Detroit, where he discovered painting within his family circle and drawing through personal experiments. But it was at the age of 12 that young Omar developed his eye and his technique at the Catholic school in Tangier, where he took part in art history and plastic arts courses.

After having long proposed compositions marked by the presence of the materials, Omar Mahfoudi turned to the fluidity of liquid acrylic and ink, favouring compositions that play on the border between figuration and abstraction.

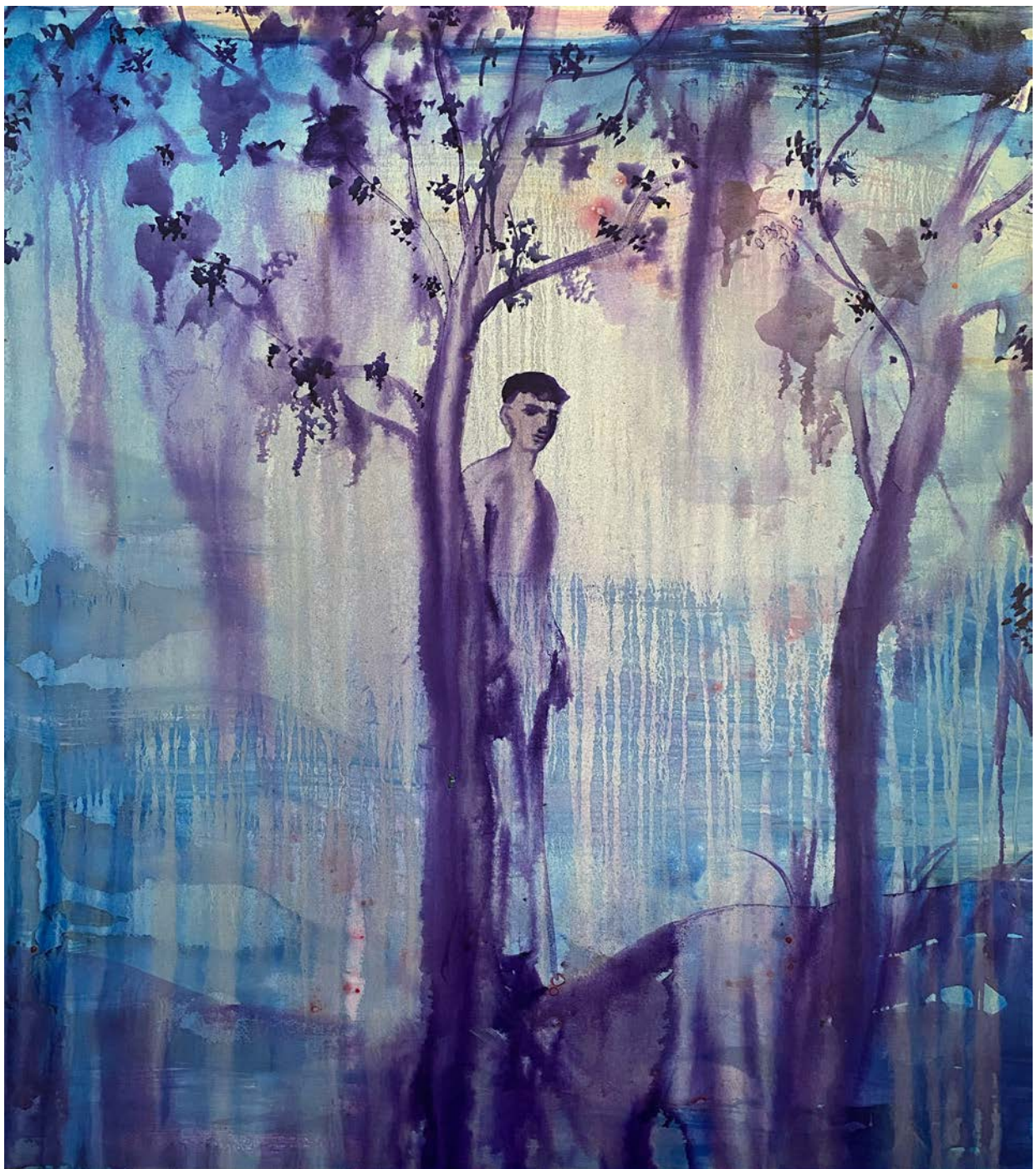
Omar Mahfoudi's boundless admiration for cinema is perceptible in his work as much by the references that are slipped in as by the games of framing, colourimetry and luminosity present in his pictorial work. His life experiences, personal research

and his cultural knowledge feed his poetic and humanistic creations.

Omar Mahfoudi plays with presence and absence through the emptiness that fills his works with a mystery, alongside a form of existential solitude. His compositions can be distinguished sometimes by lush vegetation, sometimes by a desert biome, sometimes by disturbing shadows, sometimes by soothing figures. They unfold in a faded atmosphere, oscillating between lost paradise, melancholic twilight and unfathomable night.

Thus, in this constant balancing act between presence and absence, figuration and abstraction, tension and appeasement, Omar Mahfoudi composes a painting that is both oxymoronic and cinematic.

His work has been presented at numerous international events, such as the 1-54 fair in London in the UK, Art Genève in Switzerland and Art Cologne in Germany.

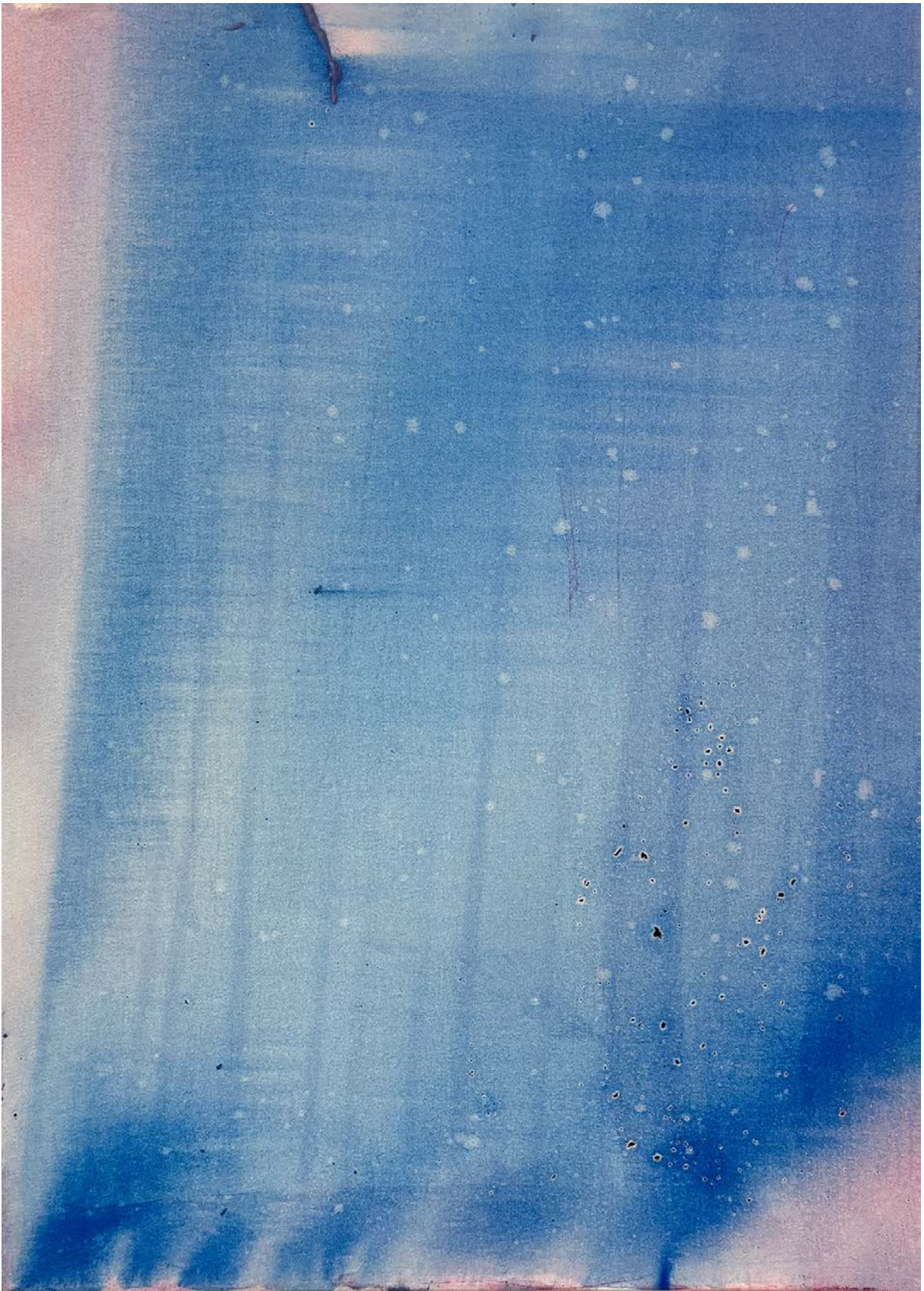


WAITING FOR THE LIGHT TO CHANGE,
2024 Liquid acrylic on canvas
127x109 cm / 50x43 in



MORNING BLUR 1, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas
144x163 cm / 57x64 in





BLURRY LIGHT 1, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas
87x63 cm / 34x25 in



BLURRY LIGHT 2, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas
40x31 cm / 16x12 in



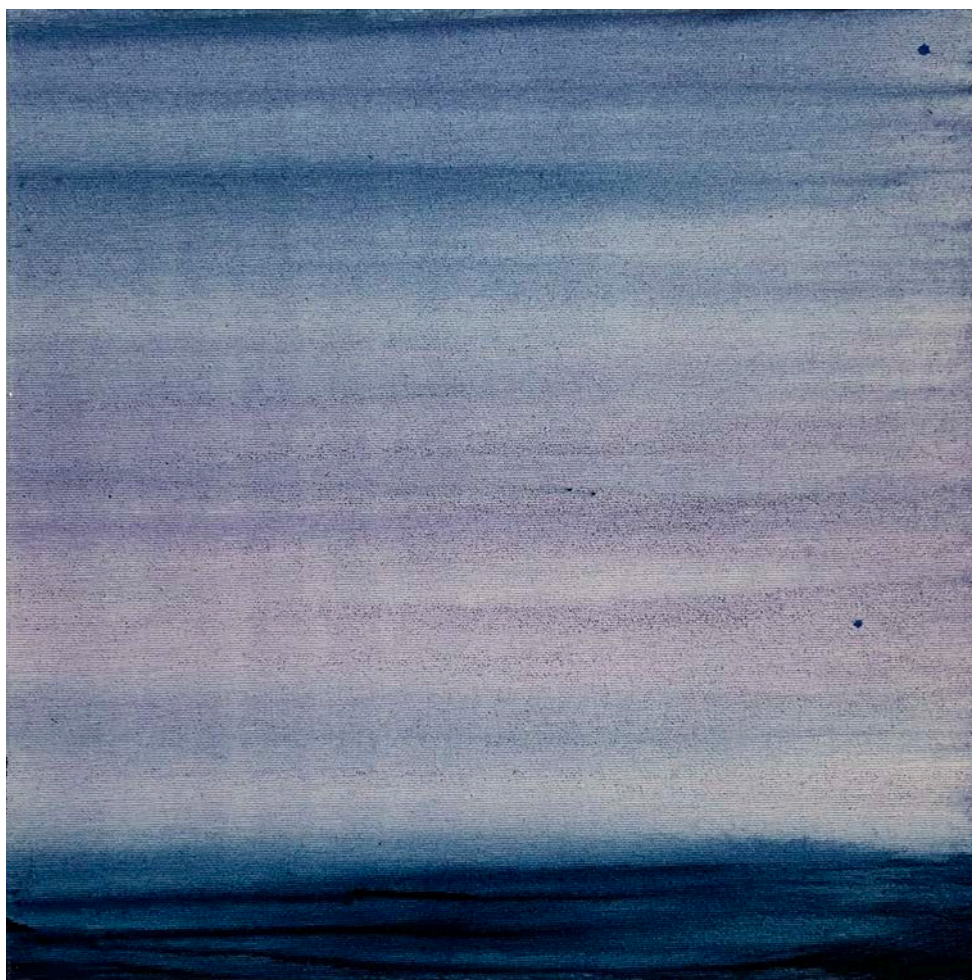


C'EST QUAND LE MATIN ?, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas 100x119
cm / 39x47 in



REFLECTIONS OF THE NIGHT, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas
150x150 cm / 59x59 in





HAZE, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas
50x50 cm / 59x59 in



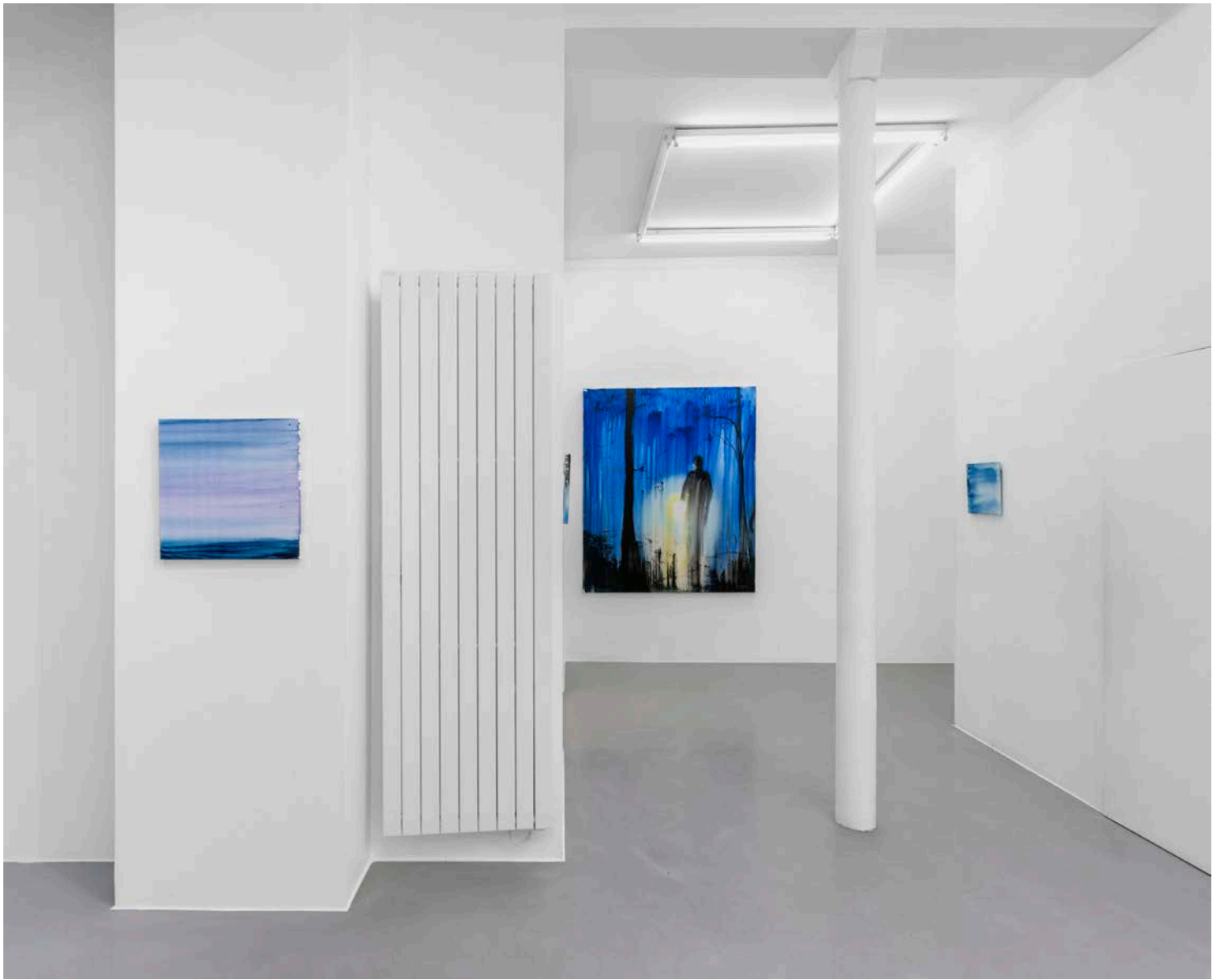
WHEN THE MOON CALLS, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas
30x30 cm / 12x12 in



MOON WAVES, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas
89x130 cm / 35x51 in



THE SEARCHER, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas
180x150 cm / 71x59 in





REFLECTIONS, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas
40x40 cm / 16x16 in



MOON MIST, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas
50x50 cm / 20x20 in



WINTER NIGHT, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas
40x40 cm / 16x16 in



THE TREE OF NIGHT, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas
40x40 cm / 16x16 in



THE TREE OF NIGHT, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas
40x40 cm / 16x16 in

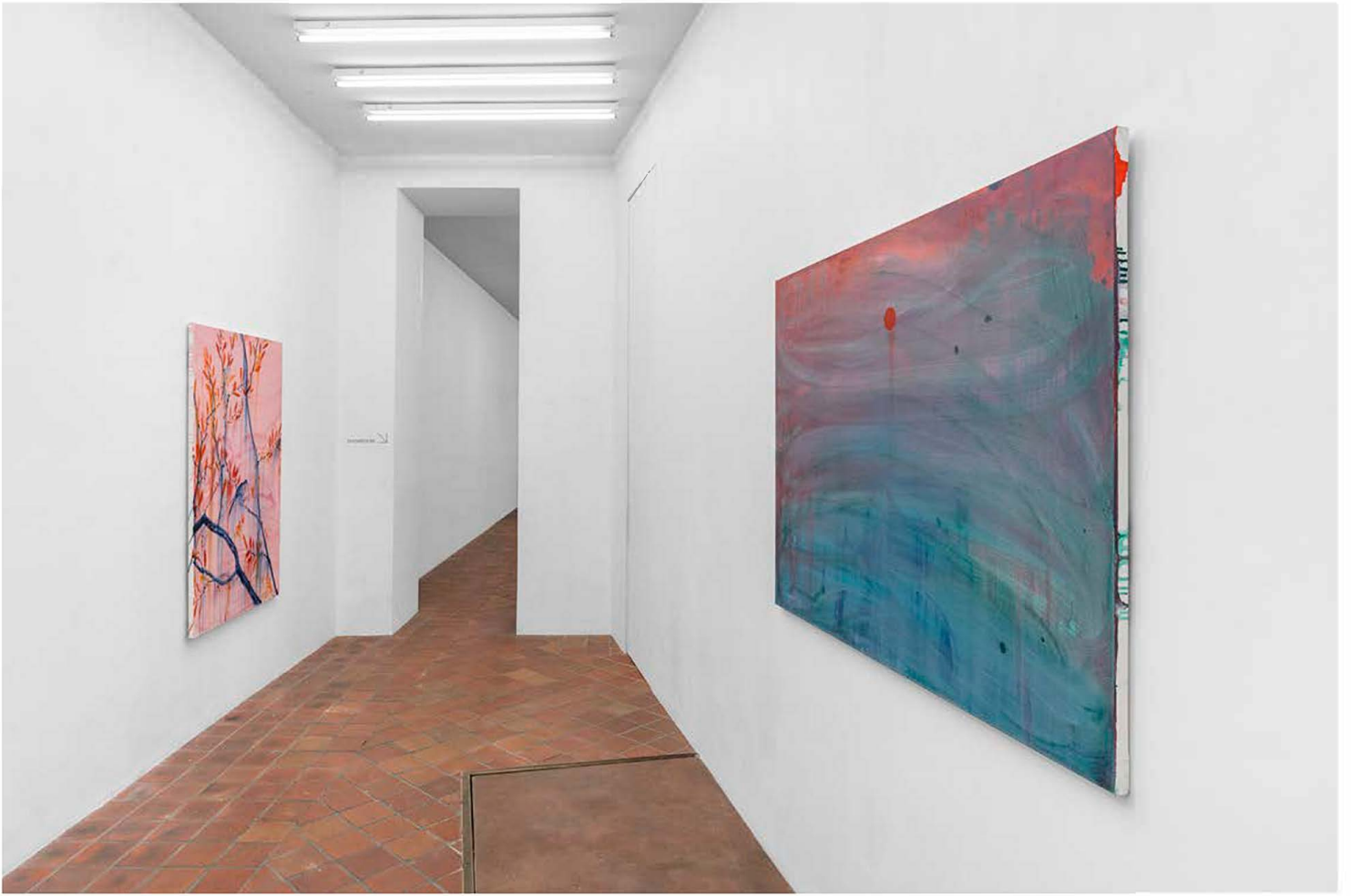


RISING SUN, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas
110x148 cm / 43x58 in





LIKE A BIRD 2, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas
151x101 cm / 59x40 in





MORNING BIRD 1, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas
40x30 cm / 16x12 in



MORNING BIRDS 2, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas
40x30 cm / 16x12 in



MORNING BIRDS 3, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas
40x30 cm / 16x12 in



MORNING BIRDS 4, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas
40x30 cm / 16x12 in



MORNING BIRDS 5, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas
40x30 cm / 16x12 in



MORNING BIRDS 6, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas
40x30 cm / 16x12 in



MORNING BIRDS 7, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas
40x30 cm / 16x12 in



MORNING BIRDS 8, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas
40x30 cm / 16x12 in



ILLUMINATION, 2024
Liquid acrylic on canvas
200x160 cm / 79x63 in

OMAR MAHFOUDI

b. in 1981
Tangier, Morocco
Lives and work in Paris, France



SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

2025

Waiting for the Light to Change, AFIKARIS Galley, Paris, France

2023

Dans la maison, AFIKARIS Galley, Paris, France

I was Dreaming of the Past, Atelier 21 Gallery, Casablanca, Morocco

2022

The Forgotten Branches, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

Art Cologne, Rodolphe Janssen Gallery, Cologne, Germany

2021

El Dorado, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

Waiting in the Oasis, AFIKARIS Gallery x AMA, Cap-Ferret, France

2019

Les Égarés, Château de Trousse-Barrière Art Center, Briare, France

Africa Now!, Retoandri Gallery, Zürich, Switzerland

Botanica, Conil Gallery, Tangier, Morocco

2018

Tanjawi, Point Éphémère, Paris, France

2015

Tanger 1981, Formato Comodo Gallery, Madrid, Spain

Galerie le Purgatoire, Paris, France

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

2025

1-54 Marrakech, AFIKARIS Gallery, Marrakech, Morocco

2024

Untitled, AFIKARIS Gallery, Miami, USA
Art Brussels, AFIKARIS Gallery, Brussels, Belgium

2023

1-54 London, Atelier 21 Gallery, London, UK
Ce que nous donne la terre, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France
Art Brussels, AFIKARIS Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
artgenève, AFIKARIS Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland
BRAFA, Rodolphe Janssen Gallery, Brussels, Belgium

2022

Voisinages, Atelier 21 Gallery, Casablanca, Morocco
1-54 Paris, Paris, France
artgenève, Geneva, Switzerland

2021

1-54 London, London, UK
Quitter la ville, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

2020

Une nouvelle generation, Abla Ababou Gallery, Rabat, Morocco

2018

NEUE>WELTEN, 52Lager Gallery, Zurich, France

2017

AKAA, Paris, France
La Collective, Montresso Foundation, Marrakech, Morocco

2016

Expectativa y Memoria, Cerculo de Bellas Artes, Madrid, Spain

2015

Salon Marocain, Fundacao de Serralves, Porto, Portugal
ARCO Madrid, Madrid, Spain
Desordre, Institut francais de Tangier, Morocco

2014

Maroc contemporain, Institut du Monde Arabe (Arab World Institute), Paris, France
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, United States