

Exhibition from March 21st to July 26th, 2026

Prolongations

M'barka Amor – Ouassila Arras – Dalila Dalléas Bouzar

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above
Works in progress for the exhibition
Prolongations by Dalila Dalléas Bouzar

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M'barka Amor

Ouassila Arras

Dalila Dalléas Bouzar

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The result of an artistic and friendly encounter, *Prolongations* exhibition brings together M'barka Amor, Ouassila Arras and Dalila Dalléas Bouzar around a common playground. Designed by the artists, the exhibition was developed with the collaboration of curator and art critic Horya Makhoulouf, invited by the ICI to support the development and resonance of their proposals. Together, they bring together intimate stories and collective imaginations. Sculptures, installations, paintings, embroideries and drawings make up a journey that blends dreams of glory, battered bodies and disillusionment, between changing rooms and stands, light and shadow.

Treating the exhibition space as a field of competition and resistance, the artists question the promises and dead ends of sport, revealing the social, economic and symbolic determinisms that shape trajectories. Behind the game, strategies for circumventing and reinventing reality take shape.

Press Contact

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Press visit on Thursday 19 March, 10.30am–12pm
Opening reception on Friday 20 March, 6pm–11pm

The encounter between M'barka Amor, Ouassila Arras and Dalila Dalléas Bouzar began as a friendly one. Invited by Bérénice Saliou to align their perspectives within a group exhibition at the ICI in 2022, the three artists wanted to continue the dialogue they had begun. Spurred on by the first, the other two got caught up in the game: that of giving voice to the gestures, projections and convictions that a theme in the shape of a round ball might inspire in them. A theme like a game, like a challenge or even a wound, which inspires in each of them legends and memories, reminiscences of tried-and-tested places, of whispered secrets or cries sung by thousands.

The substance of dreams and nightmares observed or gathered by the artists is dissected. Ouassila Arras scrapes away at tiled walls with relentless determination, as one might rub a tired back. M'barka Amor scatters rosaries and ceramic offerings to protect them. Dalila Dalléas Bouzar sketches portraits of the children of La Goutte d'Or and the sporting icons whose names they sometimes wear on their shirts.

By turns supporters and critics, whether from the stands, on the sidelines or in front of the telly, these three close friends have taken over the exhibition space as if it were a playing field. Together, they explore the promise of glory and lost illusions, then reshape them into an obstacle course that reaches up to the sky – or almost.

From private changing rooms to the pitch bathed in the glare of the floodlights, the journey undertaken by the three teammates aims to subvert clichés and thwart certain destinies overtaken by reality. Here and there, ruins clash with glitz, sweat mingles with tears, the hyper-intimate with the ultra-public. The images coalesce to thwart the pre-determined paths.

What can dreams achieve when the social, economic and racial conditions in which their bearers are born prevent them from blossoming? And what of the rare exceptions who manage (by some miracle?) to break free? For every few stars on certain shirts, how many bodies are battered, wounded, never fully healed?

Through an apparently playful approach, the artists bring to light strategies of defence, resistance and the reconfiguration of reality. From feints to strategies of evasion, the game they are playing soon spills beyond the pitch and will no doubt be set to continue, even after extra time.

– Horya Makhlouf



above
Works in progress for the exhibition
Prolongations by M'barka Amor, 2026

The artists

M'barka Amor, born in 1972, is a Franco-Tunisian artist who lives and works between Lyon and Paris. Her practice weaves together drawing, writing, performance, video and installation to create a tapestry of personal and collective narratives. Trained and graduated with honours from the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Lyon, she explores the territories, languages and identities of the Arab diaspora in France, creating spaces of resistance against the impacts of history. These gestures are part of a desire to find new metaphors to speak of her relationship between the South and the North and to memory. They become an act of resistance against the assimilation of speech. Practised in a rhizomatic manner, these gestures form the central thread of a research project that rethinks the structures of narrative and language.

Ouassila Arras, born in 1993, is a French-Algerian artist who lives and works between Paris and Madrid. Her artistic work, centred on the themes of identity and memory, unfolds organically through the use of simple materials and ordinary domestic objects. Delving into the complex fabric of Franco-Algerian history, her approach reveals a narrative fragmented by echoes of exile, war, silence and social taboos. Her exploration draws on her family's intimate stories, often absent from official archives but deeply linked to issues of identity and politics. Guided by her travels in Algeria, Marseille, Chicago, Beirut and Berlin, she engages in a continuous process of "deterritorialisation", navigating between past and present. Collecting archives and testimonies becomes a powerful means for her to update and rewrite her relationship with history.

Dalila Dalleas Bouzar, born in Oran in 1974, lives and works in Bordeaux. Trained as a draughtswoman, she initially turned to biology before discovering painting during a workshop in Berlin, a practice she then pursued at the Beaux-Arts in Paris and which became her primary medium. Her work explores the powers of pictorial representation at the crossroads of politics, history, biology and psychology, outside of any expressionist or illustrative approach. Through painting bodies and faces—her own as well as those of others—she considers portraiture to be a tool for investigating identity and critiquing relationships of domination, whether patriarchal or colonial. Her practice has expanded to include performance and textile art, engaging the body in ritual and collective forms.

With the complicity of



M'barka Amor © Gandalf Goudard

Horya Makhoul is artistic coordinator and curator of special projects at the Palais de Tokyo since 2024. She is also an art historian, author and independent art critic. A graduate of the École du Louvre after three years of preparatory classes for the grandes écoles, she defends the emancipatory power of the arts in society by combining different approaches borrowed from art history, fiction and the social sciences.



Ouassila Arras © DR

Through her writing and exhibitions, she explores the ways in which memories are formed, how big and small stories circulate, and the role of institutions and fiction in these processes. To this end, she combines different practices to question the ways in which history is written and has notably written the autofictional short story *Ici commence votre nouvelle vie* (*Here Begins Your New Life*), about the gentrification of Pantin, where she grew up, as part of the exhibition *Après l'Eclipse* (*After the Eclipse*) (Magasins Généraux, Pantin, June–October 2023).



Dalila Dalleas Bouzar © Sammyadams.films

Visuals



A portée de main (detail), 2026
© M'barka Amor, ADAGP Paris 2026



Sortir la daronne du quartier, 2026
© M'barka Amor, ADAGP Paris 2026



Tissus de mensonges, (detail), 2026
© Ouassila Arras



Detail oeuvre, 2026
© Ouassila Arras



NOS (detail), 2026
© Dalila Dalleas Bouzar, ADAGP Paris 2026

The works featured in this exhibition have been produced specifically for the occasion. The final press images will be released at a later date; the images presented in this press release reflect the creative process in progress.



above
Opening of the exhibition *L'esprit du geste* at ICI,
Dj-Set by La Louve in the patio, October 2024
© Chloé Bizot

ICI – Institut des Cultures d'Islam

Contemporary art center

ICI supports and promotes contemporary art in dialogue with the cultures of Islam. Alongside the artists, the team invites reflection on the narratives and representations of these cultures in their diversity, both in France and internationally.

The entire ICI team is involved in developing the artistic and cultural program. This collective dynamic extends to the collaborations we propose with independent artists and curators.

Each exhibition is accompanied by a multi-disciplinary program of performances, concerts, readings, lectures and workshops that explore in greater depth the themes explored in the works presented.

The ICI is an institution of the



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