

Cevdet Erek, *Ruler I*, 2007

**Outre mesures et programmes radio (Maps, timelines, radio programmes)  
Tarek Atoui, Cevdet Erek, Mohssin Harraki, Maha Maamoun, Ossama Mohammed,  
Otobong Nkanga, Hassan Soliman**

*Guest curator: Ala' Younis, in the framework of La Galerie's annual residency for curators*

**28 May – 23 July 2011**

**Opening** Friday 27 May 2011, 6:00 – 9:30pm

**Press preview 5:00 – 6:00pm** in the presence of the artists

*A free shuttle will leave Paris (République square/metro République/central strip facing the exit Rue du Temple) at 7:00pm. Estimated return time 10:00pm.*

*No advance booking; seating subject to availability.*

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## Outre mesures et programmes radio (Maps, timelines, radio programmes)

*In the framework of the annual residency programme for curators at Noisy-le-Sec, La Galerie is hosting Ala Younis, a curator from Jordan. Selected by La Galerie's board via a call for candidates to achieve her project "Outre mesures et programmes radio" (Maps, timelines, radio programmes), Ala Younis will be in residence from 13 April to 9 July.*

Artists offer history a chance to revisit its mistakes, which can be irretrievable. Using their access to personal and collective historical narratives, artists present viewers with a reflection of what, in their view, demands to be recorded and commented on within the timeframe and context of their work.

"Outre mesure et programmes radio (Maps, Timelines, Radio Programs)" is a two-part deliberation on our understanding of the construction of history. Basic tools of interpretation such as maps and personal timelines are here re-invented to reference a state, or to record the pulse of a society undergoing perpetual change. The first part is an exhibition project showing artworks that explore individual positions within larger collectives and construct specific narratives within more general, shifting social, economic and political contexts. While history is unmade and rewritten with shapes imposed and disfigurements tolerated, personal narratives are inherited, lent and borrowed across epochs and generations.

The second part is a series of workshops in which local residents and visitors to the exhibition are invited to study elements of the exhibits, and experiment with constructing timelines and maps themselves. The workshops aim to produce sound pieces in the context of the project to be broadcast on local and web radios during the period of the exhibition.

The exhibition will open at La Galerie on the evening of May 27, 2011, in the presence of the artists and contributors to the project. On the same evening, sound artist Tarek Atoui will present his performance *Un-drum 3/Semantic Scanning Electron Microscope* in the open space around La Galerie. Residents of Noisy-Le-Sec and exhibition guests are invited to share this event.

In the video work *Domestic Tourism II* (2009), **Maha Maamoun** looks through a collection of scenes from Egyptian feature films made against the backdrop of the Pyramids. She shows different ways in which these icons of the past are appropriated from the timelessness of the tourist postcard, and re-inscribed into complex and dynamic narratives of the city.

In *problème 5* (2010-11) **Mohssin Harraki** illustrates the infinite divisions and branchings interconnecting hereditary rulers. Each set of sequences is a ruling family tree different in its shape, length and country of origin, yet can be interpreted in the light of generational calculations and historical references. The work also exists in a video version.

**Cevdet Ereğ**'s first prototype of the *Ruler* series was made in Cairo and covers the period 1974-2007 using a scale of 1cm = 1 year. Since then, Ereğ has built a collection of plastic rulers that function as tools for interpreting personal timelines. The 4th prototype, showing the dates of the foundation of Turkish Republic and of the 3 coups d'état, was made in Antwerp to no specific scale. In the video *Studio*, two hands impulsively beat selected notes from the timeline of someone's life. For the project at La Galerie, Cevdet Ereğ develops a new

prototype, *Ruler Near*, a mass produced time-scale that depicts years from near past and near future.

In the film *Step by Step* (1979), **Ossama Mohammed** follows the stages of submission and transformation of the individual mindset from co-existence with nature towards acceptance of violence. Focusing on the basic education system, the film portrays young Syrian villagers whose choice is either their parents' hard farming life or that of a migrant labourer in the city. Instead they choose to join the army.

**Otobong Nkanga** started to develop her work in progress *Contained Measures of Tangible Memories* in Morocco in 2009. The work and its installation play on the relativity of meaning and function within cultures, and examines alternate ways of using five natural elements (mica, black soap, cassia fistula, indigo dye, and alum). Between Nkanga's hometown in Nigeria and Morocco, the different roles and histories of these elements are explored within the context of the artist's memories and artistic production.

*Untitled (boy, bike, horse and bra)*, an undated painting by **Hassan Soliman**, remained a work in progress until the artist's death in 2008. To the initial picture (1967-85), Soliman continued to add elements referencing influential events in his life. This is a dreamy recollection of a boy's journey through a city of alleyways: women watching from balconies, a flying white horse, a child sitting on his mother's lap, a pink rose that has just come to rest on the boy's bicycle.

For his performance *Un-drum 3/Semantic Scanning Electron Microscope*, sound artist **Tarek Atoui** has built up a library of tens of thousands of audio microsamples. Using a system of body-activated pressure sensors, Atoui scans his microsamples at high speed, instantly selecting and editing them via a special analysis technique. The result is rhythmic structures involving hundreds of microsamples played simultaneously.

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## The curator

**Ala Younis** is an independent curator based in Amman, Jordan. Through exhibition, film, and publication projects Younis investigates the position of individuals in a politically driven world. She graduated as an architect in 1997, and between 2006 and 2010 has worked at Darat al Funun in Amman, successively holding the position of assistant director, acting director and as of last year of artistic director. She is also one of the curators for the three editions of the Independent Arab Film Festival (Arab Shorts), organized by Goethe Institut in Cairo (2009 - 2011).

## Annual residency programme for curators at Noisy-le-Sec

Since 2006, La Galerie has hosted foreign curators for an annual three-month residency; the aim is support for an exhibition in a French contemporary art centre and discovery by the resident curator of the Île-de-France contemporary scene (artists, professionals, other organizations, etc.). The annual residency for curators at La Galerie receives the backing of DRAC Île-de-France (Ministry of Culture).

## THE ARTISTS

**Tarek Atoui** / [www.tarekatoui.com](http://www.tarekatoui.com) / [www.myspace.com/tarekatoui](http://www.myspace.com/tarekatoui)

**Born in 1981**

Tarek Atoui studied contemporary and electronic music at the French National Conservatory of Reims. Atoui is an electro-acoustic musician who initiates and curates multidisciplinary interventions, events, concerts and workshops in Europe and the Middle East. He builds new software for each project he works on and specializes in creating computer tools for interdisciplinary art forms and youth education. Much of Atoui's work references social and political realities such as his pioneering youth workshop, *Empty Cans*, that he presented in France, Holland, Lebanon, Egypt, and New York, as part of his Museum as Hub residency at the New Museum.

He took part in contemporary art events and festivals such as the Today's Art Festival (the Hague), The Sharjah Biennial (United Arab Emirates) the New Museum (New-York), La Maison Rouge (Paris), Mediacity (Seoul).

**News** > Currently in residency at the Sharjah Art Foundation (United Arab Emirates)

**Cevdet Ereğ** / <http://cevdeterek.wordpress.com>

**Born in 1974. Lives and works in Istanbul, Turkey**

Represented by Akinci gallery, Amsterdam / [www.akinci.nl](http://www.akinci.nl)

Cevdet Ereğ holds a BA in architecture, a MA in sound and a PhD from ITU MIAM, Center for Advanced Studies in Music, Istanbul.

He composes and re-composes works that capture and reformulate spaces and situations. His works, which take the form of videos, time-based installations and performance, employ sounds, beats, borrowed and constructed architectural elements, graphic illustrations as well as readymade forms. He has exhibited at the 9th Istanbul Biennial, Platform Garanti (Istanbul), Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam), Arter (Istanbul), Artists Space (New York) among others. Ereğ collaborates with architects, directors, choreographers, authors and is also the co-founder of the avant-garde rock act Nekropsi.

**News** > 11 February - 17 April : "Out of Place", collective show at Tate Modern's Level 2 Gallery, curated by Ala Younis.

**Mohssin Harraki**

**Born in 1981. Lives and works in Tangier, Morocco, and Dijon, France**

Graduated from the School of Fine Arts in Dijon, Mohssin Harraki is a multi-disciplinary artist whose work explores cultural constructions, consequences of post colonialism and collective imaginations. Paying particular attention to foreign cultural landmarks and social practices, Harraki produced his first video works in the form of interviews with colleague artists debating political everyday issues that have no direct association to art practice. Harraki showed his work in a solo exhibition at Lavomatic in Saint-Ouen in Paris in 2009, as well as in exhibitions and festivals in Amman, Cairo and Berlin.

**News** > 4 - 8 May 2011: Panorama of Maghreb's cinemas, Saint-Denis (France).

## **Maha Maamoun**

**Born in 1972. Lives and works in Cairo, Egypt**

Working mainly through the mediums of photography and video, Maamoun often starts from generic visual representations of Cairo to explore how these intersect with and are negotiated by personal experiences. Maamoun's work has been shown in biennials and exhibitions including:

"Mapping Subjectivity: Experimental Cinema in The Arab World", MoMA (2010); "Live Cinema", Philadelphia Museum of Art (2010); "Ground Floor America", Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, DK (2010); "Homeworks 5", Beirut (2010), *Past of the Coming Days*, Sharjah Biennial 9 (2009); "PhotoCairo 4", Contemporary Image Collective – CiC (2008); "Global Cities", Tate Modern (2007), "C on Cities", 10<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale of Architecture (2006).

## **Otobong Nkanga / [www.otobongnkanga.com](http://www.otobongnkanga.com)**

**Born in 1974. Lives and works in Paris and Antwerp**

Represented by Lumen Travo Gallery, Amsterdam / [www.lumentravo.nl](http://www.lumentravo.nl)

Nkanga began her art studies at the Obafemi Awolowo University in Ile-Ife, Nigeria and then, at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris, France. She was at the residency program at the Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

She recently participated to "Sentences on the banks and other activities" curated by Abdallah Karroum at Darat al Funun, Amman, Jordan (2011) and to "Animism, A collaboration between Extra City Kunsthal and M HKA", Museun van Hedendaagse Kunst, Antwerpen, Belgium (2010). She was also part of "Diagonal Views", Nieuwe Vide, Haarlem, The Netherlands (2009), "Re/presentaciones: ellas", Casa Africa, Las Palmas Gran Canaria (2008), "Flow", Studio Museum Harlem, New York (2008).

News > Currently in residency at the Museum der Weltkulturen, Frankfurt, Germany.

## **Ossama Mohammed**

**Born 1954. Lives and works in Damascus, Syria**

Ossama Mohammed graduated from the Russian State Institute of Cinematography (VGIK) in 1979. There, he directed a short documentary (*Step by Step*, 1977). His first fiction feature *Nujum al-Nahar (Stars in Broad Daylight)* in 1988. Deemed by many to be the most scathing critique of contemporary Syrian society trapped in the iron grip of the Baath regime, the film has never been allowed a public screening in Syria. The film was selected at the Cannes Film Festival's *Quinzaine des Réalisateurs*, and earned the filmmaker great critical praise, including the Golden palm at the Valencia Festival in the same year. He co-directed with Omar Amiralay and Malas the documentaries *Shadows and Light* (1991) and *Fateh Moudaress* (1994).

He was unable to make his second feature until 2002. *Sunduq al-Dunya (Sacrifices)*, 2002), was selected for the Cannes Film Festival's section *Un Certain Regard* in 2002. Complex and visually stunning, the film has confirmed its maker as one of the Soviet film school's graduates most individual and masterful filmmakers.

**Hassan Soliman / [www.hassansoliman.com](http://www.hassansoliman.com)**

**Born in 1928 – died 2008. Lived and worked in Cairo, Egypt**

Hassan Soliman graduated from Cairo's School of Fine Arts in 1951. Soliman's career spanned almost 60 years. He also wrote on art and literature, founded and worked as a graphic designer on many avant-garde publications, taught at the Open University and the Cinema Institute. He contributed to Egypt's cultural life in the 60s and 70s through his polemics on the role of art and the artist in society. Upon graduating from the School of Fine Arts, Soliman moved to Luxor in 1952–53, where he worked as painter in residence at the Luxor Atelier. In the early 1960s Soliman went to Italy to study at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera in Milan. Between the mid-1960s and the mid-1970s he joined the writer Yehia Haqqi in producing the monthly cultural review *Al-Majalah*, in which he worked as layout editor and art critic. He was graphic designer for many avant-garde publications, including *Al-Katib* and *Gallery 68*.

## Visuals available for the press :



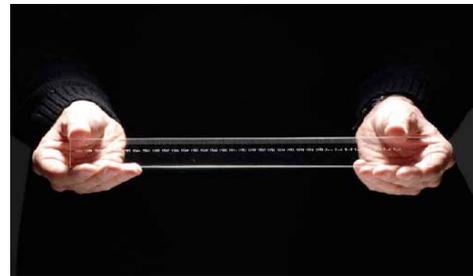
Tarek Atoui, *Un-drum performances*  
2009/2010  
Courtesy of the artist



Maha Mammoun, *Domestic Tourism II*  
2009  
Single channel video, 62'  
Courtesy of the artist



Otobong Nkanga,  
*Contained Measures of Tangible Memories*,  
2009  
Wood, metal, mica, black soap, cassia fistula,  
indigo dye and alum  
Courtesy of the artist and L'appartement 22,  
Rabat



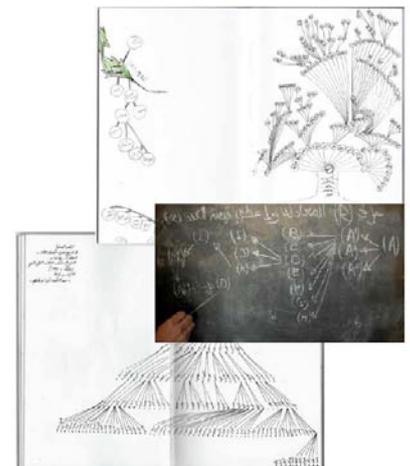
Cevdet Erek, *Ruler I*, 2007  
Laser on transparent plexiglas  
3 x 36 x 0.5 cm  
Courtesy of VKV



Hassan Soliman, *Untitled*  
(*boy, bike, horse and bra*)  
1967-1985  
Oil on canvas  
Courtesy of the Hassan Soliman  
Collection



Ossama Mohammed, *Step by Step*, 1979  
Video still, 22', black and white  
Courtesy of the artist



Mohsin Harraki, *problème 5*  
2010-2011  
Pencil and colour drawings  
Video, 2'48  
Courtesy of the artist

## EVENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE EXHIBITION

**Concert performance by Tarek Atoui** during the opening

> Friday 27 May 8:00 to 9:00 pm, La Galerie

**Radio workshops around the exhibition**

> Saturday 25 June 4:00 to 5:30 pm, La Galerie, with Ala Younis (in Arabic and French)

> Saturday 9 July, 4:00 to 5:30 pm, La Galerie (in French)

**Off-site: round table with the artists of the show** moderated by the curator

> Saturday 28 May, Bétonsalon, 9 esplanade Pierre Vidal-Naquet 75013 Paris  
[www.betonsalon.net](http://www.betonsalon.net)

**Two-voices guided tour by Ala Younis and Marianne Lanavère, La Galerie's director**

In English / translated into French

> Saturday 18 June 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

### For children: Saturday art workshops

- **Ages 4-5:**

On their own: every Saturday 4:30 – 5:15 pm

With their parents, afternoon tea included: Saturday 2 July, 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

- **Ages 6-12:**

On their own: every Saturday, 2:30 – 4:00 pm

With their parents, afternoon tea included: Saturday 2 July, 2:30 – 4:30 pm

All La Galerie activities are free.

## LA GALERIE, CONTEMPORARY ART CENTRE, NOISY-LE-SEC / PARIS

La Galerie is a contemporary art centre founded in 1999 and housed in a nineteenth century villa located in the suburb of Paris offering to a wide audience a program based on the notion of art as a sensory experience and a reflection of our relation to the world.



**Four exhibitions a year** (two monographic, two thematic) accompanied with reference publications, offer hitherto unseen works by internationally recognized artists together with those of emerging French artists.

Following H el ene Chouteau from 1998 to 2004, Marianne Lanav ere was appointed in 2005 as artistic director.

Supporting French artists by **producing art works and residencies**, La Galerie is identified on the international art scene by **hosting foreign curators** since 2006 and by publishing a bilingual publication for each show.

In the framework of each exhibition, the team proposes **educational and cultural activities**, as well as guided documents.

All activities are **free**. A mediation specialist welcomes visitors in the exhibition space. A **documentary area** has recently been installed in the basement.

La Galerie is a non-profit institution publicly financed by the City of Noisy-le-Sec, with the support of the Ile-de-France/Ministry of Culture and Communication Regional Cultural Affairs Board, the Seine-Saint-Denis Department and the Ile-de-France region.

La Galerie is a member of:

d.c.a, French association for the development of art centres : [www.dca-art.com](http://www.dca-art.com)

Tram, Contemporary Art network, Paris/ le-de-France : [www.tram-idf.fr](http://www.tram-idf.fr)

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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### La Galerie

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[lagalerie@noisylesec.fr](mailto:lagalerie@noisylesec.fr)

[www.noisylesec.net](http://www.noisylesec.net)

### Opening hours:

Tuesday – Friday, 2:00 – 6:00 pm,

Saturday, 2:00 – 7:00 pm

La Galerie will be closed on

Thursday 2 June and Thursday 14 July

Admission free

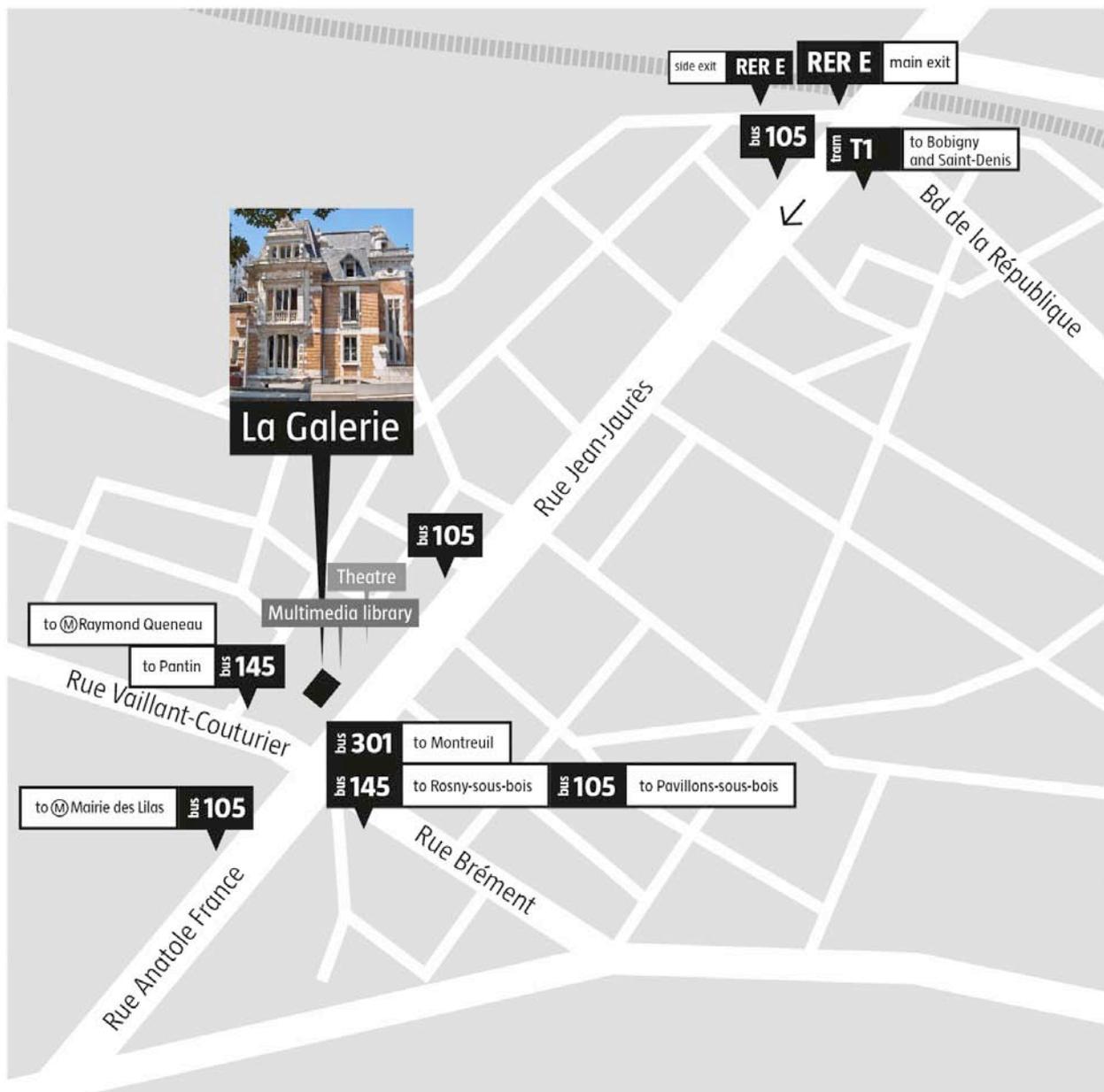
### How to get to La Galerie:

**RER Line E** (10 minutes) from St Lazare/Hausmann or Gare du Nord/Magenta

Get off at Noisy-le-Sec

+ 10 minutes' walk (follow the "Mairie" signs)

**Tram T1/Bus 105 or 145**



## DIARY/UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

### **Meris Angioletti**

Solo show

17 September – 19 November 2011

Opening: Friday 16 September 6 – 9 pm

### **Georges Tony Stoll**

Solo show

Associate curator: Jean-Marc Avrilla

*Coproduced with Villa Arson, National centre of contemporary art (Nice)*

3 December 2011 – 11 February 2012

Opening: Friday 2 December 6 – 9 pm

La Galerie Contemporary art centre is financed by the city of Noisy-le-Sec, with the support of the Ile-de-France/Ministry of Culture and Communications Regional Cultural Affairs Board, the Seine-Saint-Denis Département and the Ile-de-France Region.

