

weCASVblanca

RENCONTRE INTERNATIONALE DES ARTS GRAPHIQUES ÉMERGENTS

11.12.13 Juillet 2025

OPEN
OPEN PORTFOLIO

CASABLANCA

Casablanca édition 2025

AU SACRÉ-CŒUR



ABSTRACT

The city of Casablanca is set to host the first edition of the Open Portfolio Casablanca from July 11 to 13, 2025, marking a significant milestone for the graphic arts scene in Morocco and North Africa. Dedicated to emerging practices in printmaking and contemporary graphic arts, the event positions itself as a dynamic platform for artistic exchange, discovery, and cross-cultural dialogue.

Born from the spirit of the International Printmaking Festival (FIG Bilbao), the Open Portfolio Casablanca brings this celebrated format to Moroccan soil for the very first time. Sixteen emerging printmaking artists from Africa, Europe, and Asia have been selected through an international open call to showcase their portfolios, offering the public a unique opportunity to engage with diverse and innovative graphic expressions.

Beyond the exhibitions, the event seeks to foster connections among artists, collectors, art institutions, and the wider public, emphasizing Casablanca's ambition to become a significant cultural crossroads and a hub for contemporary artistic practices.

Organized by Casablanca Events et Animation, the Open Portfolio Casablanca is made possible through collaboration with prestigious national and international partners, including FIG Bilbao, Instituto Cervantes Casablanca, Galerie Bassma, Bassma Printmaking, the École Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Casablanca, MK Art Résidence, and Fajri Media. This first edition promises to shine a spotlight on emerging talent and to contribute meaningfully to the global discourse on printmaking and contemporary graphic arts.

MEET OUR ARTISTS

Nora Laguna

Espagne

Nora Laguna Vera is a Spanish visual artist whose work explores resilience and transformation through nature-inspired metaphors. Trained in Fine Arts at the University of Barcelona, with a specialization in Drawing and Printmaking, she has also studied and practiced across Europe, including the UK and Italy. Her practice blends technical expertise in engraving, serigraphy, and collography with a poetic reflection on healing, fragility, and inner change. Nora's work has been exhibited in Barcelona, Madrid, London, Leeds, and Venice, in venues such as Room Art Fair, Sala d'Art Jove, and the Mini Print International exhibitions in Cadaqués and Cantabria. She currently combines artistic creation with teaching, using printmaking as a means to give presence to the unseen and voice to the silent processes of adaptation.



Rami Rabii

Egypt

Ramy El Zayat is a visual artist based in Egypt whose work draws on local culture, nature, and social themes. He holds a diploma in fine arts and is currently pursuing a master's in art education.

Active since 2019, he has exhibited at the Cairo Art Fair (TAM Gallery), the Borollos International Symposium, and the UNFPA Art Project. His Boats series explores coastal life through symbolic and expressive forms.

El Zayat's work has been shown in venues such as Azad Hall, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, and internationally at the 55th International Art Colony in Serbia. His art is part of prominent collections, including the Museum of Modern Egyptian Art.

Through painting and installation, he engages in storytelling and cultural reflection, blending heritage with visual experimentation.



Virginie faivre

Belgium

Virginie Faivre is a visual artist and printmaker poet who has lived and worked across Asia for over two decades. Her practice captures the essence of place, colored memories imprinted by a passerby, through printmaking on handmade paper, sewn and embroidered textiles. Trained in Belgium and Vietnam, her work has been exhibited internationally in galleries and museums across Asia (including ICAT Gallery in Laos and the National Museum of Fine Arts in Hanoi), Africa (Calao Gallery, Senegal; Agadir Municipal Museum, Morocco), Canada (Le Sabord, Trois-Rivières), Europe (Inselgalerie, Berlin; Museum of Fine Arts, Verviers), and Australia (Daemon Gallery, Melbourne). She has also been selected for numerous international printmaking competitions and biennials in countries such as Serbia, Armenia, Russia, Germany, Romania, and Japan.



Ilyes Oulkaid

Morocco

Born in 2000 in Tata, Morocco, Ilyas Oulkaid is a multidisciplinary visual artist and final-year student at the Higher School of Fine Arts of Casablanca, specializing in Art & Space. His practice spans painting, sculpture, installation, and performance, with a focus on printmaking and Arabic calligraphy inspired by classical manuscripts.

Oulkaid's work explores themes of identity, space, and migration, often through the lens of the Hurufiyya movement, which transforms Arabic script into visual abstraction. He has participated in notable workshops, including the Besma Printmaking Workshop with Khalid El Bekkai and Johann Wei, and exhibited at the International Printmaking Meeting in Bilbao. His current research centers on the relationship between calligraphic forms and spatial memory.



MEET OUR ARTISTS

Baba Diedhiou

Senegal

Baba Diedhiou is a Senegalese visual artist and photographer who highlights African cultures through creative photography and digital painting. A graduate of top art institutions in Marrakech and Dakar, he also teaches graphic design at the National School of Fine Arts in Dakar. His work challenges stereotypes by celebrating the beauty, traditions, and ethnic identity of African women.

Baba Diedhiou has exhibited internationally, including in Switzerland, Senegal, France, Burkina Faso, and Congo, and has been selected multiple times for prestigious events such as the Dak'Art Biennale, the Marrakech Photography Meeting, and the Francophonie Festival. His art offers a sensory and cultural journey, advocating openness and celebrating Africa's rich heritage through imagery.



Caroline Le Meur – CALEME

France

Caroline Le Meur, alias CALEME, débute son parcours artistique en France au début des années 2000, puis vit huit ans en Chine avant de s'installer au Maroc. Son travail explore le geste, la matière et les formes en mutation, entre rigueur et spontanéité. Parallèlement à sa pratique picturale, elle crée des livres d'artiste entièrement faits à la main, véritables laboratoires de traces, de rythmes et de mémoire. Dans son projet « Overload – Déchargé », elle transforme les tricycles urbains surchargés en formes dépouillées, révélant une ossature essentielle. La gravure y devient un outil de distillation sensible, où chaque accident devient langage. Ses œuvres tissent un dialogue entre matière et absence, silence et persistance.



Wei Yuhang

China

Wei Yuhang is a printmaking artist based in Xinyu, Jiangxi, China. Holding both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Printmaking from the Luxun Academy of Fine Arts, he focuses on the contemporary transformation of traditional media by integrating printmaking with digital technologies and cross-disciplinary approaches. Currently a lecturer at Xinyu University and former visiting lecturer at LAFA, he has exhibited internationally in Armenia, Germany, Croatia, Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Morocco, and across China. His work has been shown at major events such as the Guanlan International Biennial and national print exhibitions. He has participated in artist residencies in Guanlan, Tianjin, and Casablanca, continuously exploring new frontiers in printmaking.



Doris Araujo

USA

Born in Barranquilla, Colombia, Doris Araújo is a multidisciplinary artist based in Madrid, Spain. She began her artistic career in the United States, exploring various printmaking and drawing techniques. Her work deeply reflects her daily life through the female figure, words, and color, expressing emotions, thoughts, and stories with a strong focus on sensuality and memory. Doris holds a Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts from Miami International University of Art & Design and is currently pursuing a Master's in Art Therapy in Madrid. Her work has been exhibited internationally in Spain, Serbia, and the United States, among others, with residencies in Madrid and Belgrade. She describes her art as a storytelling journey where color guides, form intoxicates, pain motivates, and music accompanies.



MEET OUR ARTISTS

ABDULRAHMAN ALMUTAWAH

Qatar

Abdulrahman Almutawah is a Qatari visual artist active since the late 1980s, currently working in the Graphics Department at Qatar TV. Specialized in intaglio hand printing, he trained in Japan and at the Visual Arts Center in Qatar. A long-standing member of the Qatari Fine Arts Society since 1989, he has played leading roles in cultural initiatives such as the Girls Creativity Center and the Art and Heritage Group. He has conducted numerous art workshops in Qatar, Kuwait, and Morocco and has held nine solo exhibitions, including at the Qatari Fine Arts Society, the French Cultural Center, and in Dubai. His work has been exhibited across the Arab world, the Gulf region, Europe, Asia, and the U.S., reflecting a career deeply engaged with artistic education and cross-cultural dialogue.



Salwa EL Aydi

Tunisia

Salwa El Aydi is a visual artist and assistant professor at the Higher Institute of Arts and Crafts of Sfax (ISAMS), holding a PhD in arts sciences and techniques. Her artistic and critical practice explores contemporary Arab and Tunisian art, and she has published numerous articles in specialized media, including *Essahafa*, covering art scenes in Sharjah, Morocco, and Oman. She has participated in group exhibitions in Tunisia and abroad (Morocco, Yemen, Egypt, England, UAE, Senegal) and held three solo shows in 2008, 2017, and 2023. Recognized for her contributions to art criticism, she received the third prize for Arab plastic art criticism in 2010 and the Best Article Award at the Carthage Contemporary Art Days in 2018. Her work combines theoretical insight with visual engagement, affirming her unique place in the Maghreb and Arab art scenes.



Juan Balay

Spain

Juan Balay (A Coruña, 1994) is a Spanish printmaker whose work explores emotional tension through expressive, process-based graphic art. His current project *Paisaxes para un presente indecible* (Landscapes for an Unspeakable Present) is a series of monotypes at the crossroads of printmaking and painting, conveying a collective sense of anxiety and unease. A graduate of Fundación CIEC's Master in Printmaking (2025), he co-founded an independent silkscreen workshop in Monte Alto, A Coruña, in 2023. Balay received the XI Open Portfolio Prize (2024), an honorable mention at the I Miniprint Galicia (2023), and has been selected for major print awards including the XV Atlante (2024) and XIX Jesús Núñez (2024). His first solo exhibition *Lapso* opened in 2025 at Espazo Vaina (Betanzos), following several collective shows across Spain.



Sfia Agouzoul

Morocco

Sfia Agouzoul is a Moroccan visual artist whose work explores memory, identity, and the Amazigh cultural heritage. Rooted in her rural childhood memories, her practice blends photography, painting, and experimental techniques to preserve endangered traditions particularly Amazigh wedding rituals as living expressions of contemporary identity. Currently studying at the École Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Casablanca, she has participated in several workshops focused on engraving, screen printing, and cellulosic painting. Her recent series *Tamghra*, exploring Amazigh wedding traditions, was showcased at the 2025 Angelec Art Competition in Casablanca.



MEET OUR ARTISTS

Yu Ziliang

China

Dr. Yu Ziliang is a printmaking artist and educator, holding a Doctorate in Arts from Xi'an Academy of Fine Arts. He is Associate Professor, Director of the Art Education Department, and Head of the Printmaking Research Section at Jiangxi Normal University. A member of the China Artists Association and several national academic and artistic committees, Yu Ziliang has exhibited internationally, including in Serbia, the U.S., the U.K., and Italy. His accolades include the Honorary Work Award at the 7th Guanlan International Print Biennale, a finalist spot for the 2015 Belgian PRIX DACOS, and the 2019 Cross-Strait Youth Printmaking Award. His works have been selected for major international print exhibitions in Serbia, Varna, and Guanlan, and are held in public and private collections worldwide.



Anna Elizabeth Salova Draganova

Russia

Anna Elizabeth Salova Draganova is a distinguished visual artist currently completing her Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts at the Complutense University of Madrid, where she graduates with honors and an outstanding academic record. Fluent in Spanish, Russian, and intermediate English, she combines traditional artistic skills with digital technologies such as Affinity Photo and Blender. Anna's work centers on amplifying respect for nature, exploring silence as an essential dimension, and fostering self-awareness through art. She has participated in numerous group exhibitions across Spain and China, with her works included in important collections such as the Emilio Ontiveros Foundation and Complutense University's artistic heritage. Her artistic journey has been recognized with several awards, including the ArteLateral Complutense Prize and scholarships for artist residencies.



Salah Eddine Makoudi

Morocco

Salah Eddine Makoudi is a final-year student at the Higher School of Fine Arts in Casablanca, with a multidisciplinary practice encompassing painting, photography, videography, installation, and printmaking. His work explores themes of mortality, perception, and transformation through symbolic and surreal imagery. In his current series, he combines skull silhouettes with floral and vegetal forms to create a visual paradox where the eerie becomes beautiful and the sinister turns organic, inviting viewers to look beyond appearances and confront what is often hidden. This series is part of a broader project titled "The Unseen," investigating dualities such as beauty and terror, presence and absence, and the cycle of life and death. Salah Eddine Makoudi has exhibited in several group shows in Casablanca, including at L'uZine Gallery, AL MADA Foundation, and Atelier Athar Art.



Chouaib Attif

Morocco

Chouaib Attif is a multidisciplinary artist based in Casablanca, Morocco, working across video art, installation, photography, digital media, and painting. His practice investigates the poetics of doubt, absence, and digital fragmentation. Through experimental processes, Attif engages with themes of suspended identity and perceptual rupture, often using technological failure and video degradation as conceptual tools.

In his project Lacuna, Attif extracts stills from video installations to explore moments of existential hesitation, gestures halted in time, faces rendered as fleeting data traces. By capturing these in-between states, he invites viewers to engage with emotional ambiguity and the fragility of presence.

Attif's approach merges the analytical with the poetic, turning digital breakdowns into spaces for introspection, pushing the boundaries between image, memory, and digital embodiment.

