

Rachid Koraïchi
An Ode to Intertwined Histories

27 February, 2024 – 25 May, 2024

Elmarsa Gallery, Dubai



Exhibition views of *Les Priants*, Elmarsa Gallery

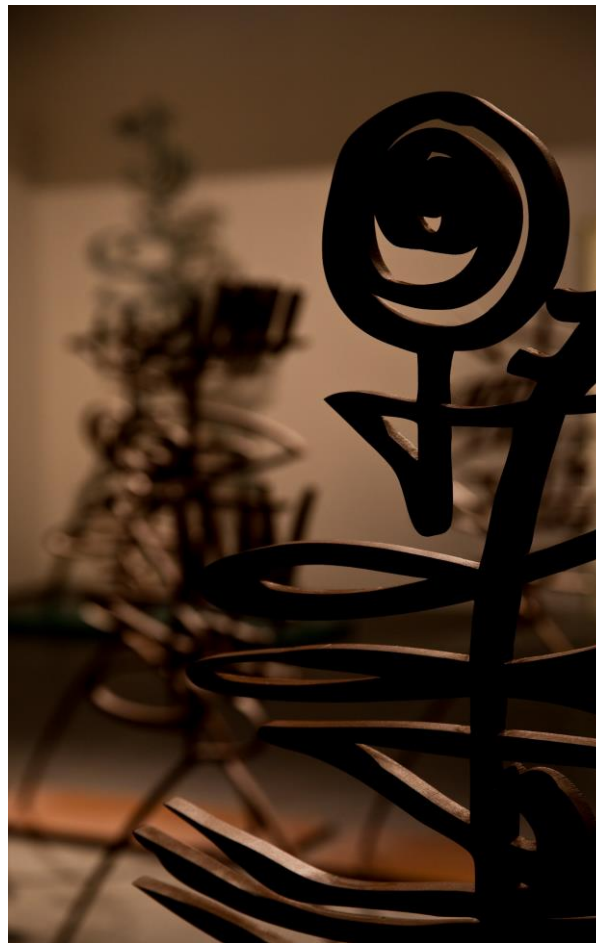
In an ode to Elmarsa Gallery's longstanding collaboration with Rachid Koraïchi, we would like to present an exhibition that revisits a collection of his work. On view from the 27th of February until the 25th of May, 2024, the exhibition will encompass a breadth of disciplines that Koraïchi has enmeshed into his practice, highlighting his abiding fascination with the creation of deeply layered seams. Showcasing the iconic site-specific installation comprising of *Les Prieurs* alongside *Les Priants*, the two towering polished bronze and green patina sculptures and a selection of the twenty-one unique Corten steel sculptures will fill the space, casting delicate and shifting shadows. Accompanying the sculptures will be a body of two-dimensional work ranging in medium and highlighting Koraïchi's ability to insight a moment of reflection to the onlooker. Draped along the lengths of the gallery's three-meter walls will be the encased silk organza tapestries, embroidered with glyphs that are brought together to encapsulate the timeless themes of the changing seasons.

The complexity and depth of Rachid' storytelling are seen throughout, as if a thread running through each idea. Demonstrating his desires and apt abilities for narration, Koraichi's alphabet of memory is anchored in the world of glyphs and cyphers, where he nurses his fascination for texts function, aesthetics and cultural significance. From a line of thinking that acknowledges the amputations that peoples face from their past identities, he draws from his Sufi heritage. Born into a writing civilization, Koraichi speaks often of belonging entirely to writing, wanting to reveal the profound inner secrets of texts. With texts by great mystic poets and writers such as Rûmî, Ibn Arabi, Attar and Rabia Al Adawya often referenced in his work, Rachid Koraichi has also collaborated with a number of contemporary poets and authors, among them Mahmoud Darwish, Mohamed Dib, Jamel Eddine Bencheikh, René Char, Nancy Huston and Michel Butor, creating intricately mapped out artwork through the writing's inspiration.

"I make art for myself, for my own intellectual pleasure. I make unpredictable associations, dressing each sign in letters that prompt it to express its own internal rhythms"

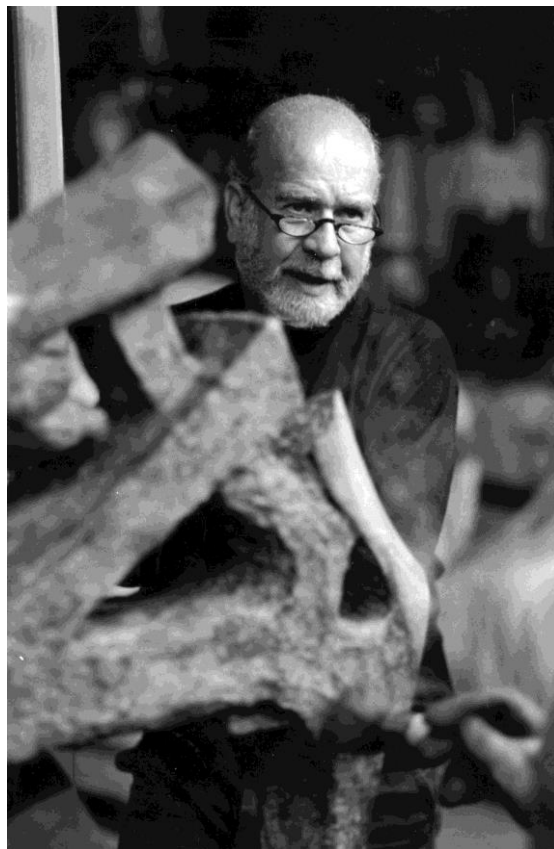
Translated and edited from French by Gerard Houghton.

Text taken from:
SIGNS OF OUR TIMES
From Calligraphy to Calligraffiti



About Rachid Koraïchi

Rachid Koraïchi, born in Ain Beida, Algeria in 1947, currently resides and works between Tunisia and France. Koraïchi's artistic explorations encompass a diverse range of media, including ceramics, textiles, various metals, and painted works on silk, paper, or canvas. Embracing a multi-disciplinary practice as an extension of prayer and divine reverence, his artworks are infused with ideographic symbolism and contemplative forms, drawing inspiration from a myriad of calligraphic traditions and a rich blend of influences, from Chinese ideograms to pre-Islamic Berber and Tuareg art forms. Koraïchi delves into the interconnections between metaphysics, spirituality, and aesthetics, making it an exercise in the process of transformation. He has been featured in prestigious exhibitions, including the 47th and 49th Venice Biennale, and Word into Art at the British Museum in 2006. His works have been widely showcased worldwide and are held in numerous private and public collections, such as the British Museum in London, the National Museum for African Art in Washington, and the Museum of Islamic Arts in Doha. Apart from his professional projects, Rachid Koraïchi has also dedicated his efforts to personal ventures, such as the Garden of Africa. The Garden of Africa, entirely financed by Koraïchi, stands as a memorial resting place in Zarzis, Southern Tunisia. Its primary purpose is to provide a dignified final burial ground for the countless migrants who tragically lost their lives in the treacherous waters of the Mediterranean Sea.





Nedjma - The Four Seasons, 2009, Silk embroidered organza, plexiglas, 304 x 152 x 7 cm each



Les Prieurs II, 2015, Polished bronze and green patina, H.280 x L.130 x W.7cm



Les Prieurs III, 2015, Polished bronze and green patina, H.280 x L.130 x W.7cm



Talisman, 2015, Installation view, selection of 99 black patina bronze engraved tablets, H. 35 x W. 22 cm each



Detail views of *Talisman*, 2015

Exhibition Information

Exhibition Opening: Thursday, 27 February, 2024, 6pm – 9pm

Opening Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 7pm

Location : Unit 23, Alserkal Avenue, Al Quoz 1, Dubai, UAE

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[More information regarding the artist](#)

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About the gallery

Founded in 1994, Elmarsa Gallery has galleries in Tunis and Dubai, and an expanding European presence in Paris. Specializing in both modern and contemporary art, the gallery represents and supports the career of some of the most influential and recognized artists of the 20th and the 21st century from North Africa and the Middle-East, with a wide-ranging exhibition programme at its two gallery spaces. Active in both the primary and secondary markets, Elmarsa also represents its artists at major international art fairs focusing on African and Middle-East art in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Paris, London, Marrakech, Miami and New York.

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