

Massinissa Selmani: *distances*

Aranya Art Center North
May 27 - November 23, 2025

Aranya Art Center North is pleased to present *distances*, the first museum solo exhibition in China by Algerian artist Massinissa Selmani, featuring the artist's works in a variety of mediums including pencil drawings on paper, animated films, sculptures, and installations.

Drawing is at the core of Selmani's creations. Here, he treats the exhibition as one giant drawing, sweeping the viewer up in a series of light-hearted and fascinating drawings, animations, and installations. Selmani shifts between mediums in a search for the expression of space and potential in drawing.

Though the forms are simple, Selmani's works are always touching on key historical, cultural, and social topics. The intentional blank spaces and unfinished lines in the works, like the detached backgrounds, are important components of the works. When making preparatory sketches, the artist often begins with press photographs taken from newspapers, extracting the elements of truth and removing background information to intentionally produce a sense of "something missing," inviting the viewer to draw from their own memory associations and visual references to interpret for themselves. His artworks do not engage in direct criticism, but use humor and satire to reexamine memories that have been overlooked or marginalized in the process of historical transitions.

This exhibition is organized by Assistant Curator Gao Liangjiao and Associate Curator Wu Yiyang at the Aranya Art Center.



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www.aranyaartcenter.com/
10:00 – 18:00, Tuesday to Sunday
0335 782 5660
W30, Binhe Commercial Street, Aranya North Coast
Beidaihe New District, Qinhuangdao, Hebei Province, China

About the artist

Massinissa Selmani

Born in 1980 in Algiers (Algeria); lives and works in Tours (France) and Tizi-Ouzou (Algeria).

In 2015, Massinissa Selmani received a special mention at the 56th Venice Biennale. He was also the winner of the Art Collector Prize (France) and the SAM Art Projects Prize for Contemporary Art (France) in 2016. In 2023, he was shortlisted for the Marcel Duchamp Prize (France). Selected solo and group exhibitions include the 56th Venice Biennale; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Sharjah Biennial 13, UAE; Modern Art Oxford, Oxford, UK; IVAM Valencia, Spain; Zachęta National Gallery, Warsaw; the 13th Biennale de Lyon, France; Centre de Création Contemporaine Olivier Debré (CCC OD), Tours, France; 11th Dakar Biennial, Senegal; UGM Maribor, Slovenia, among others. Collections include the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France; MAC Lyon, France; Samdani Art Foundation, Dhaka, Bangladesh; Frac Centre Val de Loire, France; Centre National des Arts Plastiques (CNAP), France and the British Museum, London, UK.

About Aranya Art Center

Aranya Art Center is a kunsthalle for contemporary art, powered by Aranya, a seaside community in Beidaihe, China. Its architecture is designed by Neri&Hu. Its heavy volume, dark facade and concrete wall tiles with different textures make the exterior of the art center look like a tough rock. The spiral staircases inside the building connect the open-air atrium at the bottom with each exhibition gallery.

Since its opening in May 2019, the Aranya Art Center has presented more than 20 exhibitions, including group exhibitions *Long Day*, *Études*, *How Far*, *How Close*, *Studio Visits*, and *Paint for Life!*, as well as comprehensive museum exhibitions of Anselm Reyle, Sylvie Fleury, Tao Hui, Gabriel Kuri, Jiang Zhi, Yuko Mohri, and Trevor Yeung.

Aranya Art Center's first branch, Aranya Art Center North, opened on September 22, 2024.



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