

Good or Trash
Galerie d'art
91 quai de Valmy

Tezeta a solo exhibition by Luna Mahoux
20.03.2026 - 02.05.2026

Tezeta (ቴዛታ) comes from Amharic and refers to a memory or nostalgia, even for a past one has never experienced. In Ethiopian music, Tezeta songs express this deep feeling, blending memory, melancholy, and longing.” Tezeta is a genre, most frequently discussed within music, but in this show, artist Luna Mahoux makes a strong case that there is a visual art component as well. That is, Tezeta might be a visual arts genre in of itself.

Mahoux is mixing genres and also cultural positionalities. She inhabits the role of artist, archivist, photographer, sculptor, filmmaker, writer, cultural critic, historian to elevate experiences that are rarely included in the official tomes of Black History and especially not in an era where Black History is so quickly being reauthored and eliminated writ large. Here she is similar to the rappers and wordsmiths who are portrayed in this and other works. Particularly, her work seems to mirror the instinct of Memphis rapper, and subject of Mahoux’s film “The Other Queen of Memphis,” La Chat, whose first ever rap was on the occasion of Black history month, about Martin Luther King. In ways that might be less obvious, the artist is creating memory through the physical instantiation and IRL contextualizing of online/found and original images. Mahoux’s practice is deeply rooted connections to music, her relationship to image is shaped through sound, particularly rap, as is evident in the subject matter of many works, and also many of the images in the present installation. Here Mahoux’s latest connection to music is to fuse musical genres, Hip Hop and Tezeta, an intercultural remix that speaks to a diaspora that feels increasingly connected both in the artist’s personal experience, and as a result of a more connected internet world.

In her pixelated screenshots, loss of definition, artifacts, and imperfections become compositional elements. Additionally, the artist has supplemented several images with texts — excerpts from her book *2 Strong for 2 Long*, as well as from her most recent writings. She plays with under and over exposure in multiple compelling modalities. These unintentional and intentional characteristics open up new ways of reading the image, between disappearance and appearance.

Mahoux, then, forms the panels into new spatial relationships: scenes from music, cinema, and lived experience converge and overlap, like a film unfolding, weaving together a narrative that moves between archive of documented experience and illustration of melancholic longing; between intimate personal memory and collective cultural memory, or the Tezeta sensibility—visualized.

Here, tezeta lives within each image. It moves through the rap of Chief Keef, in a line from La Chat to Gangsta Boo, in a scene from *The Wire*, in the face of a Habesha woman, in a child holding up a bird, in laughter echoing through the streets of Baltimore, in the mourning of Zyed and Bouna, in a forgotten T-shirt, in the presence of unseen men, in Omar standing in the shadows, in girls touching both the ground and the sky.

— Mandy Harris Williams

Luna Mahoux is a Belgian artist working across film, photography, and installation. Her practice explores invisibilized Afro-diasporic narratives through a dialogue between personal archives, vernacular imagery, and popular internet culture. Drawing from both intimate and collective histories, she constructs layered visual essays that question memory, circulation, and the politics of representation.

A graduate of La Cambre in Painting, she joined Le Fresnoy – Studio national des arts contemporains in 2023, where she further developed her moving image practice. There, she directed her first documentary, *The Other Queen of Memphis*, which was selected in competition at Cinéma du Réel at the Centre Pompidou.

Her work and films have been widely exhibited and presented internationally, including at the Salon de Montrouge in Paris, Mécène du Sud in Montpellier, Villa Médicis (Les Chichas de la pensée), Circulation(s) Festival at CENTQUATRE in Paris, KANAL – Centre Pompidou in Brussels, FOMU in Antwerp, Basel Social Club in Basel, Cherish in Geneva, Coalmine in Winterthur, Photo Elysée in Lausanne, Triangle France in Marseille, Metrograph with Montez Press Radio in New York, Bourse de Commerce – Pinault Collection in Paris, Cordova in Barcelona..

In 2023, she was awarded the tiff – Emerging Belgian Photography Prize by FOMU in Antwerp, followed by the Fintro Prize in Brussels in 2024.

Luna Mahoux's work is also part of the collective program of KANAL – Centre Pompidou in Brussels.