

22 JUNE 2024 → 22 SEPTEMBER 2024
OPENING FRIDAY 21 JUNE, 7PM
MO.CO.

DESCENT INTO PARADISE KADER ATTIA

In conjunction with the exhibition *Being Mediterranean*, an exploration of contemporary art from around the Mediterranean to be held at MO.CO. Panacée, the MO.CO. is devoting a monographic exhibition to Kader Attia, one of the most prominent French artists on the international scene.

Born in 1970 in Seine-Saint-Denis, Kader Attia grew up in a multicultural and cosmopolitan atmosphere in the Paris outskirts. His childhood was shaped by the many trips he made back and forth between France and Algeria, from which his family originates. A graduate of the École Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, winner of the Marcel Duchamp Prize in 2016, and curator of the 12th Berlin Biennale in 2022, Kader Attia has forged a body of work that cannot be confined to a single medium and yet is characterized by its own distinctive visual vocabulary. Using drawing, photography, video, sculpture, and installation to suit each individual project, he investigates contemporary society, giving great prominence to poetry and inference, and by focusing on precarious settings, fears, traumas, uprootedness, and hopes for repair. Travel also plays an important role in his history and in his work, invoking marginalised cultures as well as individual destinies.

For his exhibition *Descent into Paradise*, Kader Attia drew inspiration from the very geography of the MO.CO., its journey from top to bottom, from the sky to the earth and its depths, offering a reflection on reparation and transcendence that questions the notion of verticality as a vital and spiritual movement. Just as the wounds of the past irrigate the fractures of the present and juxtapose eras in a back-and-forth movement, spirituality enables us to escape the grip of History. Like the rain that ravages and transforms, is there not an ascension at play in a downward flow?

While Kader Attia's works have strong philosophical and political implications, *Descent into Paradise* will also bear witness to the poetic and aesthetic concerns of an artist whose research and thinking are rooted in a practice where form and content merge into a language of their own.

Alongside some of the artist's major works, the exhibition will feature a number of new artworks, including a brand-new immersive installation consisting of a film shot in northern Thailand and a rainstick installation created for MO.CO.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a richly illustrated catalogue featuring an interview between Kader Attia and Numa Hambursin and a text by Mohamed Amer Meziane, philosopher and author of the book *Des empires sous la terre*.

Curator: Numa Hambursin





MO.CO. Panacée © Photo : Yoann Gozard

ABOUT MO.CO. MONTPELLIER CONTEMPORAIN

MO.CO. Montpellier Contemporain is an artistic ecosystem that goes from training to collection, production, exhibition and mediation, due to the convergence of an art school and two contemporary art centers: MO.CO. Esba (Superior School of Fine Arts of Montpellier), MO.CO. Panacée (laboratory of contemporary creation) and MO.CO. (space dedicated to exhibitions of international scope).

EXHIBITIONS PROGRAM

2024

IN BETWEEN LINES
ART AND LITERATURE

Exhibition from March 2 to May 19, 2024
at MO.CO. & MO.CO. Panacée

DESCENT INTO PARADISE
KADER ATTIA

Exhibition from June 22 to September 22, 2024
Opening on June 21 at 7pm
at MO.CO.

BEING MEDITERRANEAN

Exhibition from June 22 to September 22, 2024
Opening on June 22 at 12am
at MO.CO. Panacée

USEFUL INFORMATION

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MO.CO.

13 rue de la République, Montpellier
Open Tuesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. (October-May)
and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. (June-September)

MO.CO. Panacée

14 rue de l'École de Pharmacie, Montpellier
Open Wednesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. (October-May)
and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. (June-September).

Photos et credits

Exhibition visuals available online at www.moco.art
Login: presse
Password: mocoPresse2024