

31 JANUARY → 3 MAY 2026
OPENING FRIDAY 30 JANUARY 2026 AT 7PM
MO.CO. PANACÉE

The Spirit of the Studio

16 artists trained at Beaux-Arts de Paris under Djamel Tatah



Djabril BOUKHENAÏSSI
Tes trente ans, 2025
Oil and pastel on canvas, 80 x 54 cm
Courtesy of the artist and Mariane Ibrahim
Photo: Fabrice Gousset
© Adagp, Paris, 2026



Fabien CONTI
Soleil rouge, 2025
Oil on canvas, 200 x 180 cm

Echoing MO.CO.'s exhibition devoted to the history of École Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Montpellier (MO.CO. Esba), MO.CO. Panacée will present a study of a "textbook example": Djamel Tatah's studio at École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris, the School of Fine Arts. Over the course of his 15-year tenure as a professor at the School, Djamel Tatah trained a generation of artists whose diverse practices, singular trajectories and quick emergence on the international scene are of particular interest.

Unlike most regional art schools, Montpellier included, Beaux-Arts de Paris relies on a "studio" system. Each studio is run autonomously by a recognised French or foreign artist. This system, which was inherited from the 19th century, has since thoroughly evolved: it no longer involves the reproduction of a certain style, but instead encourages finding one's own voice through a daily dialogue with an influential figure. This type of mentorship encourages autonomy and favours the emergence of a singular language, all the while making each student a part of a community of peers.

Painter Djamel Tatah, who taught in Paris from 2008 to 2023 and now lives in Montpellier, has mentored a large number of students. Fifteen or so of these stand out through the potency of their work and successful careers: Kenia Almaraz Murillo, Raphaëlle Benzimra, Djabril Boukhenaïssi, Tristan Chevillard, Fabien Conti, Mathilde Denize, Léo Dorfner,

Clémence Gbonon, Bilal Hamdad, Nina Jayasuriya, Dora Jeridi, David Mbuyi, Zélie Nguyen, Pierre Pauze, Blaise Schwartz, and Rayan Yasminéh.

Djamel Tatah believes in a method of teaching based on notions of transmission and self-education, the concept of which may seem at first glance contradictory. What, indeed, is there to pass on if not knowledge? Teaching through trust, rather than reproduction, opens up a space for freedom in which each student can put forward their own subjectivity and invent their own forms.

The exhibition at MO.CO. Panacée will feature over 120 works created recently or for the occasion. Through their use of painting, which ranges from figuration to abstraction, but also drawing, sculpture, weaving or installation, the artists unlock inner worlds, whether real or fictional, at the intersection of the present and collective imagination. Their representations, which show great formal diversity, take inspiration both from the old masters and from vernacular practices, Persian miniatures, diasporic heritages, contemporary music, and pop and post-Internet culture. Often playing on the idea of the fragment, they explore interstices, margins and the possibilities that these offer.

While any selection involves its share of subjectivity, the deliberate choice in this case was to constitute meaningful groups of works that would embody the richness and plurality of the artists' worlds. Within this constellation, the

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Clémence GBONON
Secret Gardens, 2024
Oil on canvas, 116 x 89 cm
Private collection
Photo: Fabrice Gousset

artists are not bound by a common aesthetic but rather by their shared experience of being mentored into becoming artists. More than an expression of a formal heritage, the exhibition celebrates transmission understood as a passage, a momentum, an invitation to pave one's own way.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue published for the occasion by MO.CO. Montpellier Contemporain, in partnership with Beaux-Arts de Paris, and distributed by Flammarion. The graphic design was entrusted to Clément Wibaut. It will feature previously an unpublished text by Guitemie Maldonado and François-René Martin, teachers and art historians, precious collaborators in Djamel Tàtah's studio at Beaux-Arts de Paris, as well as a conversation between Djamel Tàtah and Numa Hambursin and contributions from the 16 artists featured in the exhibition.

Curator:
Numa Hambursin, Chief
Executive Officer of MO.CO.

Exhibition coordination:
Rahmouna Boutayeb, curator,
and Alexis Loisel-Montambaux,
exhibition assistant.

The artists:

Kenia Almaraz Murillo
Raphaëlle Benzimra
Djabril Boukhenassi
Tristan Chevillard
Fabien Conti
Mathilde Denize
Léo Dorfner
Clémence Gbonon
Bilal Hamdad
Nina Jayasuriya
Dora Jeridi
David Mbuyi
Zélie Nguyen
Pierre Pauze
Blaise Schwartz
Rayan Yasmineh

Catalogue in partnership with



Blaise SCHWARTZ
Mouvement au sol, 2023
Oil on canvas, 100 x 80 cm
Courtesy of the artist
© Blaise Schwartz



Dora JERIDI
Where to go? How to go?, 2023
Oil, oil stick, and charcoal on canvas, 195 x 260 cm
Société Générale Collection. Courtesy of Perrotin
© Adagp, Paris, 2026

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Rayan YASMINEH
Le siège, 2025
Oil on canvas, 46 x 38 cm
Courtesy of the artist and mor charpentier



Tristan CHEVILLARD
La gorge du dragon (Post-industrial effigy) a tribute to Gyaos, 2025
Mixed media, variable dimensions



Mathilde DENIZE
Sound of Figures, 2025
Acrylic and watercolor on
canvas, glitter
200 x 180 cm
Courtesy of the artist and
Perrotin.
Produced by Frac Île-de-France.
Photo: Tanguy Beurdeley
© Adagp, Paris, 2026



Bilal HAMDAD
Vermillon, 2024
Oil on canvas, 162 x 130 cm
Courtesy Templon gallery
© Adagp, Paris, 2026

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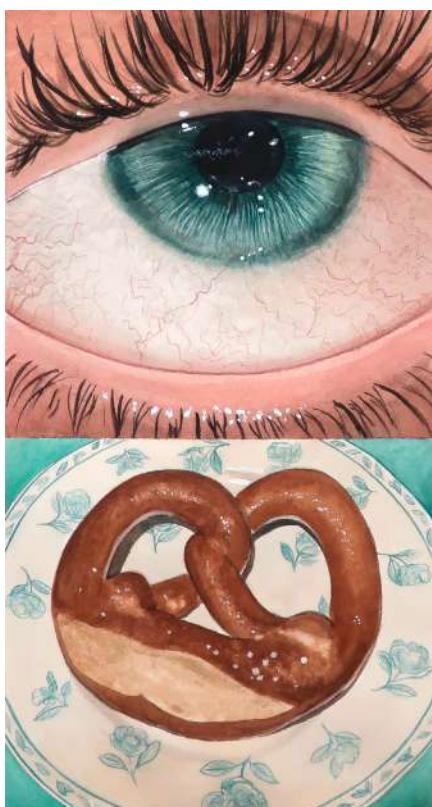




Raphaëlle BENZIMRA
Portrait de Dmitry Bivol, 2024
Oil on canvas, 195 x 114 cm



Zélie NGUYEN
La bibliothèque de babel, 2023
Oil on wood, 46 x 38 cm
Private collection. Courtesy By Lara Sedbon
© Zélie Nguyen



Léo DORFNER
Controlling my feelings for too long, 2025
Watercolour on papier, 70 x 50 cm
Courtesy of Claire Gastaud gallery
© Adagp, Paris, 2026



Nina JAYASURIYA
Ange Mercure, 2025
Stoneware, medicines, mercurochrome
160 x 70 x 45 cm
Courtesy of Mennour gallery
Photo: Archive Mennour

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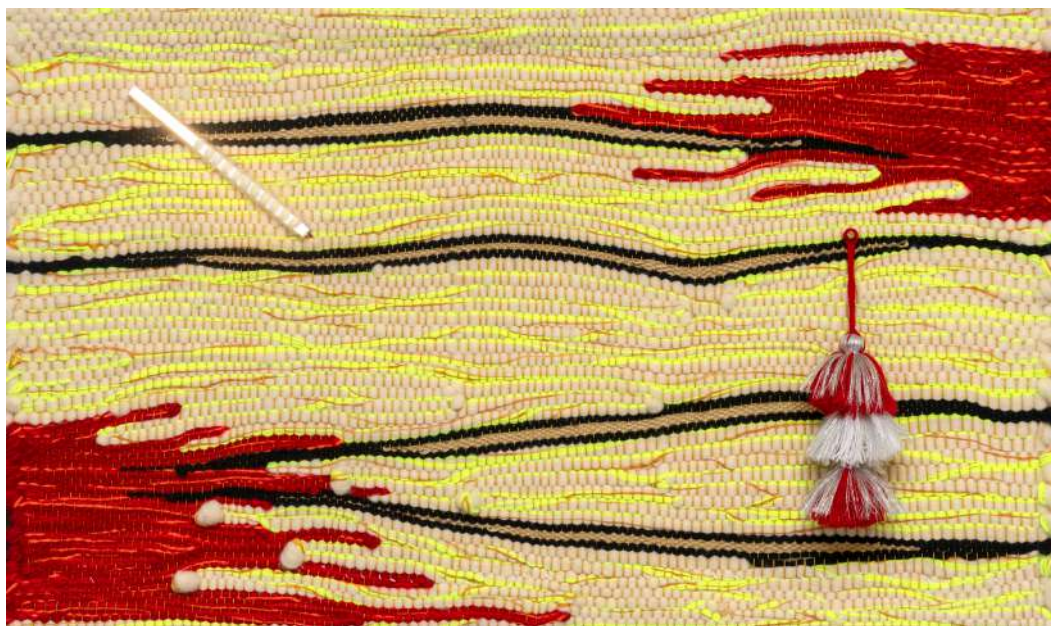




David MBUYI
Miroir, 2023
Oil on canvas, 228 x 146 cm
Courtesy of Camille Pouyfaucou gallery
Photo: Aurélia Casse



Pierre PAUZE
Draw me a bull, 2025
Oil on canvas, 150 x 150 cm
Wall painting, 3 screens, cables, variable dimensions
© Adagp, Paris, 2026



Kenia ALMARAZ MURILLO
Caracol, 2023
Alpaca, wool, cotton weaving, tullma
(traditional Bolivian pompoms), gold
threads (1940s, France), LED neon
and steel structure, 58 x 100 cm
Courtesy of Waddington Custot
Photo: Nicolas Brasseur
© Adagp, Paris, 2026

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MO.CO. Montpellier contemporain, 2022 © Photo : Salem Mostefaoui

ABOUT MO.CO.

MO.CO. Montpellier Contemporain is an artistic ecosystem that spans from education to collection, encompassing production, exhibition, and outreach. It brings together an art school and two contemporary art centers: MO.CO. Esba (Montpellier School of Fine Arts), MO.CO. Panacée (a laboratory for contemporary creation), and MO.CO. (a space dedicated to large-scale international exhibitions).

EXHIBITIONS

MO.CO.

The Montpellier School of Fine Arts: A Unique History

SOL! The Territory Biennial #3

Exhibition from January 31 to May 3, 2026, at MO.CO. and Musée Fabre

Opening: Saturday, January 31, 2026, at 1:00 PM at MO.CO.

MO.CO. Panacée

The Spirit of the Studio

16 artists trained at the Beaux-Arts de Paris under Djamel Tatah

Exhibition from January 31 to May 3, 2026 at MO.CO. Panacée

Opening: Friday, January 30, 2026, at 7:00 PM at MO.CO. Panacée

PRATICAL INFORMATION

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MO.CO. Montpellier Contemporain

13 rue de la République,

34000 Montpellier

Open Tuesday to Sunday, from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM

MO.CO. Panacée

14 rue de l'École de Pharmacie

34000 Montpellier

Open Tuesday to Sunday, from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Photos and Credits

Exhibition images available online in the press area:

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