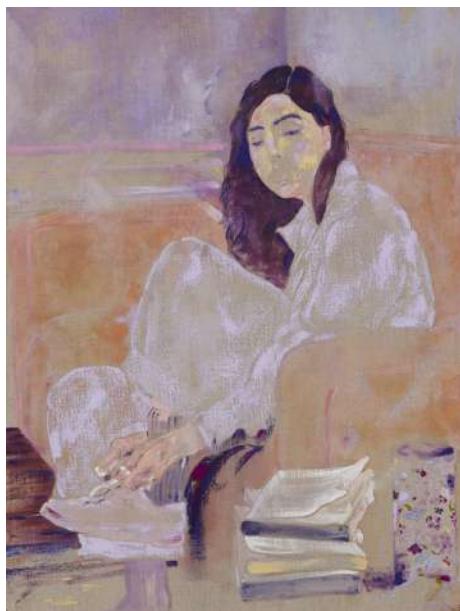


31 JANUARY → 3 MAY 2026  
OPENING FRIDAY 30 JANUARY 2026 AT 7PM  
MO.CO. PANACÉE

# The Spirit of the Studio

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



Djabril BOUKHENAÏSSI  
*Té 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 Yasmineh.

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 Tatah's studio at Beaux-Arts de Paris, as well as a conversation between Djamel Tatah and Numa Hambursin and contributions from the 16 artists featured in the exhibition.

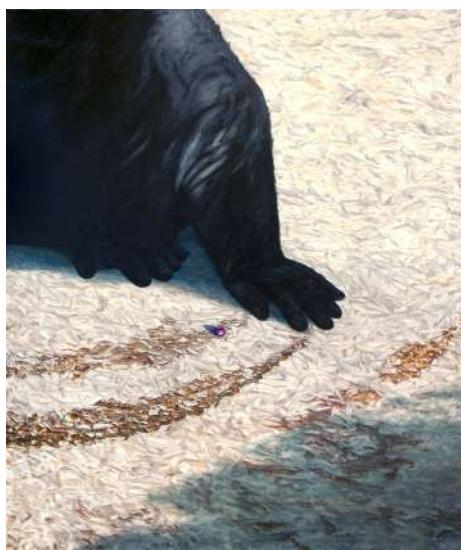
Curator:  
Numa Hambursin, Chief Executive Officer of MO.CO.

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

**The artists:**

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

Catalogue in partnership with  
BEAUX-ARTS  
DE  
PARIS



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

**PRESS CONTACT**



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



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



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



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

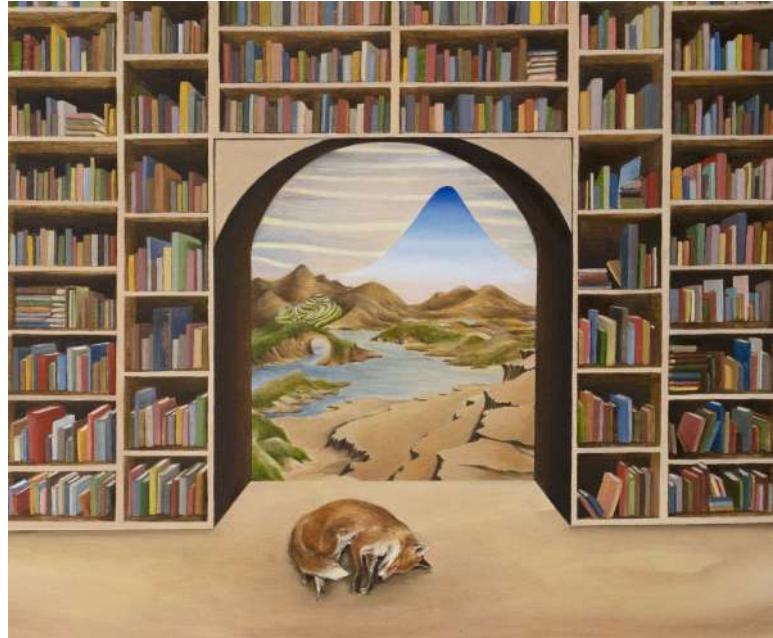
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Raphaëlle BENZIMRA  
*Portrait de Dmitry Bivol*, 2024  
Oil on canvas, 195 x 114 cm



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  
© Adagg, 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 Pouyfacon 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 12:00 PM at MO.CO.

### MO.CO. Panacée

*The Spirit of the Studio*  
16 artists trained at 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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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:  
[www.moco.art](http://www.moco.art)  
Username: presse  
Password: mocoPresse2024

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