

Ali Cherri

The Book of Mud

Published by Dongola Limited Editions

Launch on June 11, 2021
41 rue Mazarine, Paris 6^e



The Book of Mud, 2018-2020
Published by Dongola Limited Editions
Vision and Direction: Abed Alkadiri
Edition of 65
Photos © Kassem Dabaji

Imane Farès gallery and Dongola Limited Editions are pleased to announce the launch of Ali Cherri's first artist's book titled *The Book of Mud*.

The launch will take place at Imane Farès gallery, Paris, on Friday June 11, from 5 pm to 9 pm, and will begin with a short talk with Ali Cherri about the book's process, creation, and subsequent materialization.

The Book of Mud is a manifesto, a reverie, a story of earth and water. From floods and deluges to droughts and water scarcity, mud is the materialisation of the aquatic reality of our world. Neither land nor water, yet also both, mud embodies an in-between state—a rich space for imagination.

Ali Cherri, the Paris-based Lebanese multidisciplinary artist, conceives *The Book of Mud* as an exploration of the past and the ways in which it inscribes itself physically: eroding, shaping, and reforming its surroundings, and becoming itself through upheaval and destruction. In this project, Cherri is a storyteller in conversation with writers in both English and Arabic. Together, they unveil the story of mud – "...a story of perpetually shifting geographies, of elemental forces and terrain that cracks and rumbles and breaks over eons into new topographical formations. If mud had its own memory, what might it deem worth remembering?"

In this book of memory, Cherri understands mud as the vessel and the water within, as the brick that roots us to place and home, and the river that carries us to exploration elsewhere. Deeply embedded in narratives of creation, mud grounds life in a cycle that always finds its way back into the earth.

Artefacts, collected and encased in mudbrick, accompany the book to symbolise this timeless process. Worldly values embodied by these objects are once again 'grounded,' returned to the earth from which they came. A silkscreen print visualises a field of mudbricks drying in the sun, uniting earth and water as the building blocks of civilization. Each art object, the culmination of a two-year project, features a book, a silkscreen, and a singular artefact embedded in a mudbrick enclosed in a handcrafted white wooden box.

Published by Dongola Limited Editions, *The Book of Mud* was first launched at Jameel Arts Centre in Dubai on February 15, 2020.

Conceived as a limited edition of 65, *The Book of Mud* is on sale through the Dongola Limited Editions [website](#) and at Imane Farès gallery.







The Book of Mud

Limited Edition of 65

Story – Ali Cherri

English Text – Lina Mounzer

Arabic Text – Mariam Janjelo

Vision and Direction – Abed Alkadiri

Design – Reza Abedini

Assistant Designer - Lama Barakat

Page Photography – Kassem Dabaji

Published by Dongola Limited Editions, 2020

The Mudbrick

Unique piece, 2019

Artifact from the artist's collection nested in handmade, sun-dried mudbrick

Made in Deux-Sèvres, France | Frantz Lavenu

The Print

Brickyard, 2020

Silkscreen printed in two colors on Oikos extra white (100 gsm) signed and numbered by the artist

Edition of 65

Printed in Beirut by Salim Samara

The Box

Carved beech massif, plywood, and MDF painted white host the book and brick with a pullout drawer and a plexiglass lid

Box Production | Tanya Elhajj

Ali Cherri (born in 1976, Beirut) lives and works between Beirut and Paris.

Recent solo exhibitions include *Somniculus* (Uppsala Art Museum, 2021), *Tales from the Riverbed* (Clark House, 2018), *From Fragment to Whole* (Jönköping County Museum, 2018), *Programme Satellite 10: Somniculus* (CAPC Musée d'art contemporain de Bordeaux et Jeu de Paume, 2017), *A Taxonomy of Fallacies: The Life of Dead Objects* (Sursock Museum, 2016).

His work has been recently exhibited at the EYE Filmmuseum (Amsterdam), macLYON, Institut Valencià d'Art Modern (Valencia), the Jameel Arts Center (Dubai), Para Site (Hong Kong), MAXXI (Rome), the Centre Pompidou (Paris), as well as included in the latest Gwangju Biennale (2021), Manifesta 13 (Marseille, 2020), the Ural Industrial Biennial of Contemporary Art (Yekaterinburg, 2019), the Biennale internationale d'art contemporain de Melle (2018), the Biennale de Lyon and the Sharjah Biennial (2017).

His films have been screened in numerous international festivals such as: New Directors/New Films, MoMA; Cinéma du Réel, Centre Pompidou; CPH:DOX, Copenhagen (NewVision Award, 2015); Dubai International Film Festival, Dubai (Best filmmaker award, 2013); VideoBrasil, São Paulo (Southern Panorama award, 2015); Toronto International Film Festival and San Francisco International Film Festival.

He was the Robert E. Fulton III Fellow of the Film Study Center at Harvard University in 2016-17, and was nominated for the Abraaj Group Art Prize in 2018. To complete his first feature-film *The Dam*, shot in Sudan in early 2021, he received several prestigious grants, including from the Hubert Bals Fund of the International Film Festival in Rotterdam (« Bright Future » category) and the Aide aux cinémas du monde from the Centre National du Cinema (CNC) and the Institut Français.

His work is part of numerous institutional collections: Cnap, Fonds d'art contemporain - Paris Collections, MAC VAL, Frac Nouvelle-Aquitaine MÉCA, Frac Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Les Abattoirs - Frac Occitanie Toulouse, Musée national d'art moderne/Centre Georges Pompidou, Art Jameel (Dubai), MACBA (Barcelona), Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (New York), Sursock Museum (Beirut), Sharjah Art Foundation.

[For more information on the artist, please visit the gallery's website ↗](#)



Photo © Ali Cherri

The artist's recent projects

Until July 18, 2021, macLYON

Comme un parfum d'aventure, group exhibition

macLYON, Lyon, France

Curated by Marilou Leneuville, Head of Exhibitions at macLYON and Matthieu Lelièvre, Artistic Advisor at macLYON

[More information on the exhibition >](#)

Until August 29, 2021, CaixaForum

La Imagen Humana. Arte, identidades y simbolismo, group exhibition in collaboration with the British Museum

CaixaForum, Madrid, Spain

[More information on the exhibition >](#)

Until December 2021, National Gallery

Residency followed by a solo exhibition in the museum's collection

National Gallery, London, United Kingdom

[Press Release >](#)

Summer 2021, Palais Idéal du Facteur Cheval

Le Palais à quatre heures, duo show with Alberto Giacometti

Palais Idéal du Facteur Cheval, Hauterives, France

Curated by Frédéric Legros, director of the Palais Idéal du Facteur Cheval

November 1, 2021 - February 28, 2022, Kochi-Muziris Biennale

IN OUR VEINS FLOW INK AND FIRE

Kochi, India

Curated by Shubigi Rao, curator of the 5th edition

[More information on the Kochi-Muziris Biennale >](#)

2022, The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum

Exhibition centered on Ali Cherri's artwork that will be acquired by The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum with the support of the Contemporary Art Society

The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, United Kingdom

[More information on The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum >](#)