

PRESS RELEASE

Ali Cherri

A Monument to Subtle Rot

September 7 – December, 2024
Opening: September 7 – 3pm - 8pm

Imane Farès

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Ali Cherri

Lives and works in Paris



Photo © Boris Camaca

Ali Cherri's work is inspired by artefacts and the natural world. His sculptures, drawings and installations explore the temporal shifts between ancient worlds and contemporary societies. Using archaeological artefacts as a starting point, he investigates the boundaries of ideologies that underpin the foundations of nations and the myth of national progression. His work explores the links between archaeology, historical narrative and heritage, considering the processes of excavation and relocation of cultural objects into museums.

Recent and upcoming solo exhibitions include *Secession*, Vienna (2024), *ENVISAGEMENT* (Giacometti Institute, 2024), *Dreamless Night* (Frac Bretagne, 2024 ; GAMeC, 2023), *Humble and quiet and soothing as mud* (Swiss Institute, 2023), *Ceux qui nous regardent* (CAC La Traverse, 2023), *If you prick us, do we not bleed?* (National Gallery, 2022), *Return of the Beast* (Imane Farès, 2021), *Tales from the Riverbed* (Clark House, 2018), *From Fragment to Whole* (Jönköping County Museum, 2018), *Satellite 10: Somniculus Programme* (CAPC Centre d'art contemporain de Bordeaux and Jeu de Paume, 2017), *A Taxonomy of Fallacies: The Life of Dead Objects* (Sursock Museum, 2016).

His work has recently been exhibited at the Institut Valencià d'Art Modern (Valencia), Jameel Arts Center (Dubai), Para Site (Hong Kong), MAXXI (Rome), Centre Pompidou (Paris), the 15th Sharjah Biennial (2023), the 5th Kochi-Muziris Biennale (India, 2022), the Venice Biennial (2022), Manifesta 13 (Marseille, 2020), the 5th Ural Industrial Biennial of Contemporary Art (Ekaterinburg, 2019), the 8th Melle International Biennial of Contemporary Art (Melle, 2018), and the 13th Sharjah Biennial (2017).

He received the Robert E. Fulton Fellowship from Harvard University (2016), the Rockefeller Foundation Prize (2017), and was nominated for the Abraaj Group Art Prize (2018). In 2022, he received the Silver Lion for his participation in the Venice Biennale International Art Exhibition, *The Milk of Dreams*.

His work is included in many leading collections including MoMA (New York), British Museum (London), Art Jameel (Dubai), Centre Pompidou (Paris), MACBA (Barcelona), Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (New York), Sharjah Art Foundation, Mathaf (Doha), Collection Pinault (Paris).

A Monument to Subtle Rot

September 7 – December 20, 2024

We are delighted to announce Ali Cherri's solo exhibition, *A Monument to Subtle Rot*, at Galerie Imane Farès (September 7 - December 20, 2024).

For his exhibition *A Monument to Subtle Rot*, Ali Cherri invites us to contemplate the intricate relationship between matter and history.

In a new series of sculptures, the artist reverses the notion of monumentality: his hybrid creatures, made from clay and bronze, embody a tension between vulnerability and resistance. Their enduring and immutable limbs are reminiscent of sculptures erected to celebrate and immortalize conquerors, yet their bodies seem to be on the brink of collapse. Bronze, the material of the powerful, is tainted by clay, the material of the oppressed. Suspended between monuments and ruins, these sculptures dismantle canonical representations of power and question our relationship to time.

The notion of transformation can also be found in a series of drawings depicting apples at various stages of rotting, a motif that references Alberto Giacometti's work and recurs in still lifes throughout the history of art. Here, the apples are eaten from within. Mold becomes a metaphor for resistance and reclamation, a force that deconstructs dominant representations of history and offers a form of redemption through decay.

Ali Cherri's practice challenges the construction of historical narratives and opens a dialogue between past and present, strength and fragility, destruction and creation. Through his films, installations, and performances the artist sculpts time.



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Galerie Imane Farès
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from Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 7pm