

# Rachid Koraichi

*Il n'est d'autres souverains que ceux qui me regardent*

Elmarsa Gallery, Alserkal Avenue, Dubai

To celebrate the grand opening of its new gallery in Alserkal Avenue, Dubai, Elmarsa will be showcasing “*Il n’est d’autres souverains que ceux qui me regardent*” by Rachid Koraichi.

Established in 1994 in Tunis, Elmarsa is a contemporary and modern art gallery based in Tunis and newly in Dubai. The gallery is proud to play an important role in the Arab art community by offering an opportunity to showcase, network and exchange at the regional and international level by exhibiting modern and contemporary artists from North Africa. The gallery today operates with the mission to generate interest in Arab art, inspire dialogue between cultural, social and artistic leaders, and to develop international connections through its interest in fostering relationships between art and people.

***“Il n’est d’autres souverains que ceux qui me regardent”***  
***(Be none other sovereigns than those who look at me)***

As part of the launch of its new space in Dubai, Elmarsa presents a long awaited solo show by internationally renowned Algerian artist Rachid Koraichi, featuring a site-specific installation of monumental sculptural and two-dimensional works. The exhibition *Il n’est d’autres souverains que ceux qui me regardent* puts forward the spiritual, intellectual and political power of scripture in Koraichi’s art. As with many of his work, Koraichi aims to show that the world of Islam, in contrast to contemporary perceptions of crisis and violence, also consists of tolerant and sophisticated writings of great Muslim thinkers and poets. Strongly concerned with the Islamic concept of Safar - travel and transcendence - Koraichi is embarking us on a mystic voyage in the world of sacred script, symbolic numbers and magical signs in the context of today’s global complex challenges, thereby adding political relevance to his oeuvre. Koraichi’s work explores the culture of artisan, along with Sufism's deep humanistic strain that respects intellectual curiosity, tolerance of diversity and freedom of expression. Therefore, his artwork is deeply anchored in universal Love, Love of God, and the Love of those close to our hearts.

Each of the four installations being exhibited at Elmarsa comprise of all unique original pieces.

## Talisman · 2015

Inspired by the Quranic board which Koraichi used as a child, *Talisman*, is made up of 99 bronze tablets that have been carefully inscribed with signs and symbols depicting the image of universal Love. Koraichi chose to create these pieces from bronze, a noble metal, as a reference to the steel gun barrels, knives, and pistols, that were used throughout terrorism in Algeria. The universal power of Love encompasses Love for your country and the people you cherish, as much as the Love of God, yet this is being increasingly contradicted by war and terrorism. This became a key inspiration for Koraichi whilst producing this installation; his strong belief in spiritual love for all, found him questioning the motives behind these real life issues. This huge collection of 99 unique pieces comprises of codes that can be interpreted in every culture, and are to be viewed in chronological order.



Rachid Koraichi in the production studio, Factum Arte, Madrid, Spain - 2015



Talisman, 2015

Installation of 99 black patina bronze engraved tablets  
35x22 cm each

Signed in Arabic and Latin letters, dated in Arabic and numbered out of 99 pieces on the back.  
Each is numbered one in an edition of one.





Talisman, 2015

Exhibition views of 49 & 49 bronze tablets



Talisman, 2015

Signed in Arabic and Latin letters, dated in Arabic and numbered out of 99 pieces on the back.  
Each is numbered one in an edition of one.

## Les Priants · 2015

Koraichi's installation titled *Les Priants*, features 21 unique Corten steel sculptures. Corten steel was specifically chosen to create a distinctly aged and weathered appearance, which actually enhances with time once the metal reacts with atmospheric elements. As inherent to his approach, Koraichi once again uses a multiple of 7, a number and symbol that has such powerful spiritual and scientific connections in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Each of the individual 21 sculptures explore the fundamental relationship between light and shadow, and how one cannot function without the other.







Les Priants, 2015

Installation of 21 sculptures  
Corten steel  
H.160 x W.119 x D. 2 cm each

Signed in Arabic and Latin letters, dated in Arabic in the back.  
Numbered one in an edition of one.





Les Priants, 2015

Installation of 21 sculptures

Corten steel

H.160 x W.119 x D. 2 cm each



Les Priants, 2015

Exhibition view, Elmarsa, Dubai





Les Priants, 2015  
Factum Arte, production studio, Madrid, Spain

## Les Prieurs · 2015

*Les Prieurs (The Prayers)* comprises of three polished bronze and green patina sculptures. Each of the three figures are unique pieces representing different monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity & Islam. Koraichi compares this to the belief of having no religious hierarchy in Sufism, which is of great inspiration throughout his work and life.



Les Prieurs I, 2015

Polished bronze and green patina  
H. 280 x L.130 x W. 7cm - Base 154 x 70 x 7 cm

Signed in Arabic and Latin letters, dated in Arabic.  
Each is numbered one in an edition of one.





Les Prieurs II, 2015

Polished bronze and green patina  
H. 280 x L.130 x W. 7cm - Base 154 x 70 x 7 cm

Signed in Arabic and Latin letters, dated in Arabic.  
Each is numbered one in an edition of one.



Les Prieurs III, 2015

Polished bronze and green patina  
H. 280 x L.130 x W. 7cm - Base 154 x 70 x 7 cm

Signed in Arabic and Latin letters, dated in Arabic.  
Each is numbered one in an edition of one.



Les Prieurs III, 2015



Les Prieurs I, 2015

(Detail)

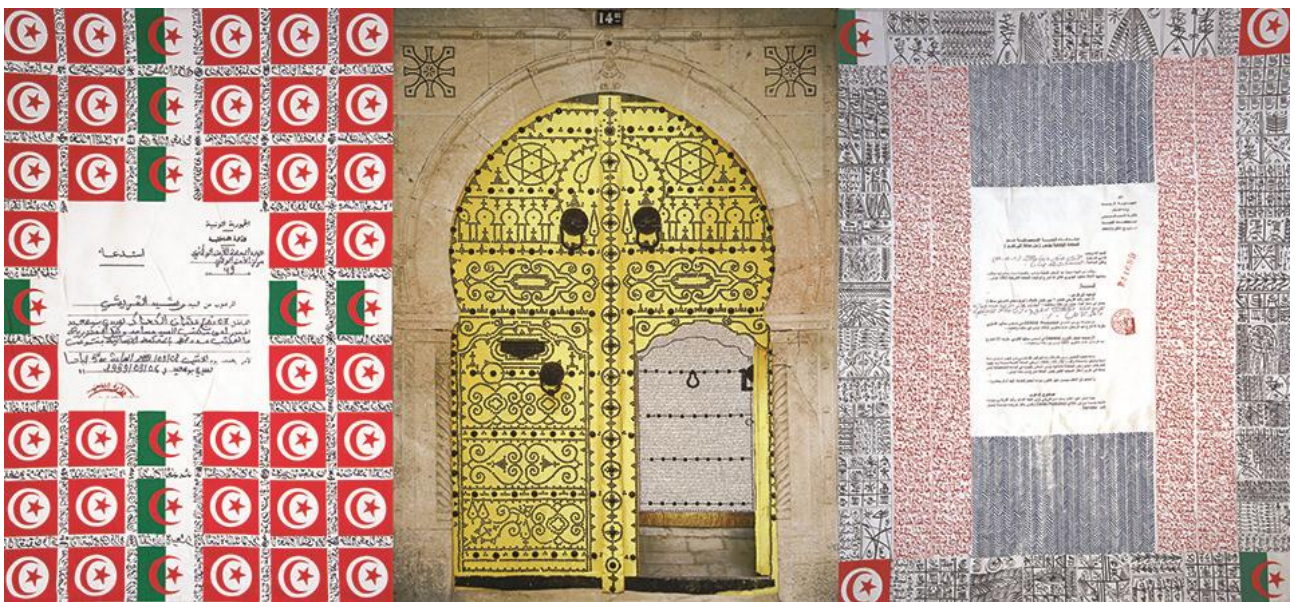




Rachid Koraichi in the production studio, Factum Arte, Madrid, Spain - 2015

## Amour, passion, révolution · 2015

*Amour, passion, révolution (Love, passion, revolution)* is an installation comprising of three large unique tapestries. Each of the three tapestry pieces reveal his own experience of love, loss and right. Inspired by the provoking and passionate story of Koraichi's life, this monumental tapestry denounces the authoritarian systems in countries that spread the Arab revolution, such as Tunisia, his country of adoption, and also Algeria, his country of origin. Throughout the tapestry, Koraichi references the work of poet Abou el Kacem Chebbi, and uses his messages to convey his own personal opinions.



Amour, passion, révolution, 2015

Tapestry

Three parts measuring 380 x 290 cm each

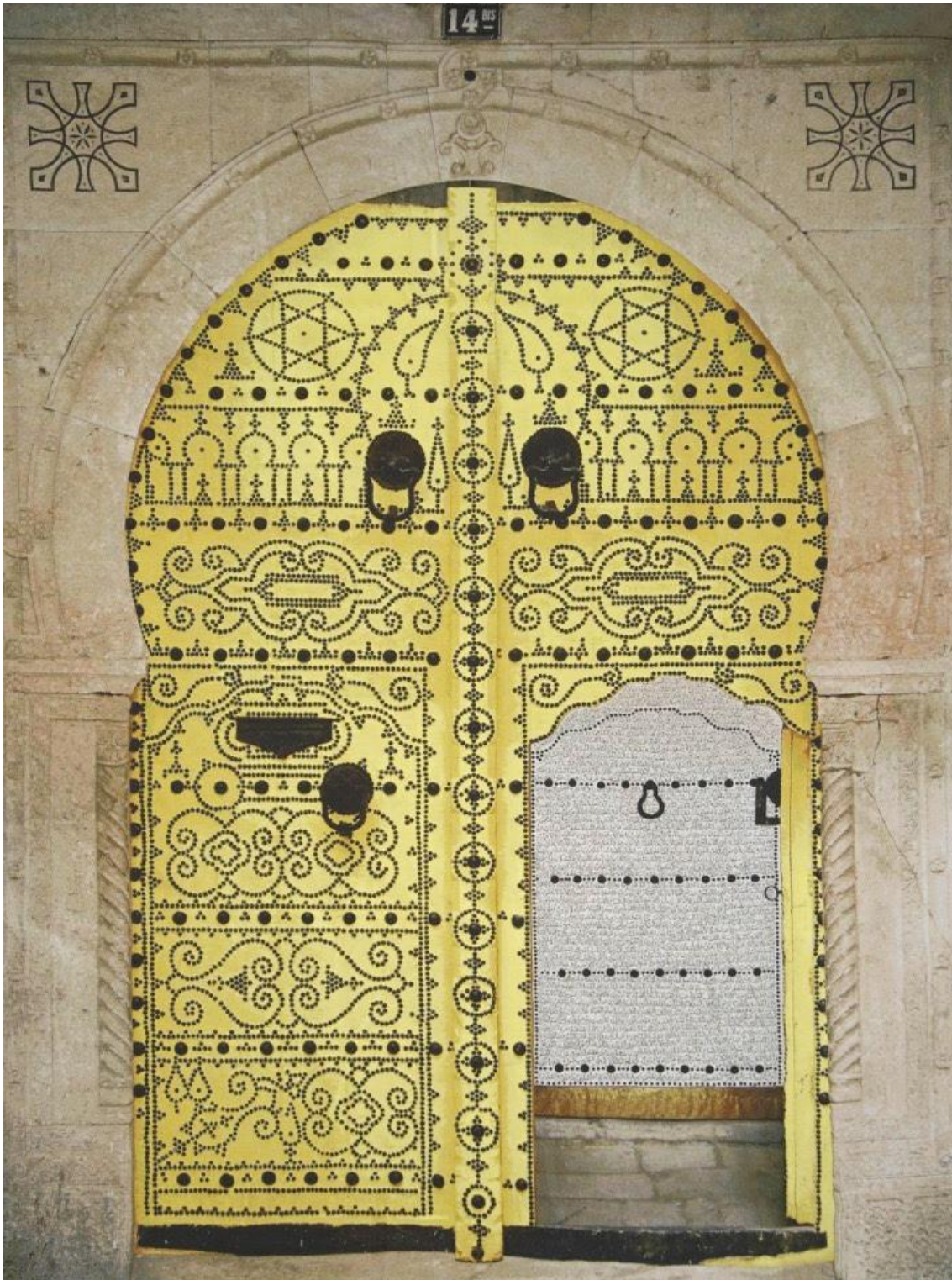
Unique piece.





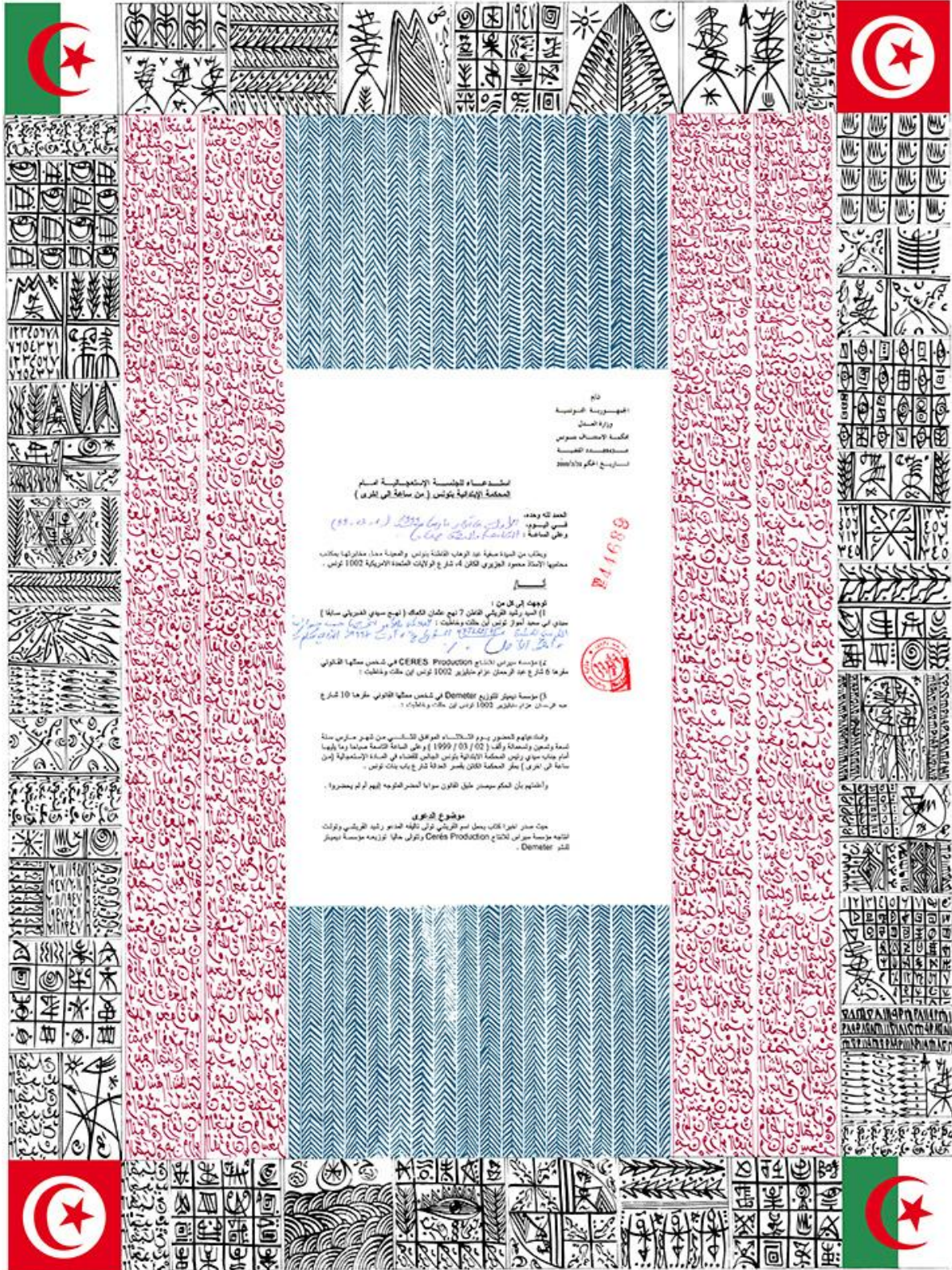
Amour, passion, révolution, 2015  
Tapestry part I





Amour, passion, révolution, 2015  
Tapestry part II





Amour, passion, révolution, 2015  
Tapestry part III





Amour, passion, révolution, 2015  
Tapestry

Three parts measuring 380 x 290 cm each

Unique piece.



Rachid Koraichi in the production studio, Factum Arte, Madrid, Spain - 2015



## Rachid Koraichi (Algeria, b.1947)

Rachid Koraichi was born in Ain Beida, Algeria, in 1947, and now lives and works in Tunisia and France. He first studied at the Institute of Fine Arts and the Superior National School of the Arts in Algeria, before moving to France to continue his studies at the National School of Decorative Arts and the School of Urban Studies in Paris.

Koraichi's sculptural explorations extend across an impressive range of different media, with his installations including ceramics, textiles, various metals and painted work on silk, paper or canvas. His work is influenced by an abiding fascination with signs of all kinds, both real and imaginary. Beginning with the intricate beauties of the Arabic calligraphic scripts his work is composed of symbols, glyphs and ciphers drawn from a wide variety of other languages and cultures. Whether the source be the numerological insights of ancient cultures or his inventive and imaginary Chinese ideograms that appear to share similar forms, Koraichi's work integrates these layered systems of signs into an organised and marvellous description of the world that surrounds us.

Rachid Koraichi was included in the international touring exhibition *Short Century*, and in the 47th and 49th Venice Biennale, and in *Word into Art* at the British Museum, 2006. Part of his installation, *Path of Roses*, comprising embroidered silk, textiles, steel sculptures, roses and ceramics, was acquired by the British Museum. Concerned with the Islamic concept of *Safar* (travel and transcendence), this installation traces the journey of the medieval poet and traveler Jalal ad-Din Rûmî across the Mediterranean to meet the Sufi mystic and poet Ibn al-Arabi. While his aesthetics are deeply rooted in his multicultural Algerian heritage, Rachid Koraichi is a truly cosmopolitan artist who speaks to a global audience. He has participated in many international exhibitions, and his work is included in major private and public collections worldwide such as the British Museum, London; the National Museum for African Art, Washington and the Museum of Islamic Arts, Doha. In 2010, he contributed works to the Centro Cultural Banco do Brazil's exhibition *Isla, (Islam) and The Future of Tradition – The Tradition of Future*, at the Haus de Kunst, Germany. A major exhibition of his outstanding installation, *The Path of Roses*, was held at the Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi in March, 2011.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Graduated from L'Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts d'Alger  
 Graduated from L'Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs de Paris  
 Graduated from L'Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris  
 Graduated from L'Institut d'Urbanisme de l'Académie de Paris

## PRIZES

2013 Prix Institut de France, Fondation Prince Louis de Polignac, Paris, France  
 2011 The Jameel Prize

## SOLO SHOWS (Selection)

2015 Aicon Gallery, New York, USA  
 2013 *Livres d'artiste de Rachid Koraïchi*, Éditions & Espace Méridianes, Montpellier, France  
 2011 *Path of Roses* by Rachid Koraïchi at the Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi, presented by the Abu Dhabi Music & Art Foundation in association with October Gallery, London, U.K.  
 2010 Rachid Koraïchi: *Ecstatic Flow*, October Gallery / London, U.K.  
 Rachid Koraïchi: *Les Sept dormants* (The seven dormants), Espace Riquet / Béziers, France  
*Bouqala: Chants des femmes d'Alger* (Hymns of women from Algiers), 49 lithographies originales de Rachid Koraïchi (encre et techniques mixtes), Médiathèque /Aubenas, France  
 2009 *Une nation en exil* (A nation in exile): engravings by Rachid Koraïchi and calligraphies by Hassan Massoudy and Kamel Ibrahim illustrating texts by Mahmoud Darwich, Musée d'art moderne et contemporain / Algiers, Algeria & at the Institute of Islamic Cultures, Paris, France  
 2008 *The Essential Art of African Textiles : Design Without End*, Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas / Metropolitan Museum of Art /New York, USA  
*Les ancêtres liés aux étoiles* (An Ancestry linked to the stars): Rachid Koraïchi, Ferrante Ferranti (photographies), 39th photography meetings of Arles, Chapelle St-Martin du Méjan, Arles, France  
*Word Into Art: Artists of the Modern Middle East*, Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) / Dubai, UAE  
 2006 *Word into Art: Artists of the Modern Middle East*, British Museum, London, U.K.  
*Without Boundary: Seventeen Ways of Looking*, The Museum of Modern Art / New York, USA  
 2005 *Rachid Koraïchi: Ancestral Memories*, October Gallery / London, U.K.  
 2002 *Chemin de roses; Beyrouth en poème; Une nation en exil*, (Path of the Roses/Beirut's Poem/A Nation in Exile), The Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca / New York, USA  
 2001 *Le chemin de roses – Path of the roses*, French Institute of Casablanca and Marrakech, Morocco  
 2000 *L'Enfant Jazz*, Institut du Monde Arabe / Paris, France  
*Rencontre à Casablanca (Meeting in Casablanca)* with Moroccan artist Farid Belkahlia, Galerie El Manar / Tunisia  
 1999 Galerie Isma – French Embassy in Alger, Algeria  
*L'Enfant Jazz*, Galerie du Passage / Marseille, France

- Autour des voyages de Delacroix et Matisse*, Residency in Marrakech, Morocco  
*Jardins Secrets III*, Manufacture des Céillets / Ivry-sur-Seine, France  
*Ô Fleurs, A tribute to Al Attar*, International Garden Festival / Chaumont sur Loire, France  
*Le chemin de roses - Path of the roses, A tribute to Rûmî*, Residency in Anatolia, Turkey  
*Commissioned carpet for Galerie Janos* / Paris, France
- 1998 *Lettres d'Argiles: A tribute to Ibn Arabi*, Espace Gard / Nîmes, France / Darat al Funun, Amman, Jordan / Medersa Mustansirya, Bagdad, Iraq / French Cultural Center, Damas, Syria / Ribat of Sousse – French Cultural Center, Tunisia  
*Jardin du Paradis*, International Garden festival / Chaumont sur Loire, France  
*Koraïchi*, Leighton House Museum / London, UK
- 1997 *Meditations*, Medersa Ibn Youssef / Marrakech, Morocco  
*L'Enfant Jazz*, Institut du Monde Arabe / Paris, France  
*Mural of steel*, Hommage à Okba, University of Kairouan, Tunisia  
*Lettres d'Argiles*, Résidence - Atelier du Chêne vert, Anduze, France - Atelier Galtié et Buthod Garçon, St Quentin la Poterie, France  
*Koraïchi*, Fondation Shoman, Darat al Funun / Amman, Jordan
- 1996 *Mural de céramique*, Ecole Robert Desnos / Tunis, Tunisia  
*Une Nation en exil*, Fondation Shoman - Darat al Funun, Amman, Jordan, and in Norway
- 1995 *Installation Haus der Kulturen der Welt* / Berlin, Germany  
*Talisman*, Mur Fontaine Palm-Beach / Tozeur, Tunisia / Atelier Sakal, Djerba, Tunisia  
French Institute / Barcelona, Spain

#### GROUP SHOWS (Selection)

- 2015 *Nel Mezzo del Mezzo*, Museo Riso, Regional Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Palermo, Sicily, Italy  
*International Arabic Calligraphy Exhibition*, Wafi Mall, Dubai, UAE  
*Expanding Africa at the Newark Museum: New Visions, New Galleries*, Newark Museum, NY, USA
- 2014 *The Global Africa Project: Political Patterns*, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea  
*Abu Dhabi Art*, October Gallery and Galerie El Marsa, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*Biennale Internationale de Casablanca*, Morocco  
*ArteVida*, Museum of Modern Art, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
*35 Years of the Transvanguard: Contemporary art from around the planet*, October Gallery, London, UK  
*Art14*, October Gallery, London, UK
- 2013 *Dieu(x); Modes d'emploi (God(s) ; instructions)*– Rachid Koraïchi is presenting his installation «*Tu manques même à mon ombre (Me and my shadow miss you)*» inspired by the 99 names of Allah - *Le Petit Palais, musée des Beaux-Arts de la ville de Paris, France*
- 2012/2013  
The Jameel Prize: Art Inspired by Islamic Tradition - First U.S. Viewing, [Stanford University / Cantor Arts Center](#), USA
- 2012 *Systems and Patterns*, [The International Centre of Graphic Arts \(MGLC\)](#) Ljubljana, Slovenia



- Written Images : Contemporary Calligraphy from the Middle East*, Sundaram Tagore Gallery, Hong Kong, China  
*Jameel Prize : Art contemporain d'inspiration islamique*, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France  
*Exposición Jameel Prize 2011*, Casa Árabe/Madrid, Spain
- 2011 *Written Images : Contemporary Calligraphy from the Middle East*, Sundaram Tagore Gallery, New York, USA  
*Jameel Prize 2011*, Victoria & Albert Museum / London, U.K.  
*Untitled*, Galerie Elmarsa / Tunis, Tunisia  
*Miragens : Arte Contemporânea no Mundo Islâmico*, Museu Nacional do Conjunto Cultural / Brasilia, Brazil  
*Sajjil : A Century of Modern Art*, Mathaf - the Arab Museum of Modern Art / Doha, Qatar
- 2010/2011  
*The Future of Tradition - The Tradition of Future : 100 Years After the Exhibition 'Masterpieces of Muhammadan Art' in Munich*, Haus der Kunst / München, Germany
- 2010 *Figures de la Méditerranée (Mediterranean faces)* by Hervé Di Rosa and Rachid Koraichi, French Institute of Cracow, Poland
- 2009 *Views & Perspectives in North African Art*, Galerie El Marsa, Tunis
- 2008 Grey Gallery, New York, USA  
*Words into Art*, British Museum, Dubai, UAE  
 Metropolitan Museum, New York, USA  
 Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg, Russia
- 2007 *Words into Art*, British Museum, London, UK
- 2006 MoMa, New York, USA
- 2001 *Unpacking Europe*, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, Netherland  
*Authentic/Excentric*, 49<sup>e</sup> Biennial of Venice, Italy  
*L'Estampe arabe contemporaine*, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France  
*The Short Century, Independence and Liberation Movements in Africa (1945 – 1994)*, Museum Villa Stuck, München, Munich – Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, Germany - Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, USA – P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center and the Museum of Modern Art, New-York, USA
- 1999 *Peintres du signe*, Castel of Belval, Mirarnas, Pacaembù Sao Paolo, Brazil  
*Global Conceptualism, Points of Origin (1950 – 1980)*, Queen Museum of Art, Queens, USA
- 1998 *Mediterranea, Art of the world*, botanical garden, Brussels, Belgium  
*Modernities and Memories*, Fondation Rockefeller / Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey  
*Peintres du signe*, La Courneuve; Château de Draveil, Draveil, France
- 1997 *Memories and Modernities*, Fondation Rockefeller - 47<sup>e</sup> Biennial, Venice, Italy – 6<sup>e</sup> Biennial of Havana, Cuba  
*Artistes pour la Paix*, with the painter F. Belkahia, Espace Louis Feuillade, Lunel, Paris, France
- 1996 *L'Arco Da Lapa*, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
*Arabish Tekens*, Museum Voor Volkenkunde, Rotterdam, Netherland  
*Images of Africa Festival*, Barbican Center, London, UK  
*Images of Africa Festival*, Odense, Denmark  
*Art Contemporain*, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France

*5<sup>ème</sup> Biennial Internacional de Poesia Visual*, Palacio Legislativo, Mexico

*Rhythm and Form*, Hallie Brown Gallery AT- Willamette University in Salem - University of Oregon - University of Arkansas - Rice University - University of Berkley, USA

1995 *Rencontres Africaines*, Centre Culturel Français, Lisbon, Portugal- Centre Culturel Français, Nyamey, Niger – Centre Culturel Français, Cotonou, République du Bénin, Africa

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Museum of Modern Art of Paris, France

*Musée national des Arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie*, Paris, France

Museum of Modern Art of Cairo, Egypt

British Museum, London, UK

Museum of Mankind, London, UK

Vesti Corporation, Boston, USA

Cheminal Bank, New York, USA

Museum Voor Volkenkunde, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

National Gallery, Amman, Jordan

National Gallery, Kuwait

Museum of Modern Art of Tunis, Tunisia

Museum of Contemporary Art, Baghdad, Iraq

*Cabinet des estampes* - Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris, France

Multimedia library of Limoges, France

Museum of Contemporary Art, Institut du Monde Arabe (IAW), Paris, France

Foundation Gulbenkian, Lisbon, Portugal

Fondation A.Shoman, Darat al Funun, Amman, Jordan

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, USA

Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Worl Bank, Washington, USA

## BIBLIOGRAPHY (selection)

- *Le Testament de l'Ennemi*, Etel Adnan, Rachid Koraichi - Edition Mensa -Madrid
- *L'hymne Gravé*, Mahmoud Darwish, Rachid Koraïchi - Edition Mensa - Madrid
- *Salomé*, Michel Butor, Rachid Koraïchi - Edition Editart - Genève
- *Cris Ecris*, Rachid Koraichi, Nicole de Pontcharra, Pierre Restany - Edition de Lassa - Bruxelles
- *Une Nation en l'Exil*, Mahmoud Darwish, Hassan Massoudy, Abdelkebir Khatibi, Rachid Koraïchi - Edition Fondation Shoman - Amman
- *L'Enfant Jazz*, Mohamed Dib, Rachid Koraïchi - Edition Mustapha Orif- Alger- Réalisation Frank Bordas - Paris
- *Lettres d'argile*, Rachid Koraichi Nicole de Pontcharra, Roxanne Hodes - Editions Corinne Maeght - Nîmes
- *Koraichi*, Textes de Nourredine Saadi, Jean-Louis Pradel - Editions Sindbad Actes-Sud - Arles
- *Anthologie de la Poésie Arabe*, Rachid Koraichi - Editions Mango - Paris
- *Tu es mon amour depuis tant d'années*, Nancy Huston - Rachid Koraïchi, Ed. Thierry Magnier, Paris, 2001

- *Pluie sur la Palestine*, poème de Salah Stétié, Editions Al Manar, Neuilly/Seine,
- *Couleurs de l'invisible*, neuf nouvelles de Sylvie Germain accompagnées par Rachid Koraïchi
- *Jennine*, poème en prose, de détresse et de combat, par Etel Adnan, Editions Al Manar, Neuilly / Seine, 2004.
- *Les sept dormants*, Hommage aux moines assassinés à Tiberhine ; textes de John Berger, Michel Butor, Hélène Cixous, Sylvie Germain, Nancy Huston, Alberto Manguel et Leïla Sebbar. Suite de gravures par R. Koraïchi. Actes-Sud, 2005.
- *Islamic Calligraphy*, Sheila S. Blair, Edinburgh University Press, 2006.

For more information about the Installations, Elmarsa gallery opening, or press enquiries, please contact:

Emily Charles on +971 4 3415806  
info@galerielmarsa.com

www.galerielmarsa.com  
@elmarsagallery - instagram