

## PRESS RELEASE // CAROLINE PAGÈS GALLERY



Driss Ouadahi, *Transposition*, 2016, oil on canvas, 160 x 140 cm

### **Driss Ouadahi**

#### *Transposition*

**Opening on Saturday, September 24 from 5 to 8 pm**

September 24 – November 19, 2016

Caroline Pagès Gallery

Rua Tenente Ferreira Durão, 12 – 1º Dto.

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Open from 3 - 8 pm Tuesday through Saturday, and by appointment.

The work presented by Driss Ouadahi — a series of paintings (oil on canvas) and drawings (acrylic paint and graphite) — offers a fresh perspective that questions the intersections between the culture of his native country (Algeria) and some of the modernist models that currently underpin the Western world. Discussing the question of identity and the place of the other, Driss Ouadahi explores the (dis)encounter of different times and cultures, in an overlapping process that seeks new ways to understand mankind.

Issues such as the grid or geometry, that in the Islamic world mould not only the relationship between the individual / collective, but also the idea of order and transcendence, are revised by him, from the perspective of an urban sphere, at the present moment in time.

These are references to a cultural specificity, which the author toys with. By changing its expression, he questions the idea of belonging and place. Belonging to a physical, individual or collective place, and also to an immaterial zone, a place of encounters and disencounters, of who we are, and how we are.

Revealing the desire to seek and the uncertainty of an encounter, the places that Driss Ouadahi shows us are melancholically generic. The images he shows us - whether buildings from the outskirts of any large city, empty lands encircled by metal fences, or mere zones of passage - are tendentially non-places, or expectant places, that have a diffuse nature, where no one recognises themselves and few linger. For this reason, even though we glimpse the echo of many cultures in his work, we also realise that the moment of connection is slow to happen. But it is also in the instability of this lonely place, or in the hope of this apparently delayed encounter, that we recognise and strengthen the human condition. A condition expressed in the weakness that truly unites us.

Sérgio A. Fazenda Rodrigues, September 2016

**Driss Ouadahi** (DZ/DE, born in 1959) lives and works in Düsseldorf, Germany. *Transposition* is the artist's second solo show at the Caroline Pagès Gallery. Other solo shows include regular shows at the Hosfelt Gallery in San Francisco and Lawrie Shabibi Gallery in Dubai, UAE; the Horst Schuler Gallery, Düsseldorf, Germany (2011); Herbert-Weisenburger-Stiftung, Rastatt, Germany (2009); dok25a, Düsseldorf, Germany (2008); Atelier am Eck, Düsseldorf, Germany (2005); Centre d'Art Contemporain Istres, Marseille, France (2003); Klinkhammer-Metzner Gallery, Düsseldorf, Germany (2001); and JASIM Gallery, Düsseldorf, Germany (2000).

Driss Ouadahi was awarded the Léopold Sédar Senghor Grand Prize at the *Dakar Biennale* in 2014 (curated by Elise Atangana, Abdelkader Damani, Smooth Ugochukwu Nzewi). Group exhibitions include *25 ans de créativité arabe* (2013), curated by Ihab El Laban, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris and Abu Dhabi; *100%\_100 ans, 100 artistes* (2013), curated by Mohamed Rachdi, Espace d'Art-Société Générale, Casablanca, Morocco; *Horizons croisés* (2012), curated by Brahim Alaoui, Moussem culturel international d'Assilah, Morocco; *Desviar do Olhar* (2012), Caroline Pagès Gallery, Lisbon; *Le Retour* (2011), 3rd FIAC, MAMA, Algiers, Algeria; *Magreb: Dos Orillas* (2011), curated by Brahim Alaoui, Círculo de Bellas Artes, Madrid; *Future of a Promise* (2011), curated by Lina Lazaar, 54th Venice Biennale, Italy; *Geometric Days* (2011), Exit Art, New York; *Looking Inside Out* (2009), curated by Maaretta Jaukkuri and Cristina Ricupero, Kunstnernes Hus, Oslo, Norway; *Périmètres* (2009), Centre d'Art Neuchâtel, Switzerland; *Iconoclastes: Les territoires de l'esprit* (2008), curated by Kader Attia, Galerie Anne de Villepoix, Paris; *Alger Capitale de la Culture Arabe* (2007), Museum of Modern & Contemporary Art, Algiers, Algeria.

His work can be seen in the German public collections of the Kunstmuseum Düsseldorf, Stadtparkasse Baden-Baden, Herbert-Weisenburger-Stiftung Rastatt, and Nadour Collection. It has also integrated the Kamel Lazaar Foundation in Switzerland, the FRAC Centre Val de Loire in France and the Barjeel Collection in Sharjah, UAE.

**For more information and visuals please contact the gallery at [+315] 21 387 33 76 or [+351] 91 679 56 97 or email us at [galler@carolinepages.com](mailto:galler@carolinepages.com).**