

Mourabiti | SANS FRONTIÈRES

Exhibition: 26 april - 3 June 2017

Vernissage: 25 april | h7:00 pm

VOICE gallery from Marrakech is pleased to invite you on april 25th at H7 :00pm, to the opening of the solo exhibition *SANS FRONTIÈRES* from the artist Mourabiti.

With *SANS FRONTIÈRES* Mohamed Mourabiti has chosen to place the African continent at the centre of the world. A silhouette-shape sculpted at the heart of a planet that could be the Earth- then surrounded by a sea rendered with natural blues- or another Earth- grey coalescences suggesting craters- or the actual soil of the African continent, in ochres and browns.

In this series, Africa is the World, alone, strong, imposing, massive. Africa is green, Nature. It is multicoloured and composite. It is coloured with the sunny colours of fabrics - damask or printed cottons with floral, botanical or geometrical patterns. It asserts itself, devoid of frontiers, as land prior to colonisation, and prior to fratricidal wars, as original and primal Africa.

[...]

For Mourabiti, the map of Africa is a writing, his planisphere, his Origine du monde. Brian Haley, the reknown cartographer, used to say that maps were « metaphore and rhetoric ». And this is what the artist is doing in showing « Africa as we see it, protected by water and air, without frontiers or outline ». Thus clarifying : « In olden days, before colonisation, Africa did not have today's frontiers. The inhabitants of the Continent communicated, and the only existing frontiers would manifest themselves through rituals, dress, tribes or tattoos ».

[...]

An experiment also carried out by Mohamed Mourabiti in his working process. The map of Africa is cut out in very thin stripes of wood which are then encompassed with fabric. For him, « la carte, c'est le plein » (the map is the 'full'). He then prepares « le vide » (the 'empty'), the Universe also a wooden circle carved out so the shape can take its place, « comme dans un puzzle ». He then paints, following a highly elaborated gesture and scenography, hanging his tondo with ropes from the ceiling, making the piece float in space. Acrylic colours are applied, pigments mixed with a very liquid binder. The map appears on this background, cut out, as if etched, with all the thickness of the living.

[...]

Mohamed Mourabiti therefore operates a synthesis between art and cartography, reaffirming his africanity and the rooting of Morocco in the continent, reappropriating the proposition of geographer Philippe Reckacewicz : « The map- maker borrows from the painting masters their means of expression. He is the filter through which scientific data, sifts before becoming work of art. Map making, a form of art? Without a doubt, if one accepts the idea that mapping is not the « miniature » of a territory, a simplified image of the latter, but also the expression of the sensitivity of its creator, who imprints in it his interpretation of the World ».