

Curator biography:

Toufik Douib is an independent curator and event director. His multidisciplinary practice focuses on the question of Algerian-Maghrebi identities through eclectic contemporary lenses, bridging with Diaspora artists and across the eastern and western creative scene.

After completing a Masters in cultural events management, Toufik curated in 2015 his first exhibition 'Algerianism'. This followed three distinct collaborations with the P21 Gallery (2017-2018): solo exhibition 'Dhikr Pictural', series of short movie screening '{Un}Told Stories' and critically acclaimed visual group show 'Pop Art from North Africa', which has since been presented in Spain (2019-2020).

Toufik was also commissioned on two occasions by Shubbak Festival, UK's largest festival dedicated to MENA culture: through 'Belonging Sideways' – a multimedia exhibition on the theme of territory and identity and, last year, with 'Soundclash' gender-binding experience of politically charged sound and visuals.

Other cultural ventures include the artistic research project "Generation Independence" for Portsmouth University and coordination of 'DIGI-MENA' online mapping research platform.

Portfolio of selected projects and collaborations:

- **2015: Algerianism:**



The word 'Algerianism' was initially describing a literary movement constituted in the early twentieth century by a group of French and Algerian intellectuals, who aimed to build a cultural ideology to reunite both settler and native communities. But after the independence, the notion of Algerianism was taken by Algerian thinkers into a more nationalist and patriotic reference.

This exhibition is a visual collaboration with French Pied-Noir artist, Patrick Altes, bringing a reflective on Algeria's emergent art scene on what the concept of Algerianism would mean today.

<https://nourfestivalblog.wordpress.com/tag/algerianism/>

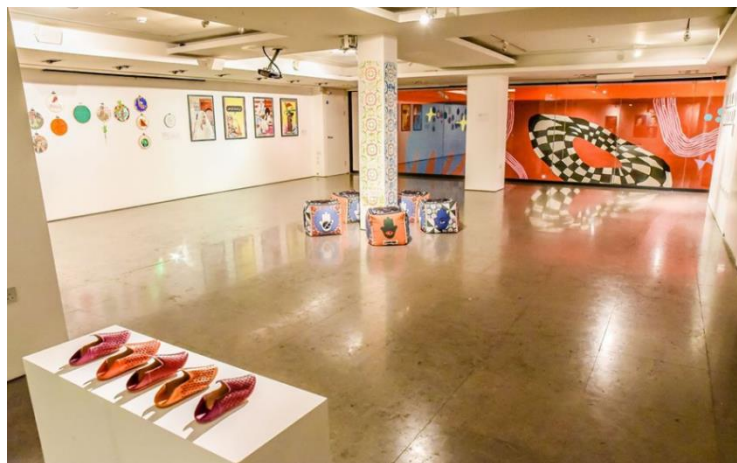
- **2016: Home-Lend (ARTifariti):**



‘Home-Lend’ seeks to engage into a full dialogue on the percept of occupation and belonging; at a time of decolonization’s inspect and refugees’ crisis, the idea is to break those stereotypes as well as the geographical boundaries and ultimately help define a new notion of identity and nationalism while referencing the themes of memory and filiations. The virtual exhibition was commissioned for the 10th anniversary of ‘Artifariti’, a human rights residency project supporting Western Sahara through art.

<http://www.afterthefuture.care/toufik-douib-home-lend.html>

- **2017: Pop Art North Africa - part I (London):**



‘Pop Art from North Africa’ brings together for the first time the artworks of fifteen creative individuals and artists from North Africa, all inspired by the Pop Art movement.

Through paintings, digitally manipulated images, animation, music and street art, the show will take the audience on a voyage through urban landscapes, exploring the Maghreb’s human condition while indicating the tortuous clash between tradition and modernity, in homage to the pioneers of the Western pop art, such as Keith Haring, Andy Warhol, and Roy Lichtenstein.

<http://p21.gallery/exhibitions/past-exhibitions/2017-exhibitions/exhibition-pop-art-from-north-africa/>

- **2017: Dhikr Pictural:**



Dhikr Pictural inspires to reconnect truthfully with the Self and look beyond the unknown to reach out for what is divine. Moreover, this exhibition is an invitation to all senses and different audiences; whether art-lovers, rationale-geeks or spiritually-curious, through ornamental executions, numerical mysteries or metaphysical implications. This spiritually-charged show offered a rich programme of events, including talks, performances and workshops.

<https://thearabweekly.com/london-exhibition-brings-colourful-interpretation-quran>

- **2018: Untold Stories:**



Artists and video-makers come from different background and parts of the world, either local, Diaspora or Western: Their short documentaries, fictions and video installations all connect to the human condition in today's complex geopolitical societies in Arab countries, where often there is no room for expression on issues that affect rights of its people, and the answer is often passive complicity within mass observers. Screening themes included censorship, womanhood, Arab LGBT & more.

<http://p21.gallery/events/past-events/2018-events/film-talk-un-told-stories/>

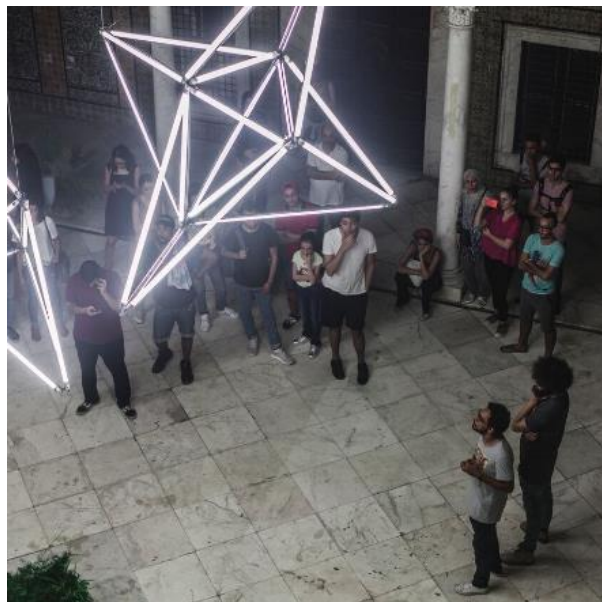
- **2018: The Other House (SEAS Brighton):**



The multidisciplinary exhibition “The Other House” depicts home as a difficult, strange, missed, threatening, or dangerous place. Using photography, painting, collage and installation, the international group of twenty artists shed a harsh and revealing light on what is meant to be a sanctuary and the most comfortable place (home) and expose its precarious foundations. In this project, Toufik showcased works of Iranian and Basque artists.

<https://seasbrighton.com/2018/03/12/the-other-house-exhibition-5th-to-27th-may-2018/>

- **2018: Interference light festival (Tunis):**



Connecting contemporary art with architecture, INTERFERENCE is an international light art project that transforms Tunisian capital’s Medina into a center of attraction, even after dawn. This second edition hosted 42 invited international artists who addressed the theme of cultural heritage in a changing country that is rich in history. As a guest curator, Toufik presented works of artists from Egypt and Germany.

<http://2018.intunis.net/fr/ahmed-el-shaer/>

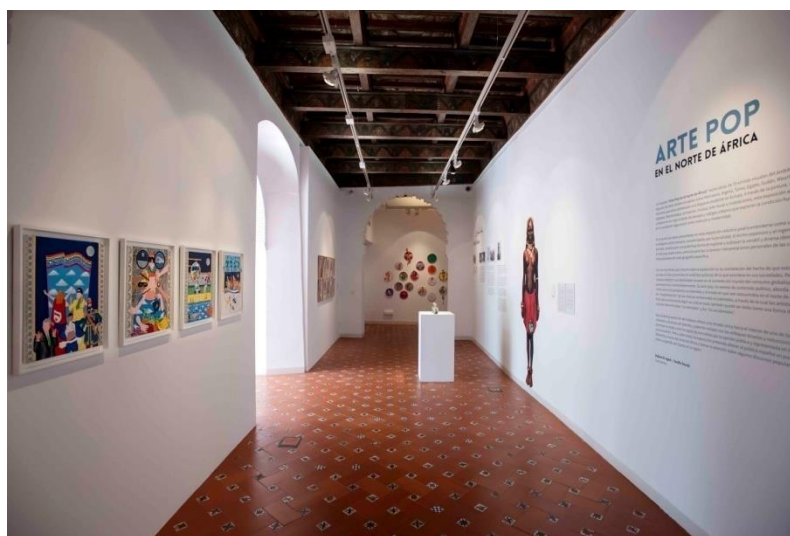
- **2019: Belonging, Sideways:**



Five Algerian contemporary artists explore identity and location. Looking at cultural diversity, migration and the challenges of coexistence, “Belonging, Sideways” features work from different corners of Algeria and dealing with complex histories, geographies and biographies. This multimedia exhibition includes video, animation, digital photography and photo-installation.

<https://www.shubbak.co.uk/belonging-sideways/>

- **2019-2020: Pop Art from North Africa - part II (Casa Árabe, Spain):**



“Pop Pop Art in North Africa” landed Spain at the Casa Árabe headquarters, in Madrid, in late 2019. The novelty in this show is the inclusion of artists from Sudan and Mauritania, as the thought-provoking exhibition continues to confront social and cultural issues within the region and through the colorful perspective of the Pop Art movement.

Virtual tour of the exhibition in Madrid: <https://youtu.be/f4Ym-FLcBFg>

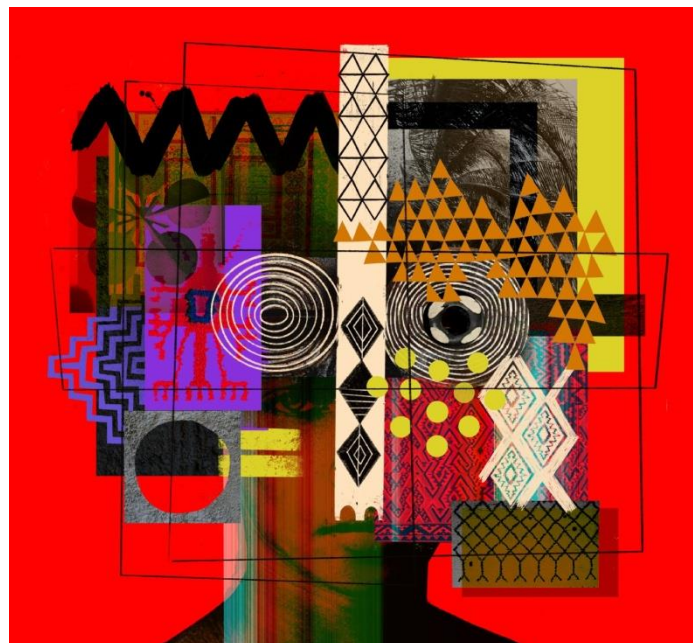
Also this year, during the confinement time, curators and Casa Árabe engaged in the online exhibition “Pop Art vs. Covid”.



Online exhibition: <https://youtu.be/jQ5nU9v4Hfs>

- **2021: Soundclash (Online):**

Living through revolutions, uprisings, protests and activist movements has been a seminal experience for most young people in North Africa. Each life is personal and different, each country specific, but the explosive atmosphere of the last 10 years has led to the birth of a new breed of musicians who boldly combine electronica, Dj-ing and visuals with irreverent politics.



Fusing Arabian mixtapes with Maghrebi anthems, graphics and stroboscopic effects, Soundclash is a genre-bending experience from North Africa of new sound and visuals with a political conviction. [Soundclash](#) marked the curator's second collaboration with Shubbak Festival.

2021: Exist, Resist, Repeat (Hilbertraum Gallery, Berlin):



This exhibition was imagined as a visual diary that pays tribute to some of the artists, initiatives that the curator have worked or connected with during the 'Covid Era'. '**Exist, Resist, Repeat**' aspires to bring a nuanced vision to the quest for art in resistance and celebration of the first almost normal audience-setting exhibition in two years.

This event was a vibrant homage to Turkish symbolist artist *Ahmet Talha Gurol* (work in display) who passed away a few weeks before the show opened.

- **DIGI-MENA (since 2018):**

Curator coordinator for *DIGI-MENA*, an online research platform that aims to source and connect digital artists from the digital art scene working within the Middle East and North Africa & Diaspora. Project founded by Out of the Circle Cairo.



Pilot e-catalogue for North Africa: https://issuu.com/outofthecircle/docs/book_final

Toufik has been awarded the AFAC grant in the Trainings and Regional Events category for 'DIGI-DZ' series of workshop and exhibition project (resuming in late 2022 after being on-hold due to the pandemic crisis).