



Rabat – March 01, 2024

An artistic residency in comic strips:

Khaliya 3 - Bringing together Young Moroccan Talents from Here and Abroad

For the first time in Morocco, a collaboration between the Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad (CCME), the Al Mada Foundation, and the Hiba Foundation, gives birth to a unique opportunity for young Moroccan comic book authors and illustrators, which are established in the country or currently residing abroad. The 3rd edition of the BD Khaliya artistic residency will be held from March 4th to March 10th at Studio Hiba in Casablanca, Morocco.

The Hiba Foundation has launched the "Khaliya" initiative, an artistic residency dedicated to comics, intending to stimulate creation, showcase talents, and promote the comics artistic genre. Given that comics are still relatively unexplored in Morocco, despite a dedicated artistic community, adapted training programs, and growing public interest, the Hiba Foundation marks the start of organizing these artistic residencies in 2019, to boost the sector, foster national production, and support artists.

Previous editions of the "Khaliya" comic residency brought together a total of 20 artists for the publication of a first comic book on an open theme, followed by a second edition on the theme of death entitled "Khatar L'mawt". This year, under the impulse of the CCME and in collaboration with the Al Mada Foundation, the residency will welcome for the first time young Moroccan talents from Morocco and from the diaspora living abroad, under the supervision of two distinguished artists from Morocco and France, Zineb Benjelloun and Rakidd, making Khaliya an international project.

For the third edition of the Khaliya project, the theme will be "Khaliya from Here and Abroad". Following the call for applications launched by the three institutions, 84 applications for participation were received, and only 11 young artists were selected. They will have the opportunity to take part in this experience **which will take place from the 4th to the 10th of March 2024 at Studio Hiba in Casablanca**. Online master classes, focused on screenwriting and experience sharing, were also offered as part of this artistic residency, with the participation of professionals from Morocco and abroad such as Hicham Lasri (director, screenwriter, graphic novel author,...) and Aniss EL Hammouri (comic book author).

This special edition of Khaliya which is bringing together young Moroccan artists from here and abroad, is a unique opportunity that goes far beyond simple artistic creation. By fostering better mutual understanding between young people from both sides of the river and strengthening intercultural ties, it also offers a showcase to promote the diversity and dynamics of Moroccan migration, both in Morocco and abroad. In addition, it creates professional opportunities for young talents, ensuring them international visibility and thus helping to propel comics as a major art form. By highlighting the work done through exhibitions, presentations, and invitations to festivals, this special edition of Khaliya from here and abroad plays a crucial role in the recognition and enhancement of this art, both locally and internationally.

About the 2024 Artistic Residency

The selected artists

Aicha Abouhaj - Morocco :

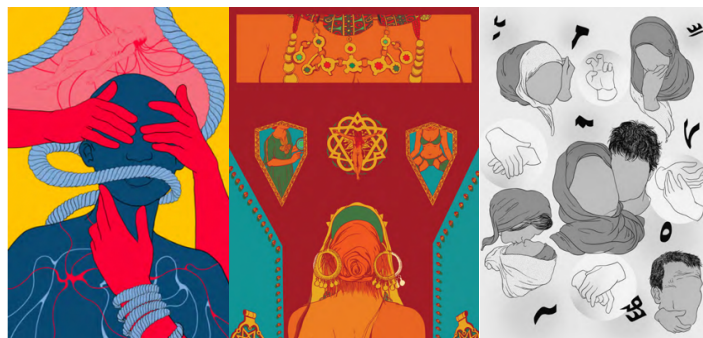
Aicha Abouhaj is a self-taught artist from Casablanca. After studying graphic design at Info Design, she sought to familiarize herself with artistic practice by gradually experimenting with different mediums and techniques. She is particularly interested in topics related to women and the vernacular practice of Berber tattooing, which is now threatened with extinction. Aicha strives to preserve this memory by reinterpreting this graphic sign language through colorful paintings and sculptures.



Merieme Mesfioui – France :

Merieme Mesfioui, also known by the pseudonym Durgamaya, is a Moroccan illustrator, graphic designer, and comic book author, residing in Angoulême, France. She is the co-founder of Spin Off, a micro-publishing and alternative music festival that ran in parallel with FIBD from 2017 to 2023. She is also the co-founder of the Hibou Print Club, a risography workshop located in Angoulême. Durgamaya is affiliated with the electronic music label Misere Label, also based in Angoulême. In 2022, in collaboration with Margot Mourrier Sanyas, she co-created Editions Dentata.

In her illustration work, she mixes calligraphy, traditional Moroccan motifs and elements of Islamic art, adding an erotic touch to it. An activist for women's and LGBTQIA+ rights as an ally in the SWANA (Southwest Asia and North Africa) region, she takes a decolonial, borderless, and intersectional approach when making art.



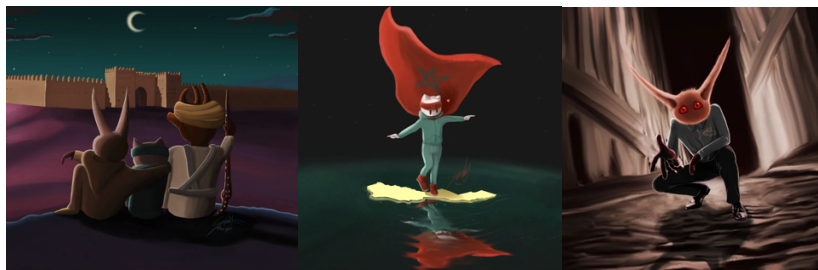
Amine Rharbi - Morocco :

Amine Rharbi is a passionate and curious artist, who has found in art a refuge from the tumult of the world. His atypical and self-taught career has led him to explore a multitude of artistic disciplines, from which he draws inspiration to create works rich in emotions. For him, art is a way to capture the complexity of the human soul, exploring both its brightest aspects and its shadowy areas. From design to storyboarding, from music to drawing, through writing and sculpture, Amine experiments with all artistic forms to give life to another reality, more poetic and in line with his vision of the world.



Meryam Sbaï – France :

Meryam Sbaï is a self-taught freelance illustrator living in Montpellier, France. Since the age of 3, she has been reproducing human portraits in pencil and has been practicing digital drawing since 2014. She also creates anthropomorphic characters (humanized animals). Meryam is passionate about birds, traditional 2D animation, and 2D video game production.



Mizmiz - Morocco :

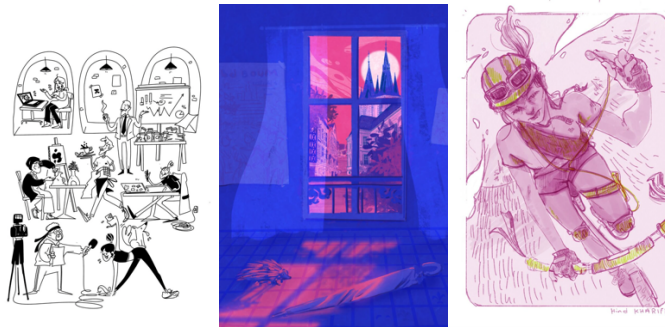
Mizmiz (El Mostafa Amziline) is a self-taught Moroccan cartoonist born in 1993 in Casablanca. Inspired by pop culture and rich Moroccan artistic production, he creates distinct and specific characters in his work. With a unique style, Mizmiz skillfully blends elements of pop art with Moroccan cultural references, giving life to original creations.



Hind Kharifi – Morocco :

Born in Meknes, Hind obtained her bachelor's degree in physical sciences and chemistry in 2011. Guided by her passion for art, she joined the National Institute of Fine Arts in Tetouan in 2015, after the release of her first self-published album entitled "Love Game" in 2014. She is interested in the issues, materials and forms that she finds in design. Before graduating in 2019, she contributed to the creation of the first design festival in Tetouan, "Tetouan Design Event 2018".

She works as a designer for Bazaar M. She won the 100 Arab Posters Prize, exhibiting her work in Abu Dhabi, Belgium and Saudi Arabia. She also has benefited from numerous artistic residencies in Morocco and abroad, and exhibits at Galerie H.



Ibticem Larbi - France :

Ibticem Larbi is an artist of Moroccan-Tunisian origin residing in France. She devotes herself mainly to illustration and comics, but she also uses painting and ceramics as mediums in her work. In addition to her visual work, she leads workshops on comics and storyboarding in collaboration with cultural institutions in France, and participates in discussions on visual arts professions in Paris.

Ibticem is an artist who loves the representation of fictional characters reflecting our time, our relationships, our dreams and our desires. She contributes to the representation of North African women in the fashion world. Her works are inspired by her cultural heritage as well as her surroundings and experiences. She also references the works that have inspired her until today.



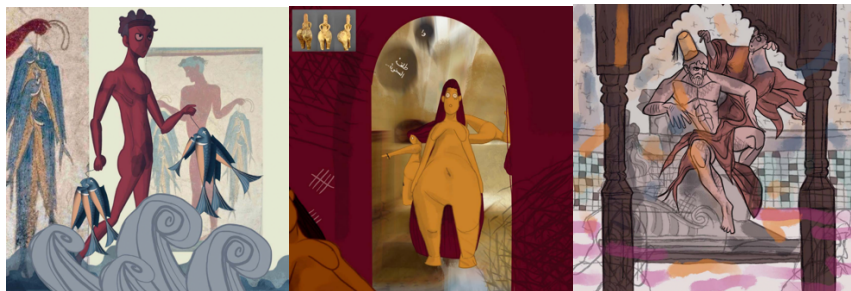
Badr BenFanich – Morocco :

Badr Benfanich, a recent graduate of INBA in Tetouan in comics, embraces the power of storytelling and interactive immersion. By nature, it is experimental, exploring various narrative styles, graphic techniques, and varied approaches. Rather than conforming to traditional labels, he defines himself as an "interactive artist and graphic storyteller," a title that reflects his commitment to exploring and expressing the myriad realms of creativity and self-expression.



Amrani Mohammed Amine – Morocco :

Mohammed Amine Amrani is a 25-year-old architect and visual artist based in Rabat, Morocco. He is fascinated by the complex relationship between heritage and the subtle traces left by humanity over time. Despite his main focus on architecture in his professional life, in 2021 he introduced a concept called "L'CumulArt". This project involves the digital reinterpretation of cave paintings and archaeological footprints, from illustrations, evolving into 2D animations, and currently expanding to longer video animations. In his hands, the past metamorphoses into pixels, creating a unique and visually captivating narrative that connects ancient stories with contemporary expression.



Inès Balegh – Belgium :

Inès Balegh, a Franco-Moroccan artist born in 1994, studied graphic design in France before moving to Brussels to specialize in comics and illustration at the ERG. She made her first comic book, "Hawli", tackling the theme of identity with a quirky and humorous tone. Passionate about kickboxing, she was inspired by her intense experiences in her Brussels boxing club to create a new comic book during her residency at Atelier Mille, of which she is now a member.



Sarah Colucci – France :

Sarah Sidrine-Colucci resides in France. She studied at the Beaux-Arts de Bruxelles, in the illustration section, as well as at the Arts Décoratifs de Paris in Printed Image. Heir to a triple culture, she grew up in a melting pot of traditions, flavors and colors. Her work is strongly inspired by Moroccan culture, with the main theme of Judeo-Arab identity. She claims the existence of plural identities.



The supervisors



Zineb Benjelloun

Born in Rabat in 1984, Zineb Benjelloun is an artist trained in fine arts and documentary filmmaking. After briefly working for a TV channel in Morocco, her practice shifted towards drawing and writing since 2013. The forms her works take are cartography, graphic novel, and illustration. Her work focuses on the relationships between the intimate and the collective and seeks to understand and describe how history shapes us as individuals and societies.

By dissecting daily life in her graphic narratives, she questions dominant discourses and acquired knowledge. Zineb Benjelloun has exhibited in Morocco and abroad, including La Gaîté lyrique in Paris, Voice Gallery in Marrakech, Ministerium für Illustration in Berlin, La Cité de la bande dessinée in Angoulême, and Galerie Tanit in Beirut. She designs visual identities for cultural events, brands, and associations including Rock en Seine in Paris, Les Nuits sonores in Tangier, or Quartiers du monde in Rabat, and has published in specialized books in graphic arts (Samandal in Lebanon, Dyptique and Skefkef in Morocco, Lab 619 in Tunisia, Slanted in Germany, or Fractal in Mexico).

She currently lives and works in Casablanca where she develops her writing and exhibition projects including Darna, her first graphic novel to be published in March 2023 by ça et là editions in Paris.



Rakidd

Rakidd, whose real name is Rachid Sguini, is a Franco-Moroccan blogger, illustrator, and writer with a sharp sense of humor, as skilled with a paintbrush as with a pen or a graphics tablet. After completing his art studies, he created his blog, <https://les-gribouillages-de-rakidd.fr/>. Since then, he has worked with Gulli, Astrapi, France Info Tv, the Institut du monde arabe, Universal, and others. His illustrated book, *Le petit manuel antiraciste pour les enfants, mais pas que !!!* (Editions Lapin/2021), addresses concepts of racism, Islamophobia, and discrimination through comics and drawings.

Souvenirs du bled (Editions Lapin/2022) is his second graphic novel. This book is a tribute to the North African diaspora which, for decades, has returned to their home country, often in July and August, to visit family by embarking on a three-day journey by car, on the roads of France and Spain.

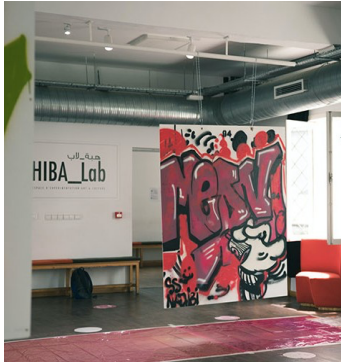
His latest comic book, released in October 2023, is titled "le petit Rachid, né sous Mitterrand". A book in which he shares his childhood memories as a child of immigrants.

The spaces



The creation and residency space:

Studio Hiba's apartments and creative spaces, located at Boulevard Ahl Loghlam, Sidi bernoussi, Casablanca, will be fitted out and made available to the speakers during the "khaliya" residency weekends.



The exhibition space :

The Hiba_lab, a space for the creation and experimentation of Hiba Foundation, located at 266 Mohammed V Boulevard, corner Halab Street, Rabat, will host the « Khaliya 09 » exhibition.

A look back at the first edition

During the first edition, 8 comic artists, selected from across Morocco, met for five weekends and benefited from the supervision of Aziz Oumoussa, professor at the National Institute of Fine Arts in Tetouan, and Mehdi Yassire, alias Koman, actor, screenwriter and writer. Together, they developed a joint comic book that addresses the theme of the street in Morocco and which they collectively chose to name "Khaliya 9".



A look back at the second edition

For the 2nd edition, 12 cartoonists were selected and did a one-week residency at the Studio Hiba in Casablanca to create the new edition of the "Khaliya" comic book.

A 90-page album, entitled "Khatar L'mawt", was born after 5 months of work; The result of the passion and vivacity of a collective of artists, orchestrated and arranged by the supervisors and trainers: Mehdi Yassire, alias Koman, actor, screenwriter and writer and Mehdi Anassi, a self-taught multidisciplinary visual artist.



For more information: <https://bit.ly/3UWg5Ke> / <https://bit.ly/42Xr1sQ>

About CCME

The National Consultative and Prospective Institution placed under the Majesty of King Mohammed VI, the Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad, was established by Dahir in December 2007 and constitutionalized during the constitutional reform approved by the referendum on July 1, 2011.

The CCME is tasked with evaluating Moroccan public policies and issuing opinions aimed at improving their effectiveness and performance for the benefit of Moroccan communities; ensuring a prospective vigilance function on the developments of emigration, the debates it triggers both in Morocco and in countries of residence and within international bodies; and consolidating the friendship and cooperation relations between Morocco and the countries of residence.

Among its responsibilities, reflecting on ways to enhance the participation of Moroccans living abroad in the political, economic, social, and cultural development of the country and ensuring the maintenance of close ties, especially among younger generations, with their Moroccan identity, notably through cultural action.

About the Al Mada Foundation

The Al Mada Foundation embodies the Group's commitment to "Positive Impact".

This is how the Foundation intervenes in the fields of Art and Culture, Education and Entrepreneurship, through sustainable initiatives implementing the vision of the Al Mada fund and its participations for sustainable Social and Environmental Responsibility in African society.

- Promoting Art and Culture, one of the fundamental axes of the Al Mada Foundation takes on its full meaning within the Villas des Arts

Driven by a mission to promote Art and Culture, the Al Mada Foundation aims to arouse the interest of as many people as possible in arts and culture, to democratize these sectors, and to identify and promote young Moroccan and African talents.

This ambition is expressed in places dedicated to artistic creation and culture, the "Villas des Arts of Rabat and Casablanca", which support pictorial creation by promoting an important collection of paintings, now considered a real pictorial treasure, and which organize each year pictorial exhibitions, events around the performing arts and literary conferences.

- Promoting quality education

Acting in favor of sustainable social development, the Al Mada Foundation aims to promote quality education in Morocco. In this context, several programs have been developed in a partnership approach, in particular with Injaz Al Maghrib.

These include Jamaati, Akabar Al Maarifa, Cooper Up and Company Program Entrepreneurship Masterclass.

In addition, independent programs have been initiated by the participation of the Al Mada fund such as the Master's Degree in Banking and Finance, the Grandes Ecoles pour tous program, the Academy of Arts and E-madrassati.

- Promoting the emergence of a dynamic Moroccan startup ecosystem

In the same spirit of positive impact, the Al Mada Foundation has made entrepreneurship and its commitment to the emergence of a dynamic Moroccan startup ecosystem one of its priority missions.

As such, the Al Mada Foundation launched "Positive Link" in 2020, a program that echoes the signature of the Al Mada Fund and is fully committed to the promotion of innovative startups and junior entrepreneurship. The approach adopted by the Group consisted of setting up a dedicated committee, made up of the most active

participation in this field, to select the startups that the Group wishes to support in a privileged collaborative framework.

This collaboration is reflected in the implementation of contracts with the shareholdings, but also the possibility of benefiting from the support of Al Mada's entities and its know-how for the development of Proof Of Concepts, structuring of your offers, mentoring, sponsorship, and various support measures.

About the HIBA Foundation

Created in 2006 on the initiative of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the HIBA Foundation is a non-profit association that works to support creation, federate private initiatives, encourage talent, participate in the development of emerging arts, and promote contemporary creations.

Today, the HIBA Foundation is mobilizing to introduce the artistic and cultural scene into a new dynamic of development through 3 main missions:

- The preservation of Morocco's cultural heritage, in its tangible and intangible components;
- The professionalization of the cultural and creative industries sector through training, support, and promotion actions for professionals in the field;
- The democratization of access to culture for the country's youth through cultural programming and artistic practice workshops open to all.

These missions are carried out thanks in particular to the various spaces available to the Foundation:

- **Renaissance Cinema:** A large cinema room and multidisciplinary space that can host screenings, shows, and concerts.
- **The Café La Scène:** A friendly place that hosts concerts and other cultural and artistic activities (book signings, theatre, poetry, slam, etc.). More than 70 events are held there every year.
- **The HIBA_Lab:** a multidisciplinary space for creation and awareness of artistic practices. Throughout the year, it programs courses, workshops, conferences, screenings, exhibitions, etc.
- **The Studio HIBA:** a recording studio with the best sound equipment and with first-rate acoustic treatments. It can host artist residencies, music recordings, and mixing sessions as well as voice recordings for the needs of the film, and advertising industries as well as other sectors.

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