

# Ali Cherri

## *Le songe d'une nuit sans rêve*

NEW EXHIBITION AT FRAC BRETAGNE, RENNES

10.02 - 19.05.2024

PRESS VISIT AND OPENING FEBRUARY 09, 2024

*Le songe d'une nuit sans rêve (Dreamless Night)* is the first solo exhibition by Ali Cherri, a Lebanese artist living in Paris, in an art institution in France.



Ali Cherri, *The Watchman*, 2023 © Ali Cherri. Photo : Film still  
Courtesy of the artist, Fondazione In Between Art Film, and Galerie Imane Farès, Paris

The exhibition presents the new video work *The Watchman* (2023), as well as a series of original sculptures and drawings, specially produced for the exhibition, which relate to the symbolic elements and characters of the film, as well as to the geographical and cultural landscape of Cyprus. Shot in Louroujina, a small village in the unrecognized Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, the film centers on the figure of a soldier who guards the southern border with the Greek-Cypriot-dominated Republic of Cyprus. During his long and tedious guards, the hills inhabited by the “enemy” become the scene of the soldier’s fantasies and daydreams. *The Watchman* continues Ali Cherri’s critical investigation of border politics, geographies of violence, nation-building and the radical potential of the imagination. The artist also evokes the historical links of migration between Cyprus and Lebanon, as well as those between Nicosia, the divided capital of Cyprus, and Beirut, the artist’s hometown, which was also divided during the Lebanese Civil War.

Curators: Alessandro Rabottini and Leonardo Bigazzi.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a monographic catalog edited by Alessandro Rabottini and Leonardo Bigazzi with Bianca Stoppani published by Lenz Press and produced by Galerie Imane Farès, Paris.

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### THE ARTIST

Ali Cherri (1976, Beirut). Lives in Paris (France).

Cherri’s work is inspired by artefacts and the natural world. His sculptures, drawings and installations explore the temporal shifts between ancient worlds and contemporary societies. Using archaeological artefacts as a starting point, he investigates the boundaries of ideologies that underpin the foundations of nations and the myth of national progression. His work explores the links between archaeology, historical narrative and heritage, considering the processes of excavation and relocation of cultural objects into museums.

Recent solo exhibitions include *Envisagement*, Giacometti Foundation, Paris (2024), *Humble and quiet and soothing as mud* (Swiss Institute, 2023), *Ceux qui nous regardent* (CAC La Traverse, 2023), *If you prick us, do we not bleed?* (National Gallery, 2022), *Return of the Beast* (Imane Farès, 2021), *Tales from the Riverbed* (Clark House, 2018), *From Fragment to Whole* (Jönköping County Museum, 2018), *Programme Satellite 10: Somniculus* (CAPC Centre d’art contemporain de Bordeaux and Jeu de Paume, 2017), *A Taxonomy of Fallacies: The Life of Dead Objects* (Surssock Museum, 2016).

His work has recently been exhibited at the Institut Valencià d’Art Modern (Valencia), Jameel Arts Center (Dubai), Para Site (Hong Kong), MAXXI (Rome), Centre Pompidou (Paris), 5<sup>th</sup> Kochi Biennale (2023), 15<sup>th</sup> Sharjah Biennale (2023), 59<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale (2022), Manifesta 13 (Marseille, 2020), the 5<sup>th</sup> Ural Industrial Biennial of Contemporary Art (Ekaterinburg, 2019), the 8<sup>th</sup> Melle International Biennial of Contemporary Art (2018) and the 13<sup>th</sup> Sharjah Biennial (2017). Ali Cherri was awarded the Silver Lion for his participation in the international exhibition at the 59<sup>th</sup> Venice International Biennale of Contemporary Art in 2022.

*The Watchman* is commissioned and produced by Fondazione In Between Art Film, and co-produced by The Vega Foundation and KinoElektron. The film received additional support from Galerie Imane Farès, Robert Matta - Fondation RAM, Arab Fund for Arts and Culture, and Frac Bretagne.

The exhibition *Le Songe d'une nuit sans rêve (Dreamless night)* is promoted by Fondazione In Between Art Film, the initiative founded by Beatrice Bulgari, under its new biennial project Unison, which aims at commissioning and producing moving image-based exhibitions together with Italian and international institutions.

The exhibition is made possible also thanks to the support of Galerie Imane Farès.

*Le songe d'une nuit sans rêve (Dreamless night)* was presented at GAMeC - Galleria d’Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Bergamo, from 8.10.2023 to 14.01.2024.

# Press images available



1, 2 et 3 : Ali Cherri, *Dreamless Night*. Exhibition views, GAMeC, Bergamo, 2023 © Ali Cherri.  
Photo : Lorenzo Palmieri. Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Imane Farès, Paris

4 : Ali Cherri, *The Watchman*, 2023 © Ali Cherri. Exhibition view *Dreamless Night*, GAMeC, Bergamo, 2023.  
Photo : Lorenzo Palmieri. Courtesy of the artist, Fondazione In Between art Film and Galerie Imane Farès, Paris

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