

mohamad abdouni



PRESS KIT

LAFAYETTE
ANTICIPATIONŠ

Fondation Galeries Lafayette

exposition
16.10 - 17.11 2024

9 rue du Plâtre, Paris 4^e

MANIFESTO.XXI Usbek & Rica



My Father in Zebzo, 1977. Chromogenic process print. Exhibition *Soft Skills*, 16 October - 17 November 2024, Lafayette Anticipations, Paris. © Mohamad Abdouni, 2024

MOHAMAD ABDOUNI

Soft Skills

16 October → 17 November 2024

Mohamad Abdouni is dedicated to preserving incomplete histories or those on the verge of disappearance.

Over the years, he has interwoven a network of relationships and photographic images that connects him to figures who are repositories of memory, to their archives, and to the people they portray. He fills the voids and silences in their accounts with fictional elements he develops using AI and new technologies.

For his solo exhibition at Lafayette Anticipations, the Lebanese artist pursues this research, this time through an introspective approach that delves into his personal history.

Soft Skills provides a “return to the homeland”, the Bekaa region of Lebanon, focusing on his childhood, a temporal and spatial fabric of often narrow, normative masculinity. As an adult, he now embodies a future that the child he once was struggled to envision, looking back on a past mingling blissful nostalgia and a solemnity tinged with humour.

As he reviews his family's figures, archives, and trinkets, recalling the mythical or monstrous characters who still inhabit his imagination, the artist re-examines his queer boy desires, an impossible embodiment of the norms of heterosexual masculinity or the homo-eroticism of camaraderie. This queer (re)reading of “soft skills” is a jubilant reinvention of new ways of behaving and being in different contexts.

Curator: **Caroline Honorien**



MOHAMAD ABDOUNI

Biographical highlights

Mohamad Abdouni is an artist, photographer, filmmaker and curator based between Beirut and Istanbul. He is also Editor in-Chief and Creative Director of *COLD CUTS* magazine, the photo journal exploring queer cultures in the SWANA region.

His work has been exhibited namely at Paris+ par Art Basel, renamed Art Basel Paris in 2024, the Brooklyn Museum in New York, the FOAM Gallery in Amsterdam, L'Institut du Monde Arab, the Institute of Islamic Cultures in Paris, Patel Brown in Toronto, and the Lyon Biennale amongst others.

Mohamad's films have been screened and awarded at festivals such as Eyes Wide Open and the Leeds Queer Film Festival in the UK, IQMF in Amsterdam, The Brooklyn Museum and Woodbury LGBTQ Film Festival in the US, and Pink Apple Schwullesbisches Lesbian & Gay Film Festival in Switzerland to name a few. Commercially, he has shot for and directed narrative fashion films and music videos with the likes of Gucci, Vogue US, Vogue Italia, Burberry, Puma, The New York Times, Slate, Fendi, Farfetch, GQ, King Kong, Dazed, Another, Nowness, Vice UK and L'officiel.

His personal endeavors tend to focus on the untold stories of Beirut and uncovering the rich yet eradicated queer histories of the Arab-speaking region through several documentaries and photo stories that have been featured in publications from A24, Telerama, Foam Magazine, Tetu, New Queer Photography, Kaleidoscope, i-D, Photoworks, The Guardian, Facebook and more.

As of 2019, he has dedicated his time to working on what is arguably the first archive of trans* histories in an Arab country, a project entitled *Treat Me Like Your Mother: Trans* Histories From Beirut's Forgotten Past*. The collection resides safely today at the Arab Image Foundation.

Recently, he's been working on a long-term project that delves deeper into the town he grew up in, in the Bekaa of Lebanon bordering with Syria, presenting questions around the ideals of masculinity that he was meant to embody, and the strains that such expectations can have on interfamilial relationships.



Photo of the jury, Clément Delépine, and Mohamad Abdouni © Paris+ par Art Basel

PRODUCTION SUPPORT 2023

Mohamad Abdouni is the laureate of the 2023 Production Support from Lafayette Anticipations, awarded to one of the artists of the Galeries Émergentes sector of Paris+ par Art Basel, renamed Emergence Sector of Art Basel Paris in 2024.

As part of the official partnership between the Galeries Lafayette group and Paris+ par Art Basel, this support is granted to one of the 14 artists of the Emergence sector. The winner benefits from the production of an artwork in the workshops of the Lafayette Anticipations Foundation and receive curatorial guidance.

For the launch of the second edition of Paris+ par Art Basel, the artist was selected by an international jury composed of **Guillaume Houzé**, President of Lafayette Anticipations and Director of Image and Communication for the Galeries Lafayette group,

Rebecca Lamarche-Vadel, Director of Lafayette Anticipations, **Ruba Katrib**, Director of Curatorial Affairs at MoMA PS1, **Diana Campbell Bétancourt**, Artistic Director of the Samdani Art Foundation in Bangladesh and Chief Curator of the Dhaka Art Summit and **Akeem Smith**, the 2022 laureate of Production Support, currently presenting the exhibition *One last cry* at Lafayette Anticipations.

The Galeries Émergentes sector of Paris+ par Art Basel, with the official partnership of the Galeries Lafayette group, brings together galleries showcasing young and emerging artists through solo exhibitions.

PRESS VISUALS

The press visuals are free of rights for the promotion of the exhibition.

For any request of high definition visuals, you can contact the Claudine Colin Communication agency, a FINN Partners Company: +33 (0)1 42 72 60 01 / harry.ancely@finnpartners.com



1. *There's a Man Hiding in the Grass*, date unknown. Digital Type-C print. Exhibition *Soft Skills*, 16 October - 17 November 2024, Lafayette Anticipations, Paris © Mohamad Abdouni, 2024

2. *The Bedouin Witch of the Quaroun Lake*, date unknown. Digital Type-C print. Exhibition *Soft Skills*, 16 October - 17 November 2024, Lafayette Anticipations, Paris © Mohamad Abdouni, 2024

3. *My Father in Zebra*, 1977. Chromogenic process print. Exhibition *Soft Skills*, 16 October - 17 November 2024, Lafayette Anticipations, Paris © Mohamad Abdouni, 2024

4. *Flat Tire*, 2017. Chromogenic process print. Exhibition *Soft Skills*, 16 October - 17 November 2024, Lafayette Anticipations, Paris © Mohamad Abdouni, 2024



5. Research sketch for « Scene de Villageois » for the exhibition *Soft Skills*, 16 October - 17 November 2024, Lafayette Anticipations, Paris © Mohamad Abdouni

6. Research sketch for « Scene de Villageois » for the exhibition *Soft Skills*, 16 October - 17 November 2024, Lafayette Anticipations, Paris © Mohamad Abdouni

7. Research sketch for « Scene de Villageois » for the exhibition *Soft Skills*, 16 October - 17 November 2024, Lafayette Anticipations, Paris © Mohamad Abdouni

8. *Soft Skills I*, 2024. Risograph print. Exhibition *Soft Skills* 16 October - 17 November 2024, Lafayette Anticipations, Paris © Mohamad Abdouni, 2024

9. Portrait of Mohamad Abdouni © Chloé Magdelaine, Lafayette Anticipations, Paris



Y L T I A N I C P A

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LAFAYETTE
Boutique
Chaussures
& Accessoires
Café-restaurant
Mater
Midi et soir
Lunch & dinner

CHARRIS LEBLANC
Exposition
du mardi au dimanche, 11h - 19h
L'histoire après exposer
L'art, le design
Chaussures Lafayette
Nouveaux à partir de 110€
100% coton - Thursday

THE FONDATION

Lafayette Anticipations, art for another experience of the world

Created on the initiative of the Galeries Lafayette group, the Fondation is a place of exhibition and sharing dedicated to the visual and performing arts. Located in the heart of Paris in the Marais district, Lafayette Anticipations invites visitors to discover other ways of seeing, feeling, and listening to today's world in order to better imagine, thanks to artists, the world of tomorrow.

Expanding horizons

Each year, the Fondation presents three exhibitions of daring, inspiring, and moving works, offering as many visions of the world as ways of living in it. The emerging music scene is invited to the Closer Music Festival in March, and the performing arts meet the visual arts during the Échelle Humaine festival in September. The public programme reflects, through talks, conversations, and performances, the ideas that shape and shake up our time.

Welcoming

The exhibitions are free of charge and can be viewed alone, in groups, or accompanied by mediators who encourage sharing, for a lively and accessible visit. The Fondation provides events and workshops for young and old alike and opens its doors in order to encourage the expression of all different sensibilities, welcoming the most diverse audiences.

Artists and creation at the heart of the Fondation

The workshops in the basement of the Fondation are a place of experimentation and creation for artists, with custom tools dedicated to production, film editing, and publishing. Each year a new design studio is invited to create visual identities in connection with the exhibitions.

An open space of life

The ground floor and its agora is a space of life that is open to everyone. The Librairie presents the Fondation's publications, books related to the programme and to social issues, as well as design objects and records. At the Café-restaurant pluto the cuisine created by chef Thomas Coupeau is offered throughout the day and in the evenings.

A space of solidarity and care

Lafayette Anticipations cultivates a solidarity-based approach to creation: wellness-oriented visits, art therapy programmes, collaborations with partners in the medical-social field, and at-risk populations. The Fondation supports non-profit artistic projects and shares its expertise with young people from all walks of life.

Young generations and the spirit of transmission

Open to young audiences and their families, Lafayette Anticipations is a space for sharing. Texts for children, visits and workshops, festive events and activity books are provided free of charge. In collaboration with education professionals, the Fondation designs activities for visitors ranging from kindergarten to university-level students.

A collection of our times

Lafayette Anticipations continues its support for contemporary creation through its collection and acquisitions supported since 2013 by the Fonds de dotation Famille Moulin. Thanks to a committee of experts, the collection expands each year with works by emerging artists. The fund now includes 370 works which are representative of its commitment.

PRACTICAL INFO

MEDIA PARTNERS

Usbek & Rica
Manifesto XXI

ADMISSION FEES

Exhibitions: free of charge
Individual visits: free of charge
Talks: free of charge
Workshops: free of charge
Family activities: free of charge
Concerts, performances: 10€

PRESS CONTACTS

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a FINN Partners company*

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Press kits can be downloaded on our [website](#).



ACCESS

Lafayette Anticipations

9, rue du Plâtre - 75004 Paris
44, rue Sainte-Croix-de-la-Bretonnerie
75004 Paris

OPENING HOURS

From Wednesday to Sunday: 11.00am– 7.00pm
Late on Thursdays: 11.00am– 9.00pm

Métro

Rambuteau: ligne 11
Hôtel de Ville: lignes 1 & 11
Châtelet - Les Halles: lignes 4, 7, 11, 14 & RER
A, B & D

Bus

Archives - Rambuteau 29 & 75
Centre Georges Pompidou: 38, 47, 75
Hôtel de Ville: 67, 69, 76, 96

Vélib

N° 4103: Archives - Rivoli
N° 4014: Blancs-Manteaux - Archives

Autolib'

36, rue du Temple
37, rue Sainte-Croix-de-la-Bretonnerie

Parking

31, rue Beaubourg
41-47, rue Rambuteau
4, place Baudoyer