

YOUNESS ATBANE – Berlin

What do you want to share about your current living and working conditions?

When I see the actual situation and the human condition, what comes to me is actually the unpredictability and the fragility of the world that we are living in. Everything was quick and incalculable, the virus was faster than human adaptations. People are dying, but we are still hoping to keep the economic systems working, but with less human interaction, which is impossible. I can't recognize the time; it's a clear situation without vision for the future.

It's very scary to categorize the multiple affects of the actual situation on me and on all the persons around me. Today all the talks and discussions include the pandemic but also include the hope to get out of this situation!

Before reaching home I was stuck for 2 days in two airports in different places in the world. Coming back from South Africa, It was a very specific feeling of being at the airport, which is the most contaminated place, and I saw other people facing the problem of not being able to travel. As a north African artist who faces mobility problems all the time to reach another space, I had a complete different perception of this global situation.

I spend my time doing a lot of writing projects, making the updates of my websites painting the walls, drawing, trying to learn a new instrument and taking care of my self, visiting the doctor for therapy, because it a good reason to got out during this lockdown.

I'm not sure if social distancing is affecting me a lot ... maybe the fact that I work with my body makes me see the situation with a lot of artistic interest.

What is the impact of the pandemic on the production and presentation of your work?

My situation is the same as any other artist. All the projects got canceled, some got postponed to the next year. I'm also thinking about new ways to keep showing my work. Probably it's too early to give answers to this kind of questions, I see it as a collective interrogation.

As an artist, how do you see the future today?

I look at the future without any vision but only through probabilities and fictional scenarios. I am sure that this situation will change the ways we are practicing art. But I don't think that this change will happen on the internet and in virtual spaces.

Are there any ideas, thoughts, quotes, works of art or books that you would like to share?

Ooh many but right now I am watching the new film by Hassan Darsi, but I can't share it because it's a private link.