

MOUSS

Crescendo

Exhibition of Paintings and Dye-Works at the Lavoir Vasserot



24-30 OCTOBER 2024

LAVOIR VASSEROT
RUE JOSEPH QUARANTA
83990 SAINT TROPEZ

9.00am - 9.00pm

Every day. **Free entry**

Hosted by the artist

*Closes 17h the 30 Oct

On the day that Mouss was quite literally left speechless, having just seen a live orchestra for the very first time - not only playing unfamiliar instruments, but an intense and theatrical Berlioz composition - he was changed to the core... Some days later, the only way he could communicate the experience was by painting it. The seminal work, *Violoncellist* - (now part of a private Swiss collection) - became the first piece in an ongoing project exploring sound.

With his solo St Tropez show entitled **Crescendo**, self-taught multidisciplinary artist Mouss offers up his most recent contemplations on the sensations and the visual nature of sound. How do we see music and melody if we erase from our mind's eye the images of musical scores and sound vibration as seen on modern recording devices?

When Mouss is making art he is particularly attuned to the 'live' nature of his media and the *felt sensations* that arise during the process. In the same spirit, the title works in this exhibition are Mouss's physical interpretation of the invisible current that flows between musician and instrument, and the movement of melodies, notes and rhythms as they dance imperceptibly in the air around us. Like the wordless story-tellers *melody* and *rhythm*, Mouss's subtle-yet-powerful colour palette acts to amplify and enhance - to take us journeying through different inner states and imaginings, stirred by unforeseen emotions and at times, also left a little spell-bound...

MOUSS (Moustapha Maïga b.1975) was born into a lineage of traditional textile weavers and dyers in Ouahigouya, Burkina Faso. His innate sense and understanding of colour, matter, and the 'alchemy' of the creative process is deeply rooted in this ancestral craft. With a background in drawing, wax resist dye-work, screen-printing and sign painting, Mouss works with many different media, techniques and tools. Painting with his fingers, sometimes with both his left and right hand, sometimes holding several paint brushes simultaneously, he works on hand-woven burkinabé cotton, on linen, other cottons and on wood. Using natural pigments and plant preparations - most of which he has harvested and prepared himself (and occasionally acrylic) - he mixes his own colour palette for both his paintings and dye-baths.

Mouss's work is visceral and multi-sensory, revealing his deep felt sense and observation of all that surrounds him - both visible and invisible. He paints sound, he strives to '*tame matter - magma*' and to '*capture light*'...

Respecting the very essence of creativity - allowing free-reign to instinct and spontaneity and resisting any form of stagnation or conformity - Mouss's artistic journey will forever be fuelled by his thirst to evolve, experiment and stretch the confines of his art, in absolute trust of wherever it may lead him.

The result is a body of extremely varied works where each piece is totally unique.

With a career spanning over 30 years thus far, Mouss has developed an international clientele of private buyers, many of whom have been following and collecting his work over the years, including several galleries. Based in France for the last 20+ years, Mouss has exhibited internationally: in Burkina Faso, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Great Britain, Spain and Venice. He has received multiple awards over the years at art fairs and competitions and more recently his work was short-listed by The Royal Academy of Arts in London for The Summer Exhibition 2019.

The exhibition will be hosted by Mouss throughout, to welcome visitors in person and present the recent and selected works that range in style from figurative to abstract.

Recent Exhibitions and events :

2024: 54 The Gallery, Mayfair London, GB. **2023:** Chapelle Saint Etienne, Beaune; Espace Michèle Goalard, La Grande Motte. **2021:** Orangerie du Sénat, Jardin du Luxembourg, Paris; Archivi della Misericordia, Venise. **2020:** 54 The Gallery, Mayfair, London, GB; La Chapelle des Capucins, Aigues-Mortes. **2019:** Short-listed by The Royal Academy of Arts Londres GB for The Summer Exhibition; Forum des diasporas Africaines, Montrouge; Solo private exhibition, Touraine....

Awards :

2009: Prix du Grand Salon de Trèbes. **2006:** Prix du Salon S.A.D.A.G. de Grenoble; Prix du Lions Club Salon au Palais des Congrès La Grande Motte. **2004:** Prix du Salon d'Automne de La Grande Motte. **2003:** Médaille d'argent Concours Internationale du Printemps des Arts Académie Européenne des Arts, Gembloux Belgique; Prix des Jeunes Créateurs au Salon International du Printemps Société Lyonnaise des Beaux Arts...

www.mouss-art.book

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