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Cultural Centers In Morocco

The interest in culture have increased lately, as well as cultural centers in Morocco. People stopped believing in the value of those centers. Therefore, their doors became merely close. As a result, young people try to find other options to express their overflowing energy and physical overactivity. This energy needs spillway, channels to practice and express itself.

Culture, art, and sport are ways to "sublimate" these impulses and energy by transforming them into creation and forms of self-assertion.

Like Nabil Ayouch said "I firmly believe that tomorrow's Mozart, Beethoven and Bill Gates exist here among these young people. I saw it and I lived it. We have to show young people that violence is not and should not be a way of expression.

Three years after the opening of the cultural center "The Stars of Sidi Moumen", the Ali Zaoua Foundation reiterates the experience in Tangier and inaugurates the center "The Stars of the Straits". Located in the heart of the Beni Makada district, opens its door to the young people of Bni Makada. With this center, they have an alternative and they have the choice to express themselves besides to give them a chance to emerge through dance, singing, music, visual arts.. Not only young people in the neighborhood will benefit, but also all tangérois.

The center has a media library in which reading, workshops and meetings with authors will be organized. "In Casablanca, young people will learn French, English, Spanish and Mandarin" said Nabil Ayouch. A huge potential for creativity and performance is ruined. there is no need to waste what we still have left. Building such spaces all over the country can solve a lot of problems..



The Dead City

I've been living in a lie, thinking that my city is an Utopia. Small and calm with the nicest people I could ever see in my life. I was young and busy with my studies, not giving much importance to culture, art, finding a job and getting a life of mine. Now that I'm more interested in those, I started to look down on my city. Now, I consider it as a Dystopia. A boring small town, with a closed movie theatre, non-existent cultural areas and few job opportunities. After being in Casablanca, seeing how the city is alive – despite the noisiness – I want to immigrate and stay there forever. I've been asking myself why people seem so demotivated in my colorless city? Is that the reason why I felt so lazy compared to the residents in Casablanca? ... Maybe laziness is contagious! I once heard from a family member who lived in an alive city: "Your town is literally sleepy. I've never slept 12 hours in my life until I came here... 10:00 am and the grocery stores are still closed!". Do I abhor my city? Of course, no. I partially blame residents and partially blame the city officials for ignoring and 'killing' it.



Men In Women's Clothes

Young men on the stage wearing makeup and singing AITA music

Kabareh chikhat is a newly successful group, founded in 2016 and containing nine young men, playing the old school of AITA music that aims to revive this musical genre. Their main goal is challenging the gender norms and defending women.

They named their group Chikhat, female artists who sing and dance, to fix the wrong image about them since the French colonization of Morocco in the 20th century.

"Chikha played a big role in the independence of Morocco, their songs spoke against colonialism and called for freedom. Many of them were put in jail for their voice against despotism. Furthermore, they used to perform to French colonials in private parties, while actually spying on them gathering secret information about their enemies' plans. Unfortunately, their names were kept linked to prostitution and not the real role, revolution." explained Ghassan El Hakim, the group leader.

"We sing to tell stories"

Hamid Belkhayat, 28, a singer in Kabareh Cheikhat explains : " We don't just sing to have fun, but to tell stories of Moroccan history and revolutionary figures, such as the story of "Kherboucha", the name of a historical figure from the mid-20th century. For each song we play, there is a story and a message behind".

Ghassan El Hakim shares Belkhayat the same view continuing : "We play songs about war, battles and the history of Morocco. There are also a lot of songs about eroticism, love stories between two women, but the most important is the power of women. "Women can lead", "this is our slogan."

“Woman is strong inside”

“When I wear a woman’s clothes, I feel that I understand her. I can know why she cries and laughs. I realized the power inside of her. It is hard to be a female. A woman is strong inside. That made me change my point of view. Now, I respect her more. When I walk on the street, I won’t keep gazing at her or harass her. This is what we want people to understand, we are against sexual harassment and violence against women.



“Youth living in the seventies”

In a narrow street of Casablanca, the school of Ghassan “La Parallèle Ecole d’Arts”, is special and well-designed with classic furnishing building, where the group rehearses, composes music, and teaches theater.

We were amazed when we first got into the place. It was a space full of life, we sat on a couch. Hsina, 22 years old, Member of the group, put on classical music in an old record player “phonograph”. The place makes you feel like you’re living in the seventies.

“I launched that place four years after I returned from France. I wanted to make something people see and say “wow”. You know when you see a Mosque or a church you feel amazed by its architecture, I think the structure of a theater or a cultural institution has to be of the same importance to surprise people. La Parallèle is open all the time for everybody. It is an opportunity to create an artistic network” Ghassan said.

Ghassan El Hakim, 33 years old, was born in Fez in 1984 in the bosom of an artistic family. Both of his parents were amateur actors. At the age of 5, his father introduced him to the world of theater. "Then theater was like a drug for me, I always have this need to be on stage, I call it the need to express, to talk to people, to be free to tell what I want".

Ghassan studied mathematics and applied for physics and chemistry studies in Germany, but it was not allowed for a Moroccan to pursue scientific studies in Europe then. At the age of 19, he decided to follow his passion and to apply for Theater School of Drama in Rabat where he discovered his passion for art, then he applied for a master in theater studies in the university of Paris in France. "It is the university where the events of May 68 took place" he said.

When he came back to Morocco he founded the school La Parallèle. The name is inspired from Dos Passos' book about the modern history of the "USA".

He gathered a group of talented young men who took theater classes and started Kabareh Cheikhat. "My idea was to transmit strong messages through comedy and theater, and that is what we do in our shows" Ghassan said.

Hamid Belkhiyat explained "I remember our first time performing as a group in Casablanca's Boulevard music festival, the audience was totally shocked, the festival was specialized in Rock music unlike us using traditional instruments, furthermore, wearing women's clothes and makeup on our faces, "men with beard wearing makeup!!", as soon as we played our first song, the audience felt engaged and amazed with our show".

Since their first show, Kabareh Cheikhat has gained a massive success. They continued performing in different places. They traveled to Brussels to do a show and have become well known throughout Morocco. Despite some negative comments on social media, the majority of people admire their craft.

Kabareh Cheikhat members do not only sing old songs, but they also work on transcribing and writing the lyrics in order to maintain this heritage from being lost, they also work on translating literature texts such as Simone De Beauvoir. In addition to that, they have translated the play of Antigone to Moroccan Darija.

The group of Kabareh Cheikhat is not afraid to show the woman inside each of its members and speak for her and the social issues she faces. "We are trying to make people conscious of what we sing, we want to create a new society in which differences are tolerated and people are respecting each other no matter their gender, social class or even religion" Said Ghassan.

Death Bag

This is the challenging story of an unnamed girl.

The policeman spotted a large black bag in the middle of the street. He was surprised and he called his colleagues involved in dismantling bombs, for he was considering it to be a terrorist bomb

However, before the parties concerned took any action, the bag chain was slowly opening. The policemen were shocked. It was not a bomb, but a naked girl with her entire body tattooed. They couldn't understand anything and had to take her to the police station.

The policemen tried hard to convince her in order to talk, but the girl didn't want to say anything at all. A psychologist discovered that she didn't even know who she is.

During the time she spent at the station, the investigators discovered that the tattoos were not simple graphics but symbols. Suddenly, a number got their attention. They found that the number was the birth date of an authoritarian figure who was abducted. Whenever the meaning of a new tattoo is disclosed, a follower of the supreme authority dies.

During this period, the girl retrieved part of her memory. All she remembered was an image that stuck into her unconscious mind. It was the image of another hand holding hers in the cellar. She then remembered that she had been abducted when she was young by a group of unknown people in her way to the forest with her father.

As the girl was missing her identity, she felt stripped of her humanity and all she cared about was to discover the kidnapping motive, especially at a young age.

After putting together all the details and symbols, the girl discovered that her body was used as a mean to send messages to the supreme authority.

That's why she decided to stop that game by...



Something, somewhere.

Nothing was never anywhere, What does it mean to be human? To live on planet Earth, in the universe as it is now understood? Who are we in the hidden heart of the cosmos? And how did we get here and why? Human life is such a mystery. He was a small bit in the womb of another human life whom he calls mother, getting bigger as time passes, hankering to come out to life. His journey was only a transition from a small cage to a bigger one, He is now a human-being who has a name, an identity and a house that keeps him safe, away from threats. But he is still searching for a meaning in his life. Why is he even here? Why is he born? He challenged the fear of dying in the rough jungles. He even created the means and the tools and strategies to defend himself. He was hunting to provide himself food. He developed himself through time and have tried almost everything he could think of, while looking for a solid purpose, feeding his inner side of spiritual thoughts which he calls "Soul" with values and deeds by engaging in various ideologies and religions of others or his own. Constructed a biologically connected group of people to be his family. But the search for the meaning didn't stop yet, there is always a driving force and energy that drives him to find new ways and possibilities towards perfection. Human beings are dissimilar, for the simple reason that truth is relative and meanings are different too. Each one has a task to accomplish and a dream to fulfill. Some of them are craving to find the cure for diseases, or solutions to everyday problems, creating artistic works to reflect the human values, emotions and issues. Others are willing to follow the footsteps of others' plans and ideas that felt easy and safe to get involved into. Sometimes he finds himself wondering about imagining and picturing the vastly wide cosmos, made of planets, dwarfs, supernovas and stars dust, the spread and diffusion of the bright light is a message sent from the past, full of energy extending end exceeding under the predefined semi predicted laws through space beyond the void, we are surrounded by these floating planets above the gravity's multidimensional ocean, almost circling the sun, and the sun moving through space, in the grand milky way, it was certainly a mystery, a real hustle to seek the knowledge of the profound purpose, to know who created this beautiful beyond gorgeous universe with all its wonders, who ever was responsible for creating it if there's any, is definitely someone or something creative for this artistically well engineered masterpiece, it inspired artists, it provoked people to ask questions, to fear the unknown, to control each other, to the point that it even made people kill each other... to satisfy their inner wonderings and needs to a peaceful redemption, and make some sense of life. After all he is a thing who tries to be something in a place, at a different time or always, but he got to stick together with others because the world is gonna get bigger, holding on the values that matter and forgetting the rest.

SOUFIANE GOUIFERDA ASMA ACHMAHOU



الحياة ولات بلا بنة

الحياة ولات بلا بنة
بحال شي عجوزة دايرة الحنة
ماعرفت آشنو كانتسنا
فكرت نموت باش نتنهنا
حيث شي كذابة قالو المغرب جنة

كولشي مكديس
ضنيت راني عايش صدقت غير كانتنفس
مرحبا بيك فيلاي
من الداخل مكرفص ومن برة مفركس

خاصنا بزاف التعديلات
حيث الباكراوند موسخ عامر خزعبلات

فاش كنا صغار، صورو لينا المرأة بحال شي كومة ديال الشوك
من بعد، شي شافها بحال شي حلوى مدردرة بالكوك
وشي شافها لحم رخيص فالمروك

مدرستكم، أفكاركم كولشي ولا مشكوك
شبعنا كذوب، واخذين الدين بالمقلوب
من الجامع ل نايت كلوب

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ثقافات ÉTÉCULTURES 2018

MARDI 29/05 21h00	Poésie Chant	Touria Hadraoui Abdallah Zrika	Voix croisées
LUNDI 18/06 19h00	Art Plastique	Cristobal Aviles Khalid Assallami	Vernissage - Exposition Granada - Agadir
SAMEDI 23/06 18h00	Cinéma	Mohamed Mouftakir Noureddine Saïl	Film - Débat L'orchestre des aveugles
SAMEDI 30/06 20h00	Théâtre	La Marocaine d'Improvisation	Atelier et Spectacle Improvisation
VENDREDI 06/07 19h00	Conférence	Lamia Balafrej	Sucre et architecture au Maroc des Saadiens
SAMEDI 07/07 17h00	AGORA 9	Aïcha Ech-Chenna	Où va notre société ?

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