

Dear Ghita,

My apologies for taking so long to write to you. For some time now I haven't been able to write, to make images, or even read. When I finish something and undertake another work, there is a period of silence ! It is not because I have nothing to say, but rather because I await the moment to say well what I want to say. There are moments for creating and one has to prepare oneself for that ! No ?

As you know, I am working on an exhibition in Brussels. The title I have chosen is Remake. I like verbs as title for my works, for me the title is important. It is a piece amongst the others at the exhibition, it's the one we see most ! You do not choose a title for an exhibition, but you work the title of the exhibition.

You asked me to send you images, but as I have not yet finished the work, I will try to give you an idea of what I am going to show.

The idea of the exhibition comes from an accident that occurred. My hard drive broke down and in it I lost a video that has been shot with Larbi Yacoubi in his apartment, erasing his diary. The video, which deals with memory, has evaporated from the whole of my production. At that moment, I became aware of the fragility of the medium I use and thus of all of my production.*

After long reflections and hesitations, I decided to remake the same video. But what I thought was easy, proved complicated at the moment of production. Larbi was very tired and could not work like the first time I filmed him. I had to wait for a long time and go back and forth between Brussels and Tangier several times before I was able to produce the remake of the video. I like the last version of the video I am showing in this exhibition more. Because time has enriched it, there are layers that have added themselves, and then I am interested in the idea that the original video does not exist anymore, and that there is only the remake, the copy of the original ! That's how a banal technical accident can provoke interesting and profound questions, and, instead of being a handicap, it becomes a motor, not only to counter the problem, but to overcome it.

I just finished « Lettre de Tanger », a film that I show at the exhibition. The film is made up of a letter addressed to my friends who host me for the exhibition, with sequences that I have filmed at the Gran Teatro Cervantes of Tangier and with Larbi Yacoubi. It is a film about the journey of images, the difficulty of working, and the boundary between fiction and documentary. « Lettre de Tanger » analyses the failure of creating a fiction film when reality is more complex, to be reduced to a documentary work.

As you are not able to come to Brussels to see the exhibition, I hope you can form an idea through these words.

Hope to see you very soon,

Hamza

* Larbi Yacoubi is an actor and costumier of theatre and cinema