

M'BAREK BOUHCHICHI

I'm getting closer to you

curated by Chiara Ianeselli



March 20th - May 20th 2025
via del portico d'Ottavia 13, Rome

PRESS RELEASE

The Galleria Valentina Bonomo is pleased to announce the opening of the solo exhibition by M'Barek Bouhchichi (Akka, Morocco, 1975) at the spaces of Via del Portico d'Ottavia 13. The exhibition, titled *"Mi sto avvicinando a te"* and curated by Chiara Ianeselli, will open on March 20 from 3 PM to 9 PM and will be open to the public until May 20, 2025.

Through works conceived for this exhibition, Bouhchichi intertwines intimate voices and collective memories, transforming his narrative into a broader breath, one that crosses the walls of the gallery and returns to the desert. A shadow of a day that never ended, leaving a perpetual impression, a silhouette walking beyond the surface of the visible. Bouhchichi's artistic research rests on the folds of identity, revealing its veils: a dance of shadows so frenetic that it evokes wounds never fully healed, never acknowledged.

In his paintings, dark bodies emerge from rubbery yellow backgrounds, a material that retains the bitter mark of forced labor, of the sweat derived from its extraction and production. These figures question the colonial past, faces that emerge from a forced marginality to demand space, to reclaim the form long imposed, then denied, and then imposed again. But they are also mirrors through which the artist interrogates himself, making painting an act of resistance and a reinterpretation of history, of his history.

Inspired, among others, by the thoughts of Frantz Fanon and Aimé Césaire, Bouhchichi explores the persistent shadows of colonial domination, the indelible marks left by the geographies and geographers of power. His works are fragments of a history still to be written, finding a voice in Italy through this exhibition.

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M'barek Bouhchichi was born in 1975 in Akka, Morocco. He lives and works in Tahannaout, near Marrakech.

The works of M'barek Bouhchichi are part of important international public and private collections, including:

Centre Georges Pompidou, Parigi, FR

Collection Fobdation H, Antanareve, MDG

MACAAL, Musée d'Art Contemporain Africain Al-Maaden, Marrakech, MA

The American Friends of the Arts in North Africa Foundation, California, USA

Fondation CDG, Rabat, MA

Collection crédit Suisse, Lausanne, CH

Musée Mohamed 6 d'Art contemporain, Rabat, MA

FRAC Corsica, Corsica, FR

Musée d'Art contemporain Helga de Alvear, ES

Fondation CALOSA, MEX

University of Michigan, USA