

Halle Nord

EXHIBITION

09.05–28.06.25

Saga—Mythology of departure

Noha Mokhtar & Sahar Suliman

VITRINE 1

09.05–21.06.25

Private View, 2025

Mayotte de Saulieu

VITRINE 2

*Chien·ne diffractée : prologue d'une
rockeuse émancipée, 2024*

Aneth

OPENING

Thursday 8 May, 6 pm

OPENING HOURS

Tuesday–Saturday, 2 pm–6 pm

Vitrines visible 24h/24h

from the Passage des Halles de l'Île

HALLE NORD

Place de l'Île 1, 1204 Genève

CONTACT

+41 (0)22 312 12 30

halle-nord.ch

contact@halle-nord.ch

EVENT

17.05.25, 6–10 pm

La Nuit des Musées (Museum night)

ROUND TABLE

28.05.25, 6 pm

Une révolution dans la rue est-elle possible sans une révolution dans la famille ?

Noha Mokhtar, Nadia Radwan et
Sahar Suliman en conversation.
(In French)



Noha Mokhtar, *Salonat*, 2023, video HD, 11:30 min. (©Noha Mokhtar)

Dear journalists and colleagues,

On 8 May, Halle Nord will have the pleasure of unveiling three new projects, including two new productions.

For the occasion, artists Noha Mokhtar and Sahar Suliman have come together as a duo to combine their respective expertise, combining visual arts, anthropology, staging and performance. Together, they have created a new film that explores the construction of individual and collective identities, as well as the feeling of belonging, through the prism of a fictional Egyptian family, imagined on the basis of numerous testimonies. This work has given rise to an immersive video and scenographic installation presented in the Halle Nord's main exhibition space.

This 6-channel film, starring actress and singer Malika Khatir in the lead role, is co-produced with Arsenic - Centre d'art scénique contemporain in Lausanne, where it will also be screened at a later date.

Two additional projects are on display in Halle Nord's vitrines—dedicated to video and installation art—and are visible 24/7 from Passage des Halles de l'Île (formerly Capsules):

- An installation by visual artist Mayotte de Saulieu—a recent graduate of HEAD—which offers an incisive critique of the meritocracy often prevalent in the art world.
- A video by Aneth, filmed as a single continuous shot, capturing the melancholic spleen of a solitary figure playing their guitar.

I hope to see you on Thursday 8 May at the opening or during a visit at your convenience.

Thank you for your attention to this press kit, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,
Elise Lammer
Director



09.05–28.06.25

Saga—Mythology of departure Noha Mokhtar & Sahar Suliman

Since 2015, Noha Mokhtar (*Geneva, lives and works between Zurich, Cairo and the United States) and Sahar Suliman (*Cairo, lives and works between Geneva, Cairo and Vaugondry) have been interviewing Egyptian men and women of different generations and socio-economic backgrounds about their experiences within their families. Based on these interviews, they created six characters—the six members of a fictional family that we discover in a newly created video installation. Marking their first joint exhibition, *Saga-Mythology of departure* deals with the construction of individual and collective identities, the sense of belonging and family claustrophobia. Through this project, Mokhtar and Suliman seek to dismantle the family in order to better understand the mechanisms of power that constitute it.

Noha Mokhtar and Sahar Suliman are cousins. They share (half) a family, a diasporic condition, and an experience as women artists. Their work together was born of a desire to reflect on the family in a transcultural and transmedia way. Between them, they bring together an expertise in visual arts, anthropology, video and theatre.

This 6-channel film features actress and singer Malika Khatir in the lead role. The film was shot using a special technique. During filming, the artists took it in turns to read the lines of each of the characters live. The actress, who heard the lines through an earpiece, immediately repeated them in front of the camera.

This method made it possible to explore the idea of the body as a space of resonance: the text literally passed through the actress before being captured by the camera. Not knowing the dialogue in advance, the camera followed the reading second by second, guided by the inflections and indications that the performers made with their voices.

Filming took place in the spring of 2025 in flats in Geneva. The six scenes were filmed in close-ups, with particular attention paid to the lighting and chromatic ambiances, using backgrounds built in real spaces, not in a studio.

With the support of Fondation Leenaards, Pro Helvetia, Ville de Genève and
videocompany.ch

In partnership with avec Arsenic - Centre d'art scénique contemporain, Lausanne

Noha Mokhtar received a Bachelor's degree in Photography from the École cantonale d'Art de Lausanne (ECAL) in 2011 and then a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Bern in 2016. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Social Anthropology and Critical Media Practice at Harvard University, where she is focusing on the relationship between kinship, space and materiality in contemporary Egypt. Her multidisciplinary artistic practice borrows from ethnographic research methods. Her artistic work has been exhibited at Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich; Centre d'Art Contemporain and Centre de la Photographie, Geneva; Musée de l'Élysée, Lausanne, and most recently at Benzeholz, Meggen. In 2018, she co-founded the interdisciplinary publishing house Hors-Sujet with Gregor Huber and Ivan Sterzinger. In 2024/2025, Noha Mokhtar is a resident at the Swiss Institute in Rome.

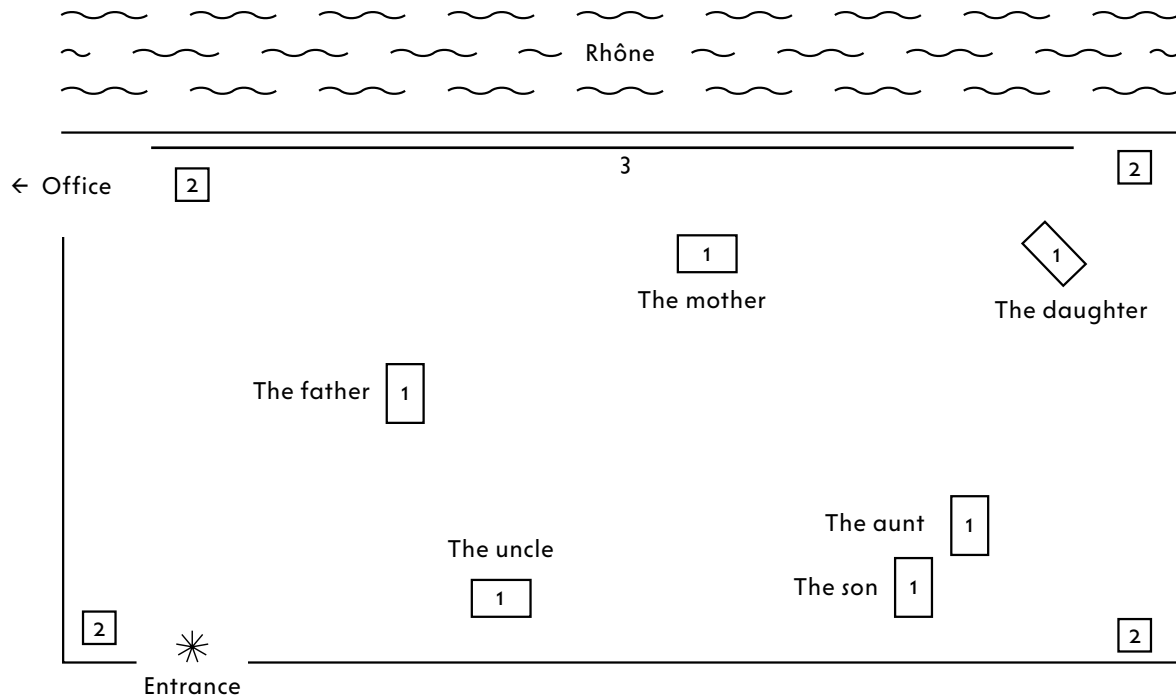
<https://nohamokhtar.ch/info>

After obtaining a Bachelor's degree in cinema/video from the Geneva School of Art and Design (HEAD), Sahar Suliman developed her artistic research in Egypt. In particular, she has produced projects that question the place of women in public space and collective memory. Her work has been shown at the Palais de l'Athénée, Geneva; Carré d'Art, Nîmes; Swiss Institute of Contemporary Art, New York; Townhouse Gallery, Cairo and at the Visions du Réel festival in Nyon. In 2020, she obtained a Master's degree in Theatre directing from La Manufacture, Lausanne. Since then she has developed a practice combining theatre, writing, film and visual art. Her work has been presented at Théâtre Sévelin 36, Lausanne; Théâtre Amstramgram. In 2021, she co-founded with Louise Bentkowski the company Marguerite Complexe, whose work has been performed at the Théâtre du Lou, Geneva; TU - Théâtre de l'Usine, Geneva; Le Grütli - Centre de production et de diffusion des Arts vivants, Geneva.

09.05–28.06.25

Saga—Mythology of departure

Noha Mokhtar & Sahar Suliman



1
Saga — Mythologie du départ (*Saga—Mythology of departure*), 2025
 6-channel video installation
 15', loop

2
Partir, une main devant une main derrière (*Leaving, one hand in front, one hand behind*), 2025
 4-channel sound installation
 47'40, loop
 Sound design and mixing: Philippe Ciompi

3
Au début il n'y avait rien, même pas de porte (*At first there was nothing, not even a door*), 2025
 Digital printing on woven wallpaper
 1430 cm x 385 cm

Saga — Mythologie du départ
 Film directing: Noha Mokhtar & Sahar Suliman
 Acting: Malika Khatir
 Production: Mounira Mokhtar
 Photography: Bilel Melki, Dmitry Suzana
 Light design: Nemo Andany
 Sound: Yann Sauvin
 Make-up: Sarra Marendaz
 Casting: Juliette Picolot
 Editing, colour-grading: Luca Kasper
 Film mixing: Philippe Ciompi

Technician: Renaud Marchand
 Wallpapering work: Christian Eberhard
 Sound and video technician: Luca Kasper
 Administration: Justine Beaujouan
 Curator: Elise Lammer

Acknowledgments
 Fondation Leenards, Ville de Genève, Pro Helvetia, Arsenic
 - Centre d'art scénique contemporain, videocompany.ch,
 Yasmine Mokhtar, Monika Mokhtar Habegger, Habegger
 Transport, Aurélie Méroz, Yolanda Fernandez, Gregor Huber,
 Pascal Cavin, Kokovi Kuhn, Wissam Arbache



Noha Mokhtar & Sahar Suliman, *Saga - Mythology of departure*, 2025. Film still



Noha Mokhtar & Sahar Suliman, *Saga - Mythology of departure*, 2025. Film still