



MUSEUM OF AFRICAN CONTEMPORARY ART AL MAADEN

The Water Cabinet: A New Collaborative Exhibition

at MACAAL's Artist Room

In Collaboration with Stella Reinhold-Rudas and Anima Garden, Marrakech

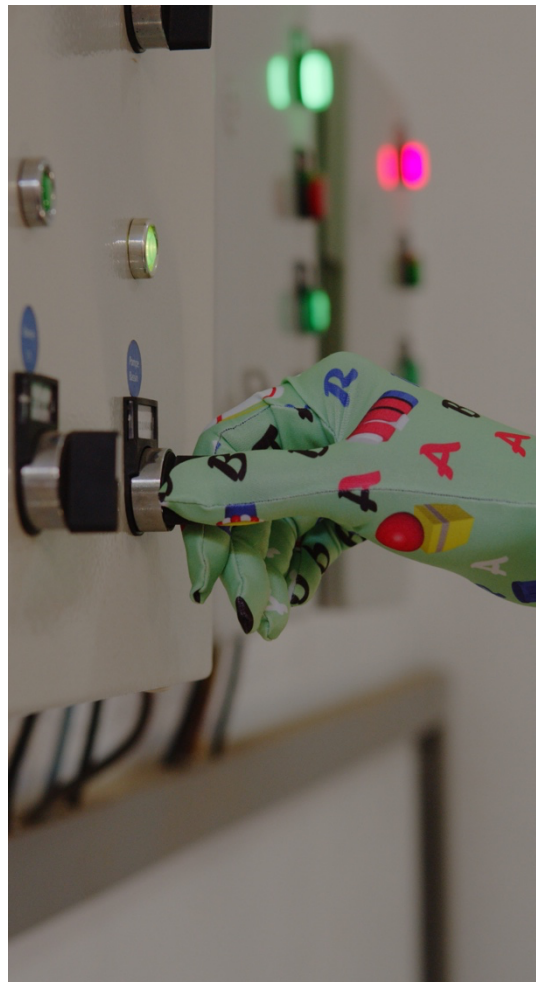


The Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden (MACAAL) is pleased to present *The Water Cabinet*, a four-channel film installation by artist duo Hanakam & Schuller, created in collaboration with curator Stella Reinhold-Rudas and Anima Garden. The exhibition will be on view from 10 July to 7 September 2025 and will be accompanied by a panel discussion featuring the artists, MACAAL's Artistic Director Meriem Berrada, and landscape designer Marius Boulesteix, who works in Marrakech to promote landscapes that are resilient, low-maintenance, and respectful of natural cycles.

Developed in response to the severe drought in Morocco during the summer of 2022, the project builds on earlier work by the artists that explored landscape in the context of climate change.

At the intersection of video art, ecological concerns, and critical thinking, *The Water Cabinet* unfolds as a series of audiovisual vignettes exploring water as an ecological, political, and symbolic element. Drawing on themes of labour relations, situated knowledge, climate fiction (Cli-Fi), resource management, and microecology, the exhibition examines the realities of water supply in the MENA region and the underlying power dynamics around access to water.

Originally envisioned as a garden-based follow-up to their 2021 project *The Moist Cabinet* (Freiburg, Germany), this new work shifts the lens to Anima Garden, a prototypical oasis garden, to examine its infrastructure and the practical and symbolic tensions of maintaining such a space amid climate crisis.



Filmed within the dreamlike setting of Anima Garden, the installation listens closely to the voices of gardeners and technicians Mohamed Ait Tiguert, Mustapha El Barde, Aziz Ait Mtai and Abdellatif Chagour, who speak in their native language, Darija and Amazigh, about daily routines, tools and motivations. Their gestures, blending routine and ritual, express care, heritage, and quiet resistance. Their practical knowledge reveals the garden as a space of beauty, but also one shaped by historical influences and climate challenges.

The film focuses on what the artists describe as the “mirror side” of the garden, its hidden mechanisms of irrigation, drainage and maintenance, particularly at a time when the nearby Ourika River, usually the garden’s main water source, had run completely dry.



“The question of who has access to water, who manages it, is a question of power. It is also a question of power whether deep wells can be drilled, who has the resources to access water. The vitalizing element, which is indispensable for the growth of plants, becomes a hotly disputed commodity.”

Excerpt from “The Water Cabinet: The Animated Oasis” by Susanne Rohringer, artmagazine.cc, March 2025.

Reinterpreting gardens as cultural artefacts, spaces where nature, knowledge and power collide, *The Water Cabinet* invites viewers to deconstruct inherited narratives and imagine alternative, decolonial ecologies.

At once poetic and unsettling, the work plays with dualities, such as the image of rose petals floating in a fountain set against a dried-up riverbed, to provoke reflection on beauty, scarcity, and the precariousness of our ecosystems.

While rooted in real landscapes and local voices, the project remains a deliberately artistic vision, an image machine, in the words of the artists, exploring not only how gardens are sustained, but how they are seen, interpreted, and mythologised.

Production and On Site Management: Emanuel Rudas, Anima Garden

Supported by the Federal Ministry for Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport (BMWKMS), Republic of Austria

Notes to editors

For further information or images, please contact:

Zayneb Kadiri: zayneb@macaal.org

+39 339 3707882

+212 645394237

Image captions: The Water Cabinet, Filmstill © Hanakam & Schuller 2024, Courtesy: The Artists, Bildrecht Vienna, Galerie Krinzinger

About MACAAL

The Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden (MACAAL) in Marrakech is an independent, not-for-profit contemporary art museum. One of the first of its kind on the continent, MACAAL is dedicated to the promotion of African art through its diverse exhibition and education programmes, cultivating the interest of a wide audience base. The museum nurtures an understanding of contemporary art from Africa through collecting and exhibiting established and emerging artists, highlighting the creative energy and cultural diversity found across the continent.

MACAAL showcases art from Morocco and its neighbouring countries across a range of media. In addition to the permanent collection, its temporary exhibition programme focuses on art which engages in a dialogue with the continent, including African and international artists.



Exterior view of MACAAL, ©Omar Tajmouati

About MACAAL's Artist Room

The Artist Room is a space dedicated to occasional exhibitions, both solo and group. This area hosts contemporary artistic proposals and explores connections between contemporary art and fields such as crafts, design, architecture, music, and performance.

About Stella Reinhold-Rudas

Stella Reinhold-Rudas lives and works as a freelance curator in Vienna, founder of Leerstand Gallery. 2022-23 active for the Friends of the Secession. Various projects for Hermann Nitsch, Baha Collection, Vienna Art Week and others, worked for Galerie Krinzinger from 2015 to 2017 and managed the Krinzinger projects during this time. Prior to this, she worked for many years as a cultural editor for the daily newspaper Kurier and as an art mediator in Paris.

About the artists

Markus Hanakam (*1979 in Essen, Germany) and Roswitha Schuller (*1984 in Friesach, Austria) both studied at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. They have been working as a duo since 2004. Their works have been shown at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin, the Eyebeam Center for Art + Technology in New York, the Palais de Tokyo in Paris, the Garage Museum of Contemporary Culture in Moscow, the MAK in Vienna, the Kunstforum in Vienna, the MAK Center for Art and Architecture in Los Angeles and the National Art Center in Tokyo, PCAI Polyeco Contemporary Art in Greece, among others.

They have participated in numerous international artist-in-residence programs, including with Galerie Krinzinger, which has represented them since 2012. The artists live and work in Vienna.