

# SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT

## PRESS INFORMATION

### **CASABLANCA ART SCHOOL A POSTCOLONIAL AVANT-GARDE 1962–1987** JULY 12 – OCTOBER 13, 2024 PRESS PREVIEW: THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2024, 11 A.M.

Just a few years after Morocco gained independence in 1956, a vibrant center of cultural renewal developed in Casablanca. The Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt is presenting the unique and influential work of the Casablanca Art School in a first major exhibition, one that is long overdue. The main representatives of this innovative school—Farid Belkahlia (1934–2014), Mohammed Chabâa (1935–2013), Bert Flint (1931–2022), Toni Maraini (1941) and Mohamed Melehi (1936–2020), together with students, teachers, and associated artists—soon became a central driver of the development of a postcolonial modern art in the region. Their aims combined an openness toward local history with the new social reality. They included a reassessment of the relationship between art, handicrafts, design, and architecture within the local context in dialogue with the ideas of the Bauhaus manifesto. This was achieved by combining artistic influences from Western metropolises with elements of the vernacular legacy which had been undermined during the colonial era. The Schirn will be presenting some 100 works, including large-format, colorful, abstract (mural) paintings, graphic experiments, and everyday objects, as well as comprehensive documentary material, revealing a specifically Moroccan art scene with transnational aspirations.

An exhibition organized by Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Tate St Ives, and Sharjah Art Foundation.

**VENUE** SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT, Römerberg, 60311 Frankfurt **DURATION** February 15 – May 12, 2024 **INFORMATION** [schirn.de](http://schirn.de) **EMAIL** [welcome@schirn.de](mailto:welcome@schirn.de) **TELEPHONE** +49.69.29 98 82-0 **CURATORS** Morad Montazami and Madeleine de Colnet (for Zamân Books & Curating) in cooperation with Esther Schlicht and Luise Leyer (Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt) **ASSOCIATE RESEARCHERS** Fatima-Zahra Lakrissa and Maud Houssais

**HASHTAGS** #CASABLANCAARTSCHOOL #SCHIRN **FACEBOOK, TWITTER, YOUTUBE, INSTAGRAM, PINTEREST, TIKTOK, SCHIRN MAGAZIN** [schirn.de/en/magazin](http://schirn.de/en/magazin)

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