

**NUIT
BLANCHE**
PARIS 5 OCTOBRE
2013

MAIRIE DE PARIS 

THE LITTLE BLACK FISH

PRESS PACK



ANAHITA BATHAIE, LAURENT MARESCHAL, TAMI NOTSANI ALONG WITH SAIED
BATHAIE AND THEIR PARTNERS ARE PLEASED TO PRÉSENT:

« THE LITTLE BLACH FISH »

Web : [HTTP://LEPETITPOISSONNOIR.BLOGSPOT.FR](http://LEPETITPOISSONNOIR.BLOGSPOT.FR)

An original art project selected for the 2013 Edition of « Nuit Blanche » in Paris.

The work will be shown all night long on the facade of the MK2 Cinema, Quai de Loire, Paris XIX,
on October 5, 2013 from 7pm till 7am.



In Situ simulation of the location for the Artwork (first sketch) «Le Petit Poisson Noir», on the facade of MK2 Cinema.

Press release

«*The Little Black Fish*»

A project by Anahita Bathaie, Laurent Mareschal and Tami Notsani - realized by Saied Bathaie.

Cinema MK2- Quai de Loire, 75019, Paris
From Saturday October, 5th 2013, at 19h
to Sunday October 6th, at 7.am.

This work conceptualized by the visual artists **Anahita BATHAIE, Laurent MARESCHAL, and Tami NOTSANI**, consists of a promotional poster for a movie which doesn't exist based on the story of «*The Little Black Fish*» by **Samad BEHRANGUI**. It will be installed on the facade of the MK2 movie theater, Quai de la Loire, Paris XIXème during 'Nuit Blanche' on October 5, 2013, from 7pm to 7am.

The poster (4x3 meters), has been painted by **Saied BATHAIE**, a former Iranian painter of movie posters who has exercised his former professional skills for the first time since 1989 as well as for the first time outside Iran. The idea is to intrigue the public and blur the line between fiction and reality, creating an environment that encourages the viewer to wonder: Is this really a new movie? « Anahita Bathaie introduced this work to Laurent and Tami through a performance of hers in 2003. Ten years later we have found a new way to raise interest in this politically engaged text that we believe has a universal voice. »

Samad Behrangi, an Iranian writer during the reign of Iran's Shah was only twenty-eight years old when he has found dead in 1967.

The story is told by an old fish. He speaks to his 12 000 children and grand-children. He describes the trip of a little black fish who leaves the tranquillity of his river to venture into the world. With wisdom and courage, the little black fish goes far.

The story was widely considered as a political allegory, and was forbidden in Iran before the Iranian revolution of 1978 by the political regime of the Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi. This allegory is more than ever relevant today.

Through this unusual project, the artists Anahita Bathaie, Laurent Mareschal and Tami Notsani, chose to introduce to a wider audience this relatively recent 'La Fontaine's fable' as well as reintroduce the lost art of movie banner painting.

This proposal highlights a rebellious text which may have cost the life of its author. The painter who helped realize the final work is himself a bit like the hero of the story – he left his native country to explore and finally settle elsewhere - France.

The work presented here is a tribute to lost understandings, to a job that will no longer be practiced any more in its original form, and to a movie that may never be shown in Iranian cinemas.

More broadly, it also questions the legacy of expertise and the status of certain forms of crafts that have disappeared with the emergence of new technologies - that can only these days find their place in an art work or in a museum...

PROJECT ARTISTS

The three principal artists of this project met at the Beaux-Arts in Paris and exhibit regularly in France and abroad (Centre Pompidou, Paris ; Victoria & Albert Museum, London ; MuCEM, Marseille). They have been awarded numerous residencies, scholarships and prizes.

Anahita BATHAIE

Anahita Bathaie was born in 1973 in Teheran (Iran). She lives and works in Paris.

Through performance, video and multiple medias, she develops a work centred on body and language. She ties her visual gestures with political and social questions.

<http://www.centredartlelait.com/IMG/pdf/livretenseignantsAnahitaBathaieLaBordebasse.pdf>



Anahita Bathaie

Footage from the video: *Loop*, 2007

Laurent MARESCHAL

Laurent Mareschal was born in 1975 in Dijon (France). He lives and works in Paris.

« With his videos, installations and performances, Laurent Mareschal uses unexpected ways. During movement of symbolic contexts, a simple gesture becomes a support to a political confrontation, a game turns into a desperate fight against time, a convivial meeting around an ephemeral installation brings out the historical narratives. Between commitment and subtlety his projects draw their strength from the experience of those who share it. »

Text by Anna Olszewska, exhibition curator, 2011

<http://l.mareschal.free.fr>



Laurent Mareschal

Detail of the installation *Beiti*, 2011

Made out of spices

Tami NOTSANI

Tami Notsani was born in 1972 in Haifa (Israel). She lives and works in Paris and Israel.

« Her photographs show a familiar universe, subject to inevitable changes in time, the landscapes change, people change of appearance, the similarities of the landmarks overlap. The idea of identity and its relationship with History becomes fundamental, especially in her recent performative installations inside which viewers are invited to take part. »

Text by Anna Olszewska, exhibition curator, 2011

<http://tamiN.free.fr>

Tami Notsani

Untitled, 2009

Colour photograph, 100x100 cm



Saied BATHAIE

Saied Bathaie was born in 1944 in Teheran (Iran). He lives and works in Paris.

From the age of 10 he had a interest in art but also the need to make a living drew him to find a way of combining art and making money.

Parallel to his school studies he worked in a calligraphy and painting studio where he taught himself lettering – a talent which he used to earn extra cash. After he graduated from highschool he registered in evening classes at the University to continue studying graphic design.

In 1963, he was employed by “Golden Ace” studios which distributed every national and international movie in Iran. He became responsible for the lettering on the hand painted movie posters and progressively begun to paint the images as well.

In 1966, Saied opened his own movie poster’s studio and managed to obtain contracts with Warner, Walt Disney, MGM, Universal and so on. After the Iranian Revolution of 1979, he was able to continue his work, but during the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1986) when the bombing began to reach the capital, it becomes increasingly difficult.

In 1981 two cinemas in Tehran were targeted by bombs which made movie going dangerous. Cinemas shut and the buisness of painting move posters collapsed.

Saied left Iran for France with his family in 1986 while continuing to make trips back to work occasionally in his studio. In 1987 he decided to close his workshop and settle down permanently in France. In his new home Saied had to find other work and is now a merchant in Parisian markets.

Saied Bathaie story is representative of a whole generation. Beyond the political aspect, Iranian society underwent deep changes with the Revolution and the Iran-Iraq war. The history of Saied has significant breaks in both his professional and personal path. His job, invented and modernized within the time Saied worked, disappeared within the events of history.

Text by Azita Bathaie, PHD in Anthropology



Movie poster of *The Second Path* by Hamid Rachani realised by Saied Bathaie, 1984

PROJECT PARTNERS

Institutional Partners:

City of Paris
Mayor of 19th district of Paris
Mayor of Ivry-sur-Seine



Official Partners:

MK2 Cinemas
La Découpe



Patrons:

Fernand Léger Gallery
Marin Beaux-Arts.
Simrane



Other Partners:

Omnia PR Office

