

LES SCULPTURES NOMADES

de Rodolphe Hammadi



DOSSIER DE PRESSE
EXHIBITION “Nomadic Sculptures”

1 artist	The Institut du Monde Arabe Museum
21 sculptures	19 September 2015 - 10 January 2016
2 parisian museums	Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature
4 month of exhibition	15 September 2015 - 14 February 2016
3 artist’s workshops	based on an original idea by
1 concert	Dorothee Allaneau (Galerie Sponte)

*A musical performance in collaboration with the association ECUME
for the inauguration of the*

Journées Européennes du Patrimoine (European Heritage Days)

with Racha Rizk the 19 September 2015 at 18h



LE MUSEE DE L'INSTITUT DU MONDE ARABE



LE MUSEE DE LA CHASSE ET DE LA NATURE



In the uncertain world in which we live, we could see things from a certain angle and consider that, in fact, we are the result of many accidents, and many constituents that have combined and accumulated to ultimately form a strong emotional being with an infinite history. Viewed from this perspective, **Rodolphe Hammadi's work explores the notion of identity.**

Rodolphe Hammadi creates works whose forms are completely at odds with the codes and practices of the contemporary art world. He is not interested in being “modern” or following “trends,” but rather expresses his current preoccupations in the most contemporary way: he is an artist who cares about his environment, and although he is based in Marseille, he embraces many influences from distant lands, and even those of past civilizations, and addresses the immediate present and the future of the planet.

Rodolphe Hammadi's “Les Sculptures Nomades” (“Nomadic Sculptures”) symbolize our condition as human beings: “beings” which begin as simple branches found in nature, which only fully develop when they are enhanced by the different phases of life and via various encounters—these small fragments of history found lying on the ground, which are given away, stolen, and lost, eventually to form an ensemble that we are only able to gradually discover, and sometimes even, only at a specific point in time. Far from the belief that we are singular and unique, Rodolphe Hammadi focuses on the lament of human existence and offers us a dynamic, rich, and different approach to art: he relates a nomadic story—that of humanity—, but on a scale we can identify with.

The Institut du Monde Arabe Museum, will present this work over a four-month period as part of the “Journées Européennes du Patrimoine” (“European Heritage Days”) and the event will include an itinerary around the institute’s permanent collections.

Exhibition from 19 September 2015 to 10 January 2016.

Inauguration on 18 September 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

In partnership with the IMA Museum, **the Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature** will hold an exhibition of Rodolphe Hammadi’s first “weapon” sculptures (over a 5-month period) in the Trophy Room, which attests to the relations between the East and the West at the beginning of the twentieth century and presents the eponymous foundation’s collection of weapons.

Exhibition from 15 September 2015 to 14 February 2016.

Inauguration of the exhibition on 21 September 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

The works will be presented—**for the first time ever in Paris—concurrently in both venues.** The exhibition will therefore **have a specific scenography on each site**, and include **a series of encounters and workshops with the artist**, who will talk to the visitors about the genesis of various exhibited objects

To complement the exhibition there will be a musical performance in collaboration with the association ECUME (Mediterranean Cultural Exchange): Racha Rizk’s concert, on 19 September 2015, which attests to this cultural exchange between both sides of the Mediterranean.

Racha Rizk’s performance will take place inside the Institut du Monde Arabe Museum on 19 September 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Further information :

Dorothee ALLANEAU

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General Calendar (summary)

Exhibition from 15 September 2015 to 14 February 2016

The Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature.

Exhibition opening on 18 September 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

The Institut du Monde Arabe Museum.

Exhibition from 19 September 2015 to 10 January 2016

The Institut du Monde Arabe Museum.

Concert on 19 September 2015 starting at 6:00 p.m.

The Institut du Monde Arabe Museum. Free admission

Exhibition opening on 21 September 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

The Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature

RODOLPHE HAMMADI'S WORKS

Rodolphe Hammadi's sculptures, which he refers to as "my weapons," always start out as tree branches; they are just ordinary pieces of wood, something chopped or cut up before winter, and something one usually casts aside without a second thought.

And these pieces of wood—which have often been thrown away—provide the artist with his precious material. The shape and length of the wood is unimportant, as is its contortedness or straightness, or whether it consists of oak or walnut—Rodolphe Hammadi picks up all the pieces and brushes, cleans, and smooths them down, and handles them with great care before finally sculpting and adorning them with all the "finery" of Time.

The studio is littered with various objects: stones, bolts, nails, old coins, rare stamps, and antiquities—found very often in the streets of Marseille, or in one of the many countries explored or visited by the artist in the past.

It is like a dance, or a rite. The artist already knows each gesture and each movement that will be used to join, attach, and bind the object in the right places. The work does not aim to have a specific meaning and its significance lies in its three-dimensionality. It has no beginning and no end: it is composed of interlocking elements, continuities, and associations... and although it is not uniform, it certainly forms a coherent ensemble.

The work is reminiscent of African art, or amulets. There is a suggestion of Etruscan artifacts, Brazilian forms, or the sacred woods of Guinea.

The viewer is taken on a journey and each observed element has another story to tell...

VISUELS DES ŒUVRES EXPOSEES

Le voyage... ou la soif de partir "The journey, or a thirst for travel" (detail)



Le papillon "The butterfly" (detail)



Le papillon "The butterfly" (detail)



Brasilia (detail)



Brasilia (detail)



Ankylo (detail)



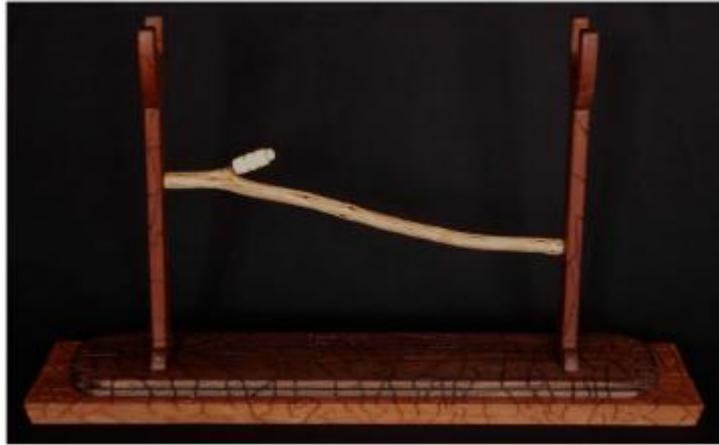
Ankylo (detail)



Arme Flor (detail)



LE SOCLE DE L'ŒUVRE PHAËTON
(THE STAND FOR *PHAËTON*)



UNE ŒUVRE NOMADE : UN ETUI POUR TRANSPORTER LA SCULPTURE
(NOMADIC SCULPTURE: A CASE FOR TRANSPORTING SCULPTURES)



FURTHER INFORMATION...

RODOLPHE HAMMADI

His apprenticeship began with the architect Eric Jantzen, and, in the 1980s, continued with the painter, engraver, and sculptor Corneille, founder of the CoBra Movement, and the photographer Irina Ionesco in Paris. During the fifteen years spent with the designer Pucci de Rossi he devoted himself to the art of photography: after his solo and photo-reportage exhibitions, he created a series of works in France and abroad. The winner of the Prix Léonard de Vinci, his work was also represented by the Meta-29 Gallery in Brazil. The museum exhibition of his sculptures in Paris will be a first in Europe.

ECUME

The association ECUME (Mediterranean Cultural Exchange) is located in the PACA region and has an international dimension, with permanent correspondents in Tunis, Alexandria, Seville, Genoa, Tangiers-Tétouan, and Thessalonica. It has more than thirty years of experience in cultural exchange between the countries and cities of the Mediterranean basin, bringing together artists, institutions, universities, schools, and public authorities around artistic activities ranging from dance, theatre, music, and the visual arts.

The association ECUME is presenting a concert with Racha Rizk, who was born in Damascus in Syria and grew up in a unique musical world, in which she was immersed in the legendary works of Arab composers and great Oriental singers, while being exposed to French songs and jazz, blues, rock, and pop music. Her exceptional artistic talents were even evident as a child and later she won many distinctions in classical Arab song, the French, German, and Italian lyrical repertoires, and rock and jazz (Syrian Pioneers Competition, the Higher Institute for Music and Drama in Damascus, the Ecole Normal de Musique de Paris, the Syrian National Symphonic Orchestra, the Festival de Chants Sacrés de la Méditerranée, the Java Jazz Festival, the North Sea Jazz Festival, and so on). She is not limited to a repertoire, but instead excels in transcending boundaries and eradicating preconceptions, and in adopting influences from across the musical spectrum.
www.ecume.org

GALERIE SPONTE

The Galerie Sponte, directed by Dorothee ALLANEAU, is both a public venue and a place for the promotion of cultural projects in France and abroad. Since its establishment in 2009, the gallery has held numerous exhibitions that highlight contemporary artists, whose work is complemented by transversal artistic—literary, musical, oratorical, and dance—activities. Workshops, symposiums, and encounters are organized around exhibitions that address themes as varied as philosophy, the culinary arts, body language, perfumes, portraiture, dance, contemporary Tunisia, monumental sculpture, travel, animal symbolism, and so on.

Examples of exhibitions: “Photographe sous influences” (Diana Lui), “Le ventre des philosophes” (collective exhibition with Michel Onfray), “Sensualité” (Fondazione Arkad, Cynthia Sah), “L’Art du portrait” (collective exhibition with Claude Mollard), “Eloge de la fuite” (collective exhibition with Bernard Pivot), “Naples mon amour” (collective exhibition with Andrea De Luca), and “Symbolique animale” (Oreste Zevola and Alain Jaubert).

The latest projects are: “Littérairement Montparnasse 2015” // “Les Dimanche de l’Orient Express,” 2014 // Exhibition & Encounters: “L’envers des corps,” 2013–2014 // Website and communication for “Paris Se Livre,” Montparnasse 2012–15// Art Tunis Paris, 2011–12 // “A la rencontre des artistes napolitains” for the event “Arte de la Felicità,” 2011

Derniers projets : *Littérairement Montparnasse 2015* // *Les Dimanche de l’Orient Express* 2014 // *Exposition & Rencontres L’envers des corps* 2013-2014 // *Site web et communication pour Paris Se Livre Montparnasse 2012-15// Art Tunis Paris 2011-12* // «*A la rencontre des artistes napolitains*» pour la manifestation *Arte de la Felicità* 2011

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Special thanks go to Rina Sherman and Valérie Dutheil for this exhibition program.

THE EXHIBITION IN THE INSTITUT DU MONDE ARABE MUSEUM

Institut du monde arabe
 1, rue des Fossés Saint-Bernard
 Place Mohammed V
 75005 Paris, France

The exhibition at the Institut du Monde Arabe Museum will be held amidst the permanent collections as part of an itinerary that will gradually introduce visitors to Rodolphe Hammadi's work.

The museum is arranged over four floors and has more than 500 works that provide a panoramic overview of the history of Arab civilizations, thanks to the major permanent loans of works of art from: museums in Arab countries (the museums of Damascus, Aleppo, Latakia, Amman, Riyadh, Tunis, Kairouan, Manama, etc.), French institutions (Louvre, Quai Branly, etc.), collectors from the Arab world, as well as churches and convents in the Middle East. Bathed in light, the architectural aspects of the museum's spaces helps to highlight the cultural, religious, social, and anthropological dimensions of the Arab world, as well as the ways it is represented by contemporary Arab artists.

Like storytellers, historians, or poets from the Arab world, the museum aims to retrace history: with a focus on colors, materials, and motifs, and by alternating eras by combining contemporary works with those from the seventh millennium BCE.

Having been granted the status of a "Musée de France," the museum has reorganized its collections, and now visitors can benefit from the fruit of a transversal approach adopted by archeologists, historians, anthropologists, linguists, art historians, religious historians, and philosophers—via five major themes that address its many facets: I – Arabia: the Cradle of a Common Heritage, II – The Sacred and Divine Figures, III – Towns and Cities, IV – The Expression of Beauty, and V – Leisure Activities.

It is therefore logical that the museum would be interested in Rodolphe Hammadi's work, because it is fundamentally about diversity. With his father's Algerian roots and his mother's German origins, the artist has chosen to live in Marseille, a city known for its diversity and the richness of its Mediterranean heritage. With his mixed blood and diverse cultural influences, the artist has prioritized his environment, and invested it with history and knowledge: "My work is also inspired by memory: the memory of civilizations, generations with or without roots—the materiality of the transmission," he explains. The provenance of the elements that make up the works is carefully identified and traverses—via his craftsmanship-centuries and boundaries. He is fundamentally motivated by humanity when he gathers the elements that make up the works: "Each object has a history, that of the person who has abandoned it or passes it on to me. My 'weapons' give these fragments of life another dimension." A branch of Jerusalem Pine may be the cocoon for a bronze Ibis from the Ptolemaic era, which is itself complemented by the bronze handle from a Louis XV chest of drawers ... everything is combined to create an object worthy of admiration."

On the occasion of the inauguration of the "Journées Européennes du Patrimoine" ("European Heritage Days"), the association Ecume (Mediterranean Cultural Exchange) has organized a musical performance inspired by Rodolphe Hammadi's work. In fact, both the works and their cases are reminiscent of musical instruments: the "Weapons" created by Rodolphe Hammadi are "audible," like an echo of the earth from whence they originated and of the beings with whom they are connected in their fragmentary way. The musical event will reflect the spirit and ethos of the Ecume association: a multicultural exchange that forges links with the audience.

The scenography will present fifteen of the works and their cases, because Rodolphe Hammadi primarily intends them to be nomadic objects that can be carried by people as they move around or settle in a place; these objects are placed throughout the museum itinerary and are displayed on stands, on the floor, on consoles, or take the form of suspended sculptures. Each work will have a detailed exhibit label that contains the specific explanations for the work in question: the genesis and description of the object. Alice Labat-Claret, Marie Bourgois, and Manon Guenard are responsible for the graphic design.



The Institut du Monde Arabe's Department for Educational Initiatives holds workshops for visitors attended by the artist or guides. Particularly oriented towards families, the workshops adopt a sensorial and personalized approach. The visitors will be invited to discover all the richness and originality of the museum's collections thanks to the artist's contemporary works.

The Digital Mediation Department will present the highlights of the exhibition as part of its mission to disseminate the IMA's cultural events and activities on the Internet and social networks (exhibition inaugurations, intra-muros and extra-muros events, workshops, etc.).

The exhibition will be held over a four-month period from 19 September 2015 to 10 January 2016. It will inaugurate the 32nd edition of the "Journées Européennes du Patrimoine" ("European Heritage Days") on 19 and 20 September 2015.

Attendance at the exhibition opening is on invitation only: 18 September 2015.

Concert for the inauguration of the "Journées Européennes du Patrimoine" ("European Heritage Days"): 19 September 2015 starting at 6:00 p.m.

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THE EXHIBITION AT THE MUSEE DE LA CHASSE ET DE LA NATURE

The exhibition at the **Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature** is being held in the magnificent hôtel particulier in the Marais district. Built by Mansart in the seventeenth century, the public museum has housed the collection of the Sommer Foundation since the 1960s, and presents over 3,000 objects reflecting man's relationship with nature. Supported by various prestigious institutions that have willingly provided numerous permanent loans (the Musée du Louvre, the Musée de l'Armée, and the Manufacture de Sèvres), the Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature fulfills various roles: it is a fine arts museum, a museum of techniques, and a natural history museum.

Since 2007, this Musée de France has reopened its doors and introduced contemporary arts in its collections via temporary exhibitions that focus on the current debates concerning man's relationship with nature: environmental protection, relations with animals, myths, and realities

Rodolphe Hammadi's works will be displayed in the Trophy Room, in one of the richest collections of weapons and hunting trophies, dating in particular from the period when Europeans discovered the wildlife in the countries of the Maghreb. The scenography highlights Rodolphe Hammadi's first works. His weapons are presented alongside beautifully made hunting weapons. Evoking humanity's first tools, these magnificent hunting weapons attest to the prodigious talent of the harquebusiers and furbishers, ornamentists and engravers, gilders, and marquetry craftsmen, who collaborated to create weapons that are both beautiful and ingenious. Rodolphe Hammadi crafts his works with the same degree of rigor as these artisans. The wood used to make his weapons, and all the elements that originate from nature, are finely worked and treated with natural substances that ensure the works' durability, while creating a strong sensorial relationship between the artist and the protected natural materials. The branches are slowly heated and polished, and they are left for the necessary period of time to ensure that any substances that may degrade them are rendered innocuous; the metal pieces and grains are carefully chosen and prepared before they are incorporated into the work; the ensemble is coated with rare and natural waxes. Aware of nature's particularities, the artist very precisely identifies the provenance of all the constituent elements in each of his works. This practice contributes to the duty of remembrance that gives the sculpture meaning, and also reveals all the subtlety of nature and the many civilizations that are inherently part of our daily lives. The carefully compiled list of materials is presented to the general public in an almost ethnological manner. Visitors will recognize the piece of coral from New Caledonia, the coconut "pearls," beech or lime branches, calfskin ...

The Musée de la Chasse is primarily intended to be a place that generates emotion, but also wishes to be a recognized cultural center with regard to the issue of man's relationship with the wild environment, through its cultural publications and events (debates, symposiums, screenings, shows, etc.). Hence, Rodolphe Hammadi's works illustrate the foundation's commitment to artistic projects that promote environmental protection, as attested by its international partnership with the 2014 "Prix COAL Art et Environnement."

The exhibition will be held for a period of five months from 15 September 2015 to 14 February 2016.

Exhibition opening (on invitation) on Monday 21 September 2015

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**LES SCULPTURES
NOMADES**

de Rodolphe Hammadi

2 MUSÉES PARISIENS 3 PERFORMANCES
21 ŒUVRES 4 MOIS D'EXPOSITION 1 CONCERT

POUR INAUGURER
LES JOURNÉES EUROPÉENNES DU PATRIMOINE

SUR UNE IDÉE ORIGINALE DE
DOROTHÉE ALLANEAU (GALERIE SPONTE)

MUSÉE DE L'INSTITUT DU MONDE ARABE
19 SEPTEMBRE 2015 - 10 JANVIER 2016

CONCERT INAUGURAL ORGANISÉ PAR ECUME
AVEC RACHA RIZK رشا رزق
LE SAMEDI 19 SEPTEMBRE 2015 À 18H

MUSÉE DE LA CHASSE ET DE LA NATURE
15 SEPTEMBRE 2015 - 14 FÉVRIER 2016

Pour plus d'informations

www.sponde.fr www.imarabe.org www.chassenature.org www.ecume.org

musée
de la chasse et
de la nature

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INSTITUT
DU MONDE
ARABE



SEMIRAMIS - 2014

DIMENSIONS

LENGTH / 170 cm

WIDTH / 45 cm

WEIGHT / 7 kg

COMPOSITION



- 1 BRASS KEY
- 4 ABSINTH SPOONS
- 28 FACETED JET PEARLS
- 1 IVY BRANCH FROM ROGNES
- 1 APPLE TREE BRANCH FROM PORTUGAL
- 5 METERS OF BRAIDED BRASS WIRE
- 1 MINI BRASS CURTAIN ROD
- 1 BRASS CORKSCREW
- 10 BRASS RINGS
- 2 GLASS BEADS



© R.Hammadi

a blackthorn branch from Castelet, a branch of evergreen oak from Rognes, two pieces of mahogany from Equatorial Guinea (2002), a walnut pin, a base made from an (uncreosoted) oak sleeper, a base framed with teak wood, two stainless steel three-claw sugar tongs, a set of simple silver-plated sugar tongs, a bronze finger, two silver-plated tablespoons, two silver-plated tablespoon handles, a silver-plated teaspoon, three ox bones I engraved, a tinned-brass drawer key, a brass chair leg toe cap, a brass Sicart Maison Lafitte coat of arms, a large piece of molten glass in the shape of a drop, a giant clam shell (*Tridacna*) from New Caledonia, an arm from a statue of Christ, a brass tube from a telescope, three brass furniture knobs with images of the sun, a bronze furniture knob with an image of a pine tree, a brass bolt used for plumbing, a one centime Euro coin, twenty-four brass slot screws (length 15 mm; dia. 3 mm), three meters of brass wire (dia. 0.7 mm), twenty-four bone discs (dia. 17 mm), a small brass caryatid from India



(provided by Patrice Claude and Meriem Lesquesne), an openwork pearl made from bone, three circular brass rosettes, seventy-five brass nails (length 10 mm; dia. 1.1 mm), three stainless steel cross-head screws, and one hundred and thirty-four brass screws (length 25 mm; dia. 1.5 mm).

Rodolphe HAMMADI

2015 Galerie Sponte

The Institut of Monde Arabe Museum

The Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature

