

## TAVERNA ESPECIAL

presents

### Younes Baba-Ali

Ksour Agafay, Marrakech

Arts in Marrakech International Biennale 3rd Edition

19 to 23 November 2009

Reception 21 November, 6-9pm

The Gallery Sketch, London

31 October to 5 December 2009

Reception 31 October, 2-4pm

Sketch and Arts in Marrakech are pleased to present a new site-specific project by *Taverna Especial* (Mark Aerial Waller & Giles Round) across two venues in London and Marrakech, introducing the work of Moroccan artist Younes Baba-Ali.

Established in the summer of 2003 *Taverna Especial* is both a kitchen and a salon for the reception and consideration of a singular art work. Co-founded by artists Giles Round & Mark Aerial Waller, *Taverna Especial* has a dynamic and mythic core created through a constantly evolving system of chance happenings. The original premises situated on an Estate parade off Hackney Road, London closed its doors in 2006 following the traumatic metamorphosis of the area by the set dressers of dystopic science fiction fable *Children of Men*. With no permanent location the now nomadic kitchen *Taverna Especial* continues to develop its ideological stance & adapts its structure to create situational shifts. *Taverna Especial* embraces contradiction. For this edition, *Taverna Especial* will be presented as two related, site specific installations at Ksour Agafay, Marrakech and Sketch, London. At once a participatory and ideological kitchen, restaurant and installation for the contemplation of a singular artwork, *Taverna Especial* will overlay and transform both spaces for the duration of the exhibitions to present a site specific soundscape by artist Younes Baba-Ali.

**Younes Baba-Ali** was born in 1986 in Oujda, Morocco and lives and works in Marseille and Casablanca. As a visual artist and musician, he has developed a practice grounded in sound and the auditory properties of materials and objects. Since graduating from L'École Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs, Strasbourg in 2008, Baba-Ali has recently exhibited in many group shows and biennials internationally including BJCEM Skopje Biennial, Macedonia; Wro 09 Biennial of New Media Art, Wrocław; Galerie Espacio Menos Uno, Madrid; Espacio Tangente, Burgos; Loop Video Art Festival, Barcelona; Interference, Breda; CEAAC, Strasbourg In-Sonora, Madrid and La Galerie du Syndicat Potentiel, Strasbourg.

**Mark Aerial Waller** produces interdisciplinary, cinematic time travelogues that refute any predictable balance between our romance for the ancient past and our fetish for a streamlined future. By jamming multiple time streams and technical formats he stages elliptical, psychological landscapes in which fantasy and documentary become almost interchangeable. He compliments his film work with *The Wayward Canon*, an itinerant site specific micro-salon for the critical engagement and re-representation of cinema. *The Wayward Canon* adopts the mechanics of a performance or happening. Recent exhibitions include, *Kafe Pittoresk: L'Expérience du Monde Visionnaire*, Park Nights, Serpentine Gallery Pavilion, London; *Simon & the Radio Active Flesh Plaka*, Athens; *France Fiction*, Paris; *Taverna Especial Soup Kitchen*, Manifesto Marathon, Serpentine Gallery, London; *Nought to Sixty*, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London; *You have not been honest*, Museo D'Arte Contemporanea, Donnaregina, Napoli, Italy; Athens Biennial 2009; *La Societe des Amis de Judex*, Tate Modern, London. He was also curator of Yama Screen, Istanbul 2007-8.

**Giles Round** has collaborated with *The Wayward Canon* on several live events in Rotterdam, London and Istanbul. Alongside this collaborative practice, his work utilises the formal language of minimalism, the monochrome and design to investigate perception, notions of time and fractured narratives. Spanning text, sculpture, architectural installation and furniture, Round uses geometric shapes, codified references and the juxtaposition of objects to create a kind of theatre that suggests the universal concerns of desire, melancholy or alienation. Recent exhibitions and events include *Kafe Pittoresk: L'Expérience du Monde Visionnaire*, Park Nights, Serpentine Gallery Pavilion, London; *Idealismusstudio*, Grazer Kunstverein, Graz; *Simon & the Radioactive Flesh Plaka*, Athens; *Taverna Especial Soup Kitchen*, Manifesto Marathon, Serpentine Gallery, London; *Strange days & nights* in *Nought to Sixty*, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London and *XLOMFCNHNG*, Gallery Four, Dublin. Giles Round is currently based in Sheffield with the S1 Artspace Residency programme.



## Notes for the editor

### Associated Events

- There will be a series of AiM London previews 12-17 October at The Parlour, Sketch.
- R22 Art Radio will be broadcast live from Marrakech from AiM as well as from the related London events.

### The Gallery Sketch

The Gallery, Sketch is a non-profit temporary exhibitions space in central London specializing in multi-channel film and video installation. Recent exhibitions include Noam Gonick, Tim Etchells, Mary Ellen Bute, Paper Rad, Iain Sinclair & Chris Petit, Charles & Ray Eames and Michael Nyman amongst many others. Curated by Victoria Brooks, Sketch also produces and presents touring projects and cinema screenings such as *Cinact presents* in collaboration with the Serpentine Gallery and Picturehouse Cinemas, an ongoing series of monthly performative artist film screenings at The Gate Cinema, London. Taking its name from Henry Flynt's 2007 abstract cinema manifesto, each programme focuses on two artists who investigate and experiment with the medium of cinema with a new dynamism and tradition-less language. Other touring programmes include *A New Stance for Tomorrow* at Bidoun Artists Cinema, Art Dubai; *From Now to Eternity*, Arts Co, London; *Radio On*, Art Basel Miami Beach and *A New Stance for Tomorrow: Wildflowers of Manitoaba*, Tribeca Grand/Volta, New York. Forthcoming in 2009/10 include major new commissions by artist Carsten Nicolai and acclaimed auteur Mike Figgis at Sketch. Brooks is also curating a new monthly experimental cinema programme *In Search of the Miraculous* for The Lexi Cinema, London in association with The Marine Foundation and Sketch.

Sketch was initiated in 2002 by designer and restaurateur Mourad Mazouz and 3-star Michelin chef Pierre Gagnaire as a destination for experimental food, art and music. Mazouz and Gagnaire have collaborated with Round and Aerial Waller on the special *Taverna Especial* set menu for both venues.

### AiM International Biennale 3rd Edition

Initiated by Vanessa Branson and Abel Damoussi in 2005, AiM seeks to dynamize the regional creative scene, enabling discussions with and between artists and promoting the status of the artist and contemporary culture. More broadly, AiM seeks to enable intercultural and inter-disciplinary exchanges through an educational approach that addresses art professionals, students and the general public. The AiM Festival focuses on the visual arts, cinema and literature as its central themes, developed over the years by a dedicated and professional team coordinated by Riad El Fenn.

AiM 2009 is a programme of discussions, exhibitions, screenings, performances, workshops and eclectic events taking place across this remarkable city. Venues include the Museum of Marrakech, Ecole Supérieure des Arts Visuels (School of Cinema and Visual Arts), Djemma Al Fna square, Riad El Fenn, the Royal Theatre, Dar Cherifa Cultural Centre, Ksour Agafay, Riad Magi, the Cafe du Livre and several art galleries in Marrakech. The principal exhibition will be curated by Abdellah Karroum at the Museum of Marrakech. The literary programme will be organized by Simon Prosser (Hamish Hamilton & Penguin) and Abdellah Taia (Author of *My Morocco*, *An Arab Melancholy & Salvation Army*), the documentary cinema will be put together in partnership with ESAV (School of Cinema & Visual Arts) under the direction of Vincent Melilli, BBC Creative Director Alan Yentob and Stuart Comer from the Tate in London.

### R22 ArtRadio

Radio\_L'appartement 22, Morocco's first internet-based radio station solely dedicated to contemporary cultural and artistic practice. Radio\_L'appartement 22 broadcasts interviews, artist sound projects, conferences, commentaries in multiple languages (Arabic, French, English, Tamazight, German, Wolof, Spanish). We invite all artists, curators, academics, researchers, students, and members of the general public to join in this collaborative radio project by submitting their own audio works and/or radio expertise.

### Links:

[www.aimbiennale.org](http://www.aimbiennale.org)  
[www.sketch.uk.com](http://www.sketch.uk.com)  
[www.appartement22.com](http://www.appartement22.com)  
[www.radioapartment22.com](http://www.radioapartment22.com)  
[www.visitmorocco.com](http://www.visitmorocco.com)

### Produced & curated by Victoria Brooks

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