

ZAD MOULTAKA

Composer & Visual artist

Portfolio

ZAD MOULTAKA -ARTISTIC APPROACH

LINKING TWO SHORES WITH ONE VOICE

Fiercely contemporary whilst remaining powerfully archaic, using hand and computer with the same dexterity, Zad Moultaqa's entire oeuvre could fit into a single phrase: 'linking two shores with one voice' (Wadih Saadeh). This art of profoundly Mediterranean, Ovidian metamorphosis seeks to reconstruct the lost body of Osiris, to listen to and connect the shades of the past with the echoes of the present and defend humanity against its own self-destruction. The lament that bursts forth from this agonizing struggle -- linked to his origins divided between Lebanon and France -- swells into a cry, a whisper or the shift of planets to become matter for music as for painting, sculpture, photography or installation: to direct space is to direct time. Since he staged a musical ritual, *L'Autre rive* in 2010 in Avignon, which called for the spectators to successively occupy two different spaces, Zad Moultaqa has continuously created visual and sound pieces that take into account a buried, forgotten memory to better project himself in the future. Transforming the tunnel of the Tuileries -- *La Montée des ombres* for the *Nuit Blanche* (White Night) festival in Paris -- into the Chauvet cave, 36,000 years old, he illuminated the concretions dripping on the walls like ghostly shadows of wall paintings whilst subjecting a chorus to shamanic processions, vociferating or murmuring the sound of wind, of the sun and rain in order to invent language. Explorer of the limits of vertigo, the artist also sets off in quest of the harmony of the spheres, photographing, using very weak pencils of light with a very long exposure time -- traces of Mesopotamian stars at the very heart of the earth. Knotty rutabagas in the form of meteorites or satiny eggplants evoking oblong black planets -- barely warmed by a pale red solar cabbage in the process of dying out (which evokes the recently discovered Trappist-1 system) --, his fruits of the earth become dark stardust floating in infinity. A virtual Renaissance man, Moultaqa also finds in the sound of a Ferrari engine the low notes of the *Tibetan Book of the Dead* just like the high-pitched songs of ecstasy from Ligeti's Requiem. Transposing this research onto a Rolls-Royce Avon bomber engine from the 1950s, he slows up the roar of a fighter plane, transforming it into a celestial chorus. Standing this motor from another war like the stele of a god in front of a wall of glowing gold coins at the Venice Biennale, he recreated a temple of Šamaš, the Babylonian divinity of the Sun and Justice, in the middle of the Arsenale. Moving away from the indifferent mechanisation of Marcel Duchamp's ready-mades to get closer to Xenakis's vibrant, cosmogonic *Polytopes*, Moultaqa makes surge forth from a gleaming contemporary relic the ancient psalmody of the *Lamentation of Ur*, like a prayer addressed to a bone torn from the god of carnage. In his dreamy installations, ecstatic and wild, inspired by the cycles of Nature and the mystery of the human voice, Zad Moultaqa is on the watch for 'the depths of the waters, the appearance of night, and the infinite nuances that transform reality into another reality'. To the East, the day is rising again.

Emmanuel Daydé, curator and art critic

PRINCIPAL CREATIONS



SAMAS - SUN BLACK SUN (SOLEIL NOIR SOLEIL) - Installation

Lebanese Pavilion -- 57th Venice Biennale d'Arte, 13 May-26 November 2017
Visual-musical work for 64 loudspeakers, bomber engine and wall of 100,000 Lebanese coins
Curator: Emmanuel Daydé
Production: Agence Eva Albarran, with the participation of IRCAM



XAVIER VEILHAN PORTRAIT IN SOUND -- Diffusion

French Pavilion, Venice Biennale d'Arte - 23 September 2017

Diffusion of *Urportrait*, sound poem for narrator, multi-instruments and percussion by Zad Moultaqa
Voice and instruments: Xavier Veilhan



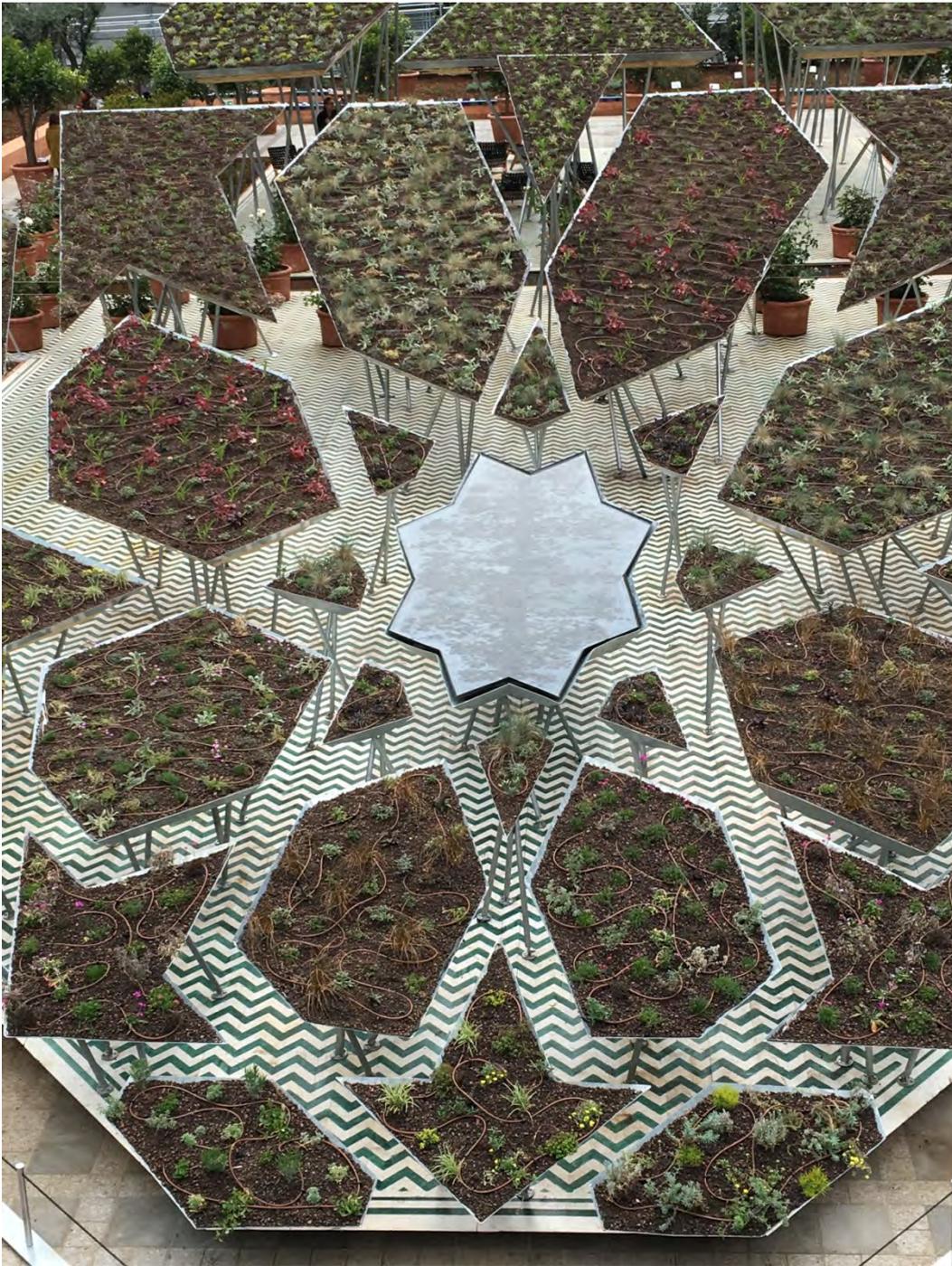
RISE OF THE SHADOWS (MONTÉE DES OMBRES) - Performance

Tuileries Tunnel, *Nuit Blanche*, Paris - 1st October 2016

Installation of luminous shadows on wall concretions, pre- or post-historic procession, for one hundred amateur singers led by the Musicatreize vocal ensemble, conducted by Roland Hayrabedian and Cécil Gallois

Artistic direction: Jean de Loisy

Production: Agence Eva Albarran, in partnership with IRCAM



ATONAL VIBRANCES (VIBRANCES ATONALES) – Sound installation

Arab World Institute, Institut du Monde Arabe Paris, 'Jardins d'orient' exhibition, 10-25 September 2016. Sound sources scattered through a garden set up in front of the IMA, made up of whistling, whispers, buzzing, birdcalls, sounds of wind and rain produced entirely by mouth



**FRUIT STARS, FROM THE INFINITY OF THINGS
(ASTRES FRUITIERS, DE L'INFINITÉ DES CHOSES) -
photographic and sound installation**

Photography Biennale of the Arab World, Paris, October 2017, Arsenal de Metz, Saint-Pierre-aux-Nonnains, 5-23 April 2017, Art Dubai, 12-18 March 2017,
Series of photographs of fruits and vegetables taken with a very long exposure time, making them resemble stars and constellations in the night of space, with composition on the sound of planets.