

**SURREAL**  
*Landscapes*  
Reimagining  
Nature's Future

*Exhibition  
Catalogue*



The American Cultural Association  
الجمعية الثقافية الأمريكية



**Imane Tahiri**  
*Shadows of Tomorrow: The Impact  
of Pollution on Our Future*

Digital photography  
2024  
60×40 cm

### **About Imane Tahiri**

Imane Tahiri is a 21-year-old graduate with a bachelor's degree in English literature, specializing in linguistics, from Ben M'sik University. Building on this academic foundation, she is currently pursuing a TKT (Teaching Knowledge Test) certification through the ETII program at the American Language Center.

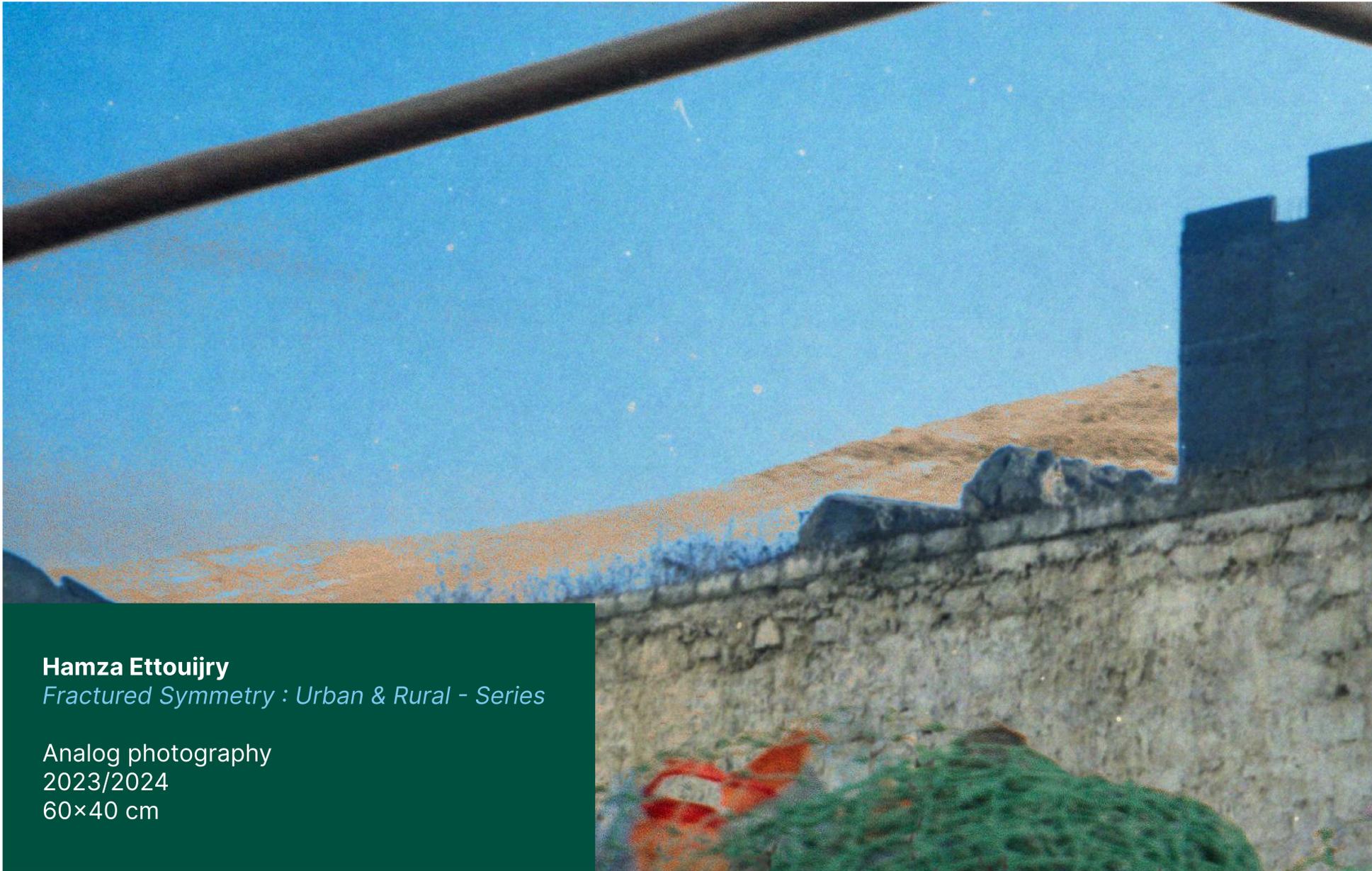
## *Shadows of Tomorrow: The Impact of Pollution on Our Future*

**Pollution is one of the most critical environmental challenges of our time, with consequences that go far beyond visible damage to nature. The haunting image of shadowy figures in a foggy, desolate landscape symbolizes humanity's uncertain future in a world scarred by environmental neglect. The haze reflects the contamination of our air, water, and soil -threatening ecosystems and human health alike.**

Toxic pollutants contribute to public health crises, while climate change; driven by industrial emissions and deforestation - disrupts weather patterns and intensifies natural disasters. These silhouettes in the fog evoke humanity's struggle to find direction in a world shaped by our own disregard for nature, warning us that the further we drift from it, the more we endanger our future.

Yet this grim vision is not irreversible. By adopting sustainable practices, reducing waste, and shifting to clean energy, we can protect the beauty and vitality of our planet. This image compels us to reconsider our connection with the environment; and to act.

The impact of pollution on our future is undeniable, but the choice to change lies in our hands. This work stands as both a warning and a call to action, urging us to make choices today that will ensure a healthier, brighter tomorrow for generations to come.



**Hamza Ettouijry**

*Fractured Symmetry : Urban & Rural - Series*

Analog photography  
2023/2024  
60×40 cm

The city bleeds into my dreams, a concrete haze,  
While echoes of the countryside still softly graze.

Two worlds reside within, a fractured soul,  
The urban jungle, where shadows take control.

The rural, a whisper, a forgotten grace,  
Where time slows down and nature finds its place.  
A double exposure, both worlds in my sight,  
The city's glare, the countryside's soft light.

Each time I close my eyes, I see the hills arise,  
A surreal landscape, bathed in morning skies.

The city's hum, a distant, droning sound,  
While nature's symphony gently surrounds.

But the city's grip, a tenacious hold,  
Its monstrous form, a story yet untold.

I seek to capture this surreal divide,  
Through images where dreams and reality collide.

Yet tomorrow wave on with green dreams anew,  
Where steel embraces vine, and grey turns blue.  
Nature weaves through concrete, finding ways to thrive,  
As city and green spaces learn to dance, both stay alive.



### **About Hamza Ettouijry**

Hamza Ettouijry is a 33-year-old self-taught photographer from Casablanca. Introduced to photography by his father at the age of nine, he developed a deep connection to the medium early on.

Since 2019, he has focused on street photography as a means of expression and reflection. His work captures the emotional layers of everyday life in Casablanca, offering a personal glimpse into the city's social fabric.



## *Fractured Symmetry: Urban & Rural - Series*

*Fractured Symmetry: Urban & Rural* explores the personal experience of living between two contrasting environments: the urban sprawl of Casablanca and the rural landscapes of the High Atlas Mountains. This duality creates what feels like “two visions”—a divided awareness that holds both tension and richness. The urban setting of Casablanca often provokes stress and anxiety, yet there’s a strange attachment to its chaos—something akin to Stockholm Syndrome. It feels confining, yet familiar. In contrast, the High Atlas Mountains symbolize escape and freedom, though they remain distant from daily life.

Through surreal composite photographs, the project visualizes this inner conflict and the hope for harmony between these worlds. All images were taken between 2023 and 2024 using expired 35mm color film, captured in Casablanca and along remote roads in the Atlas. Each final piece merges two separate photographs using Photoshop, creating a double exposure effect that reflects a divided yet deeply connected inner landscape.



**Imane Essadiki**  
*Reconnect*

Video installation  
2024

### **About Imane Essadiki**

Imane Essadiki is a Moroccan designer and artist from Essaouira, currently pursuing a Master's degree in the Contemporary Art and Digital Technology program at the École des Beaux-Arts in Tétouan.

Her work explores the connection between design, art, and the natural environment, focusing on themes of memory, transformation, and the relationship between humans and their surroundings. Essadiki creates installations that encourage self-reflection and presence, using materials such as sand, light, sound, and interactive elements. Through her art, she seeks to blend tradition with innovation, creating a space where nature, culture, and people can reconnect.

## *Reconnect*

Imane Essadiki's installation, *Reconnect*, is more than just art—it's an invitation to pause, reflect, and reconnect with the world around us. In a technology-driven world, we often forget that we are part of nature's rhythms. Through this work, she poses important questions: ***How can we find time to reconnect with nature in an increasingly digitized world?***

Can the arts create moments of stillness that help us reconnect with ourselves and the environment? In the video, grains of sand come and go freely, symbolizing the fragile connection between nature and humanity. Inspired by the fine silhouettes of sand grains seen under a microscope, these delicate forms remind us of nature's subtle beauty and our own fragile yet enduring presence. Like the grains of sand, we can continually rebuild our connections, though too often, we become unaware of the present until we lose our balance.

## Charaf Lahib

### *When Swallows Pass - Series*

Digital Photography  
2020- ongoing  
60×40 cm



## About Charaf Lahib

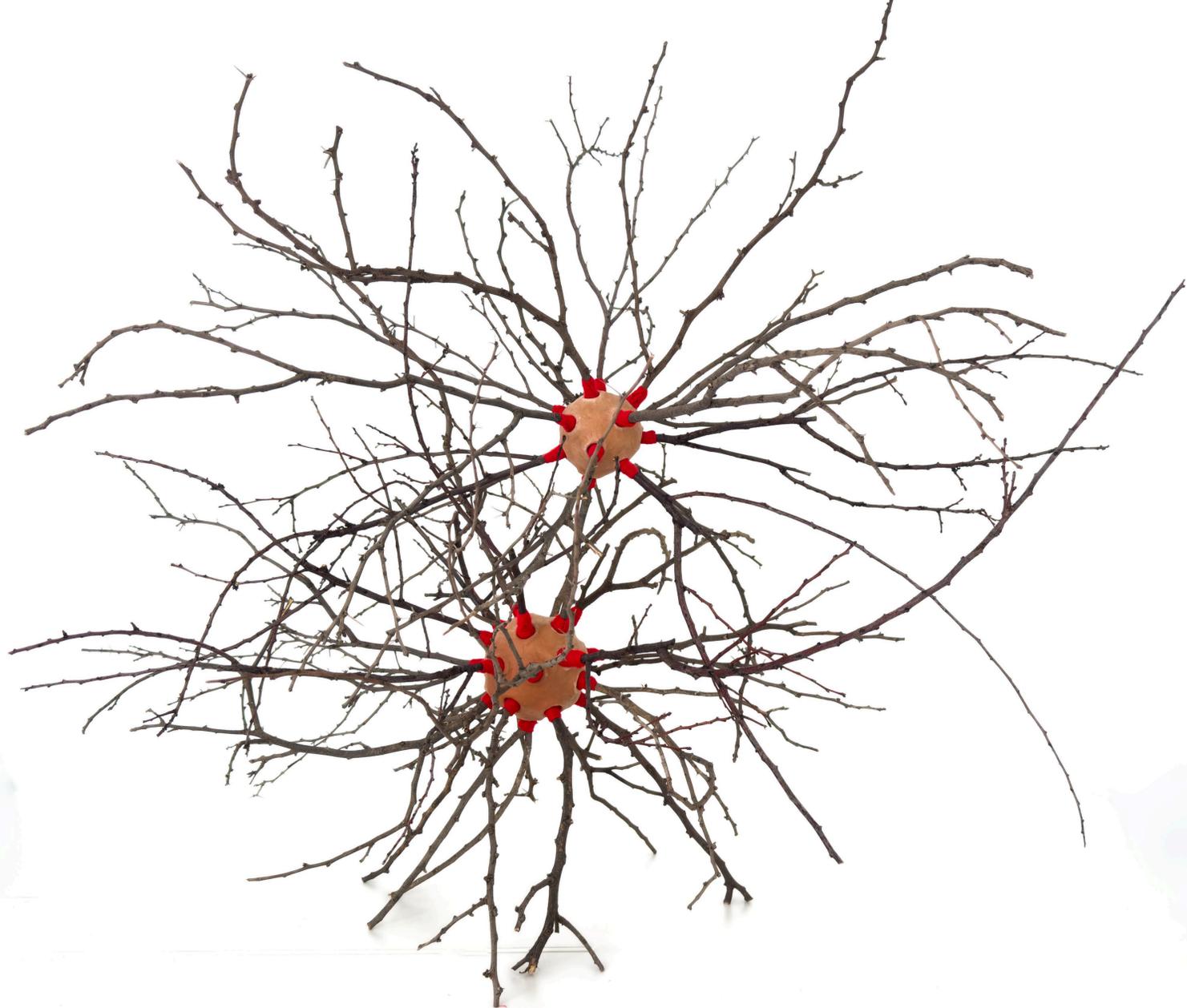
Charaf Lahib is a Moroccan photographer and videographer specializing in documenting cultural and social narratives through visual storytelling. His artistic projects—The Red Poppies, When Swallows Pass, and Sitar—explore themes of childhood, irregular migration, and Moroccan traditions. With advanced skills in both photography and videography, Charaf has exhibited his work internationally and collaborated with global organizations in the field. He is also the founder of Mosawer Mna and Maghrebography, two initiatives dedicated to promoting and developing the photography scene in Morocco.

## *When Swallows Pass - Series*

**During the COVID-19 pandemic, while families focused on health, another form of separation unfolded in a village near Kelaa des Sraghna. Many young people left, hoping to reach Spain via the Canary Islands, leaving behind a silence that now lingers. Families remain in constant waiting, hoping for a phone call or message—news that could bring either relief or heartbreak.**

Climate change has intensified this sense of uncertainty. The olive trees, once symbols of stability and prosperity, now suffer under prolonged drought. As these trees struggle to survive, so too do the communities that depend on them.

Through his lens, Charaf Lahib's *When Swallows Pass* captures this quiet desolation—drying olive groves, farmers losing their livelihoods, and a land suspended between memory and absence. The project speaks not only of departure, but also of waiting—marked by hope, grief, and a deep connection to the land. It serves as a reminder of the fragile bond between family and nature in the face of change.



**Samia Dahan**  
*Earth and branches*

Clay, Tree branches,  
Thorns, and Wool  
2025  
70×74×105cm

### **About Samia Dahan**

Samia Dahan, born in 1997 in Taroudant, began her artistic journey with a baccalaureate in Applied Arts in 2015. This foundational experience shaped her creative approach and deepened her understanding of art history and its movements. She then pursued graphic design studies in Agadir for two years, where she honed her skills in composition, color theory, and symbolism.

In 2022, she earned a bachelor's degree in English Literature from Ibn Zohr University. During her university years, she developed a growing interest in drawing and sketching, which gradually expanded into sculptural work using clay and natural materials.

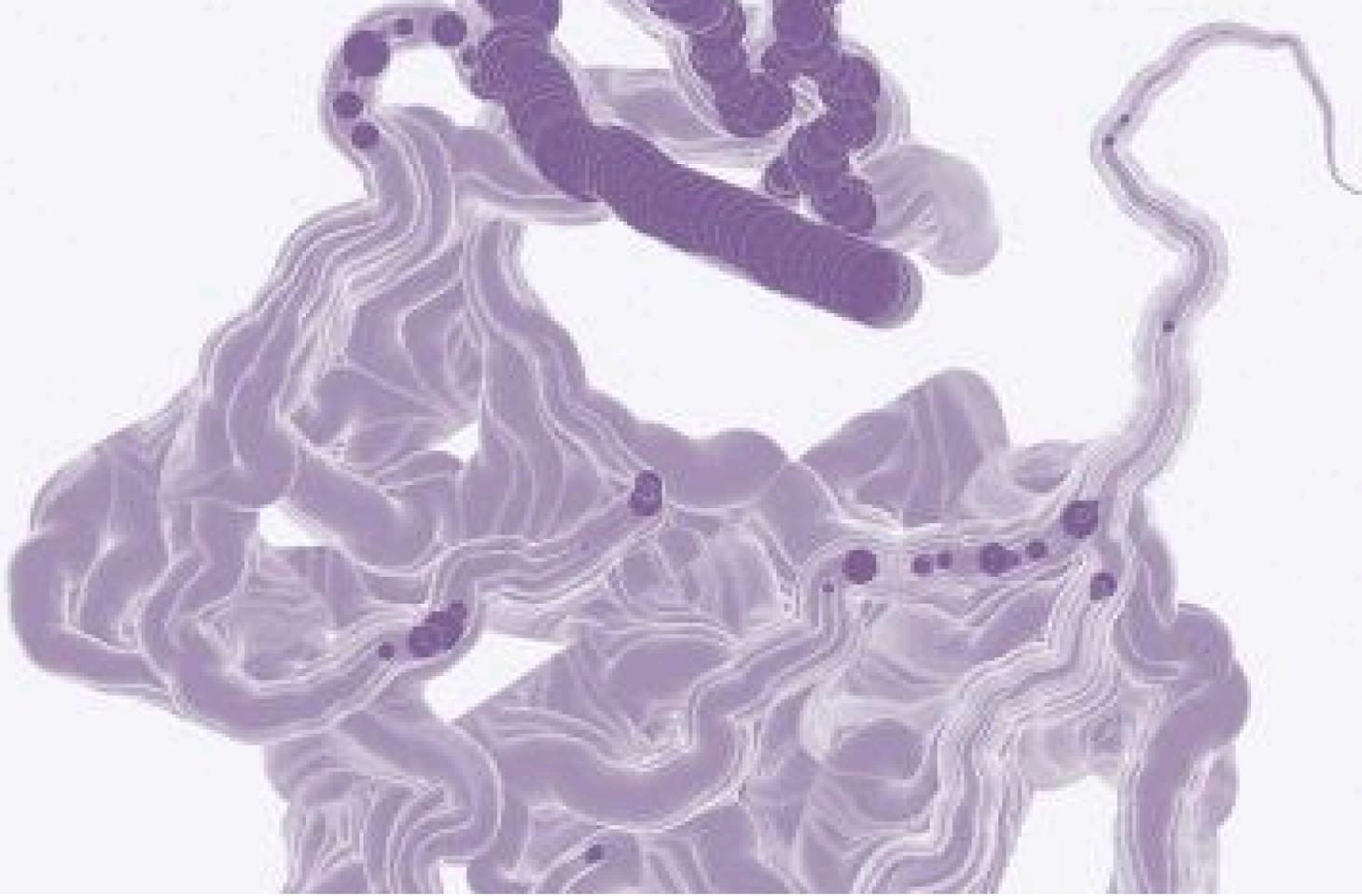
Samia currently works as an English teacher at a middle school in the Al Haouz region. Alongside her teaching career, she continues to develop her practice as an emerging artist.

### *Earth and branches*

**Earth and Branches is part of the art project *Metamorphoses*, a reflection on the fragile and evolving relationship between humans and nature. The work features a clay sphere—a miniature model of Earth—covered with dry branches symbolizing the death of the planet's trees. It was inspired by the artist's walks on the outskirts of Marrakech, where the sight of lifeless trunks and tangled branches spoke of years of silent drought.**

Crafted from natural materials like clay, tree branches, thorns, and wool, the project mirrors the adaptive and transformative qualities of both nature and the human condition. It raises awareness of the environmental crises we face, while also addressing broader human tragedies—wars, famines, disasters, and pandemics—that highlight our shared vulnerability.

Through *Earth and Branches*, the artist invites viewers to reflect on our collective responsibility in a world increasingly shaped by climate change and disconnection. The barren globe stands as both a warning and a call to reimagine our place in the delicate balance between nature, society, and self.



## About Kamel Ghabte

Kamel Ghabte is a digital artist and designer specializing in interactive art and generative visualizations. His work explores the relationship between technology, culture, and the environment, using real-time data to create immersive visual experiences. Inspired by themes such as climate and nature, he incorporates local cultural elements into his pieces, offering reflections on contemporary challenges. Through interactive installations and digital projects, he aims to raise awareness about environmental issues while pushing the boundaries of digital art and technological innovation.

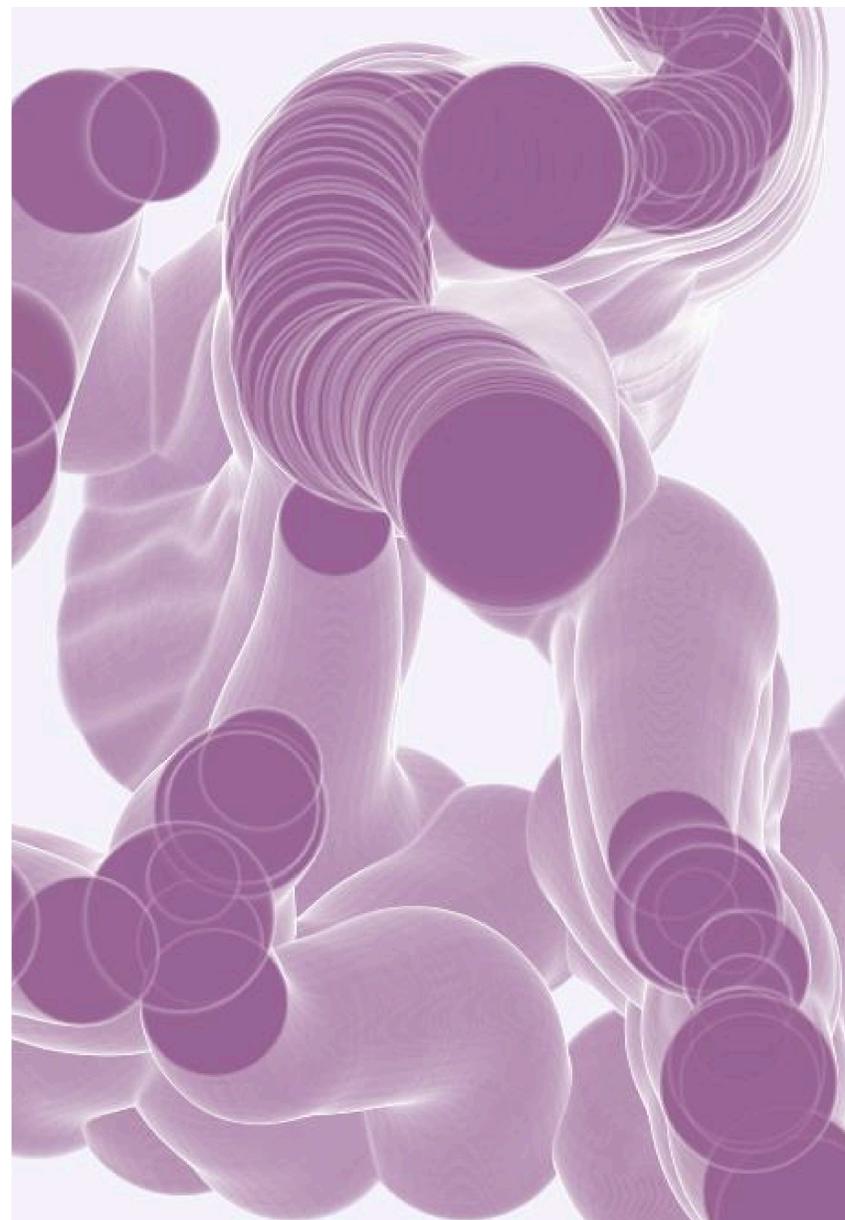
## *The “Morocco for Weather Art” project*

The “Morocco for Weather Art” project explores the fusion of digital art and real-time climate data. It uses interactive visualizations to represent Morocco’s weather variations, integrating elements of local culture.

Through immersive installations, it highlights the relationship between nature, climate, and society while offering a dynamic and ever-evolving aesthetic experience. Focused on generative art, the project invites reflection on environmental issues and their cultural impact, providing a new way to engage with climate data through technology and visual art.

**Kamel Ghabte**  
*The “Morocco for Weather  
Art” project*

Digital art and real-time  
climate data  
2025



**Mourad Ousadan**  
*Rust 1*

Mixed Media on Metal  
2023/2024  
60 ×44 cm



## About Mourad Ousadan

Mourad Ousadan, a fourth-year Fine Arts student at the National Institute of Fine Arts in Tetouan, Morocco, is also an emerging actor beginning his cinematic journey. Raised in a family deeply connected to traditions yet passionate about art, Mourad's upbringing shaped both his intellectual and artistic pursuits.

After completing his high school diploma in Humanities, he joined the National Institute of Fine Arts to formalize his artistic education. He is captivated by the intricate details of old objects and their ties to memory. Mourad's work spans various media, including drawing, contemporary painting, sculpture, and installation art, each exploring the connections between time, culture, and the human experience.

### *Rust 1*

The artwork *Rust 1* is part of the project *Carnival of Rust*, an exploration of nature's subtle transformations and the hidden beauty in decay. Inspired by the constant changes in his city—where humidity, time, and climate interact with the environment—Mourad Ousadan captures the intricate patterns formed by rust and deterioration.

The piece centers on the layered, chipped metal surfaces that are often ignored. Over time, rust infiltrates these surfaces, creating spontaneous and complex designs. These marks symbolize resistance, revealing the persistence of nature and the natural world's refusal to be erased.

Through photography, *Rust 1* highlights the forgotten, weathered metal objects found in the city, whose surfaces metaphorically represent the tension between concealment and revelation. The images are then transformed into mixed-media paintings, where paint and chemical reactions interact to explore the passage of time and its impact on both the material world and human perception. *Carnival of Rust* invites viewers to reflect on the interplay between nature, time, and the fragile impermanence of all things.



## About Hamza Ettouijry

Soulaymane Tadlaoui is a 19-year-old published author, illustrator, and political activist. He grew up in the mountains of the Atlas, where the vastness of the landscape—the mountains, valleys, and rivers—has been etched into his memory since childhood.

His work is rooted in a deep sense of belonging to nature, drawing poetic parallels between the lines of the human body and the contours of the land. Through his creative practice, he explores how humanity is shaped by and intertwined with the natural world. The piece he presents in this exhibition is a continuation of that reflection.

## *Lmadfouna*

**Lmadfouna is a cross-section model of a large metal asteroid made fit for human habitation, built at a scale of 1:3500 (meaning the model is 3,500 times smaller than the imagined asteroid city). It is entirely made from recycled materials such as cardboard and toothpicks, painted with acrylics, and constructed over a period of 15 days.**

The city of Lmadfouna, named after the Sharawi dish (cooked underground with meat and vegetables), is imagined as a fully independent human settlement built in the 25th century. It possesses its own oxygen, agriculture, and water production systems. Large nuclear engines generate artificial gravity and regulate the flow and tides of water within the asteroid. Constructed as a forward base for space exploration, Lmadfouna represents the ultimate partnership between humanity and nature. Built using only local materials—such as ice and essential minerals found within the asteroid belt—the only elements not native to the asteroid were the people and the first seeds.

**Soulaymane Tadlaoui**

*Lmadfouna*

Acrylic paint and recycled materials

2025

63× 31 cm

# Chemigrams

This series, titled Chemigrams, is the outcome of a collaborative workshop between the Kimiā Collective and the winning students from the American Language Center in Rabat. The workshop, Elemental Nature: An

Alternative Photography, invited participants to explore the raw elements of nature through the lens of experimental photography. Using plants, everyday kitchen tools, and analog photographic materials, they learned to create their own plant-based photographic chemistry. Through the chemigram process—a cameraless photographic technique—they crafted unique, handmade prints that present alternative visions of the natural world.



**Safae Lalou**  
*Journey with the Soul  
of Plants*

Chemigram  
2025  
17,8 × 12,6 cm

## About Safae Lalou

Safae is a Moroccan creative thinker with a background in engineering and business development. She blends logic with imagination, approaching new ideas with openness and curiosity. Deeply drawn to nature, spirituality, and personal growth, she uses creativity as a tool for inner exploration and connection. At ALC Rabat, Safae found a sense of peace and belonging through clubs such as the Art Club, Public Speaking Club, Portrait Drawing Club, Sewing & Tailoring Club, and Mindful Chats. She expresses herself through various artistic forms and is an avid reader of personal development books, especially the work of Lise Bourbeau.

For Safae, art is more than expression—it's a journey back to one's true nature and a way of embracing new perspectives.

## *Journey with the Soul of Plants*

During the Kimiā workshop held on January 26th at ALC Rabat, the artist explored the alchemy of photographic chemistry through a camera-free process, creating prints directly from nature. Using plants as both subject and medium, the work became a spiritual and artistic journey—a fusion of science and emotion.

The resulting piece reflects a personal metamorphosis, echoing the symbolism of the phoenix: a cycle of death, rebirth, and renewal. Each print captures not only the physical imprint of the plant but also its essence—a quiet offering of love and wisdom.

By embracing alternative photographic techniques, the artist moves beyond the boundaries of traditional photography, crafting a visual meditation on our deep and often overlooked bond with the natural world. This work stands as a tribute to the energy that connects all living beings and a gentle call to reimagine our place within nature.



**Mohammed Riyad  
Cherkaoui**  
*Chaotic order - Series*

Silver gelatin printing  
2025  
17,8 × 12,6 cm

### **About Mohammed Riyad Cherkaoui**

Mohammed Riyad is an 18-year-old from Salé, currently pursuing English Studies in Rabat. Beyond his academic interests, he is passionate about the arts—particularly singing, drawing, and theater. Energetic and full of life, he thrives on creativity and embraces everything that brings joy, action, and expression.

## *Chaotic order - Series*

Chaotic Order is an alternative photography piece that explores the interplay between chaos and order. Influenced by the idea that randomness can be organized to reveal complexity, the work delves into the deep connection between these two opposing yet complementary forces.

Using silver-based film, the artist employed everyday objects—a plant pot, bottle cap, spray, sponge, and brush—to create the visual elements. The white spots were formed through playful experimentation, while the dark squiggles were painted using a homemade developer made of coffee and vitamin C. These techniques come together to express the beauty found in disorder and spontaneity. Each spot and line celebrates the non-rhythmic pace of creation, where unpredictability becomes its own form of structure.

The contrast between light and dark highlights the duality of good and bad, aligning metaphorically with “order” and “chaos.” The work challenges the viewer’s perception of chaos as something inherently negative, proposing instead that emotion and meaning can emerge without the use of color. Chaotic Order invites viewers to pause and reflect on their own beliefs, and to discover beauty in the unexpected. It also encourages others to explore the medium themselves—an accessible, fun, and creative process that embraces the randomness of life.



**Ikram Boutahlyl**  
*Nature's core: A  
chemigram collection*

Chemigram  
2025  
17,8 × 12,6 cm

### **About Ikram Boutahlyl**

Ikram is a high school student in her first year of baccalaureate, living in Salé. She has always had a deep passion for the arts—sketching, painting, collage, and more. She enjoys attending workshops and often spends time sketching on her own, using art as a way to capture her thoughts and share them with like-minded people.

### *Nature's core: A chemigram collection*

The chemigrams capture a range of contrasting shades created through alternating fixer and developer, forming delicate imprints of plants—a symbol of nature's strength in the face of destruction, whether man-made or natural. The black areas represent the damage inflicted on the environment: wildfires, extinction, and degradation. In contrast, the white symbolizes Mother Nature's resilience—her ability to evolve, adapt, and persist despite the threats she faces.



**Omar Boutahlyl**  
*Untitled*

Chemigram  
2025  
17,8 × 12,6 cm

### **About Omar Boutahlyl**

Omar Boutahlyl, born on November 23, 2010, in Rabat, is a student at Ard Essalam Private School and the American Language Center. He is an active member of the ALC's Writer's Club and Dungeons & Dragons Club. Passionate about reading, writing, and music, Omar is currently studying at the Young Adults 1 level.

### *Untitled*

The chemigrams explore the journey of human life through contrasting forms and tones. White dots signify glimmers of hope, while black ones evoke the struggles faced along the way. A central figure reflects the way life gradually shapes us. Other pieces contrast the known and the unknown, surface and depth, light and darkness—inviting viewers to contemplate the tension between what is visible and what lies beneath.

Chaos and brutality in human nature emerge through bold black stripes, yet are balanced by white ones symbolizing refinement and uniqueness. Together, the works offer a visual meditation on complexity, resilience, and the duality at the heart of existence.

