

Performance and talk: “Elle est loin la Lumière de la Méditerranée...”

With artist, researcher and performer Aline Benecke
Wednesday July 10, 2019

Qalqalah قلقلة invites Aline Benecke to present her performance “Elle est loin la Lumière de la Méditerranée...” [The Light of the Mediterranean is far away...], at CRAC Occitanie in Sète, Wednesday July 10 at 6 p.m. It's the first time that Aline Benecke's work is shown in France, her work includes the memories of his Algerian, French and German family. This public event is also an opportunity to share the fruits of the three-day artistic research and production workshop, “Qalqalah: Rethinking History”.

On the back of a photograph, these few words written in ballpoint pen: “Caserne à Nantes, our first home”. The image was taken in the early 1960s, in a former military prison where the maternal family of Aline Benecke, who immigrated to France in 1962, was housed. Like so many other Algerian families, some of whom are called harkis, allegedly collaborated with the french military forces during the war, she had to leave the country at the time of independence. The photograph, sent by one of her aunts, is one of the rare visual traces of an exile story that the artist is trying to reconstruct. Beyond the gaps and silences, Aline Benecke composes a lexicon both political and poetic to describe the capacities of a diasporic subject to (re) create a home.

This image will be the starting point for an investigation that will take the artist from Berlin to Nantes, Paris, Vincennes and Marseille, to meet documentary and television archives, historians and artists, but also memories of his own family.

How to write a story that hides? How to go beyond the categories imposed by existing political, historical and media accounts? By summoning the tools of architecture and performance, Aline Benecke engages in a moving exercise in critical fabulation to write the possibility of a counter-story that is always in motion.

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