

# The Museum of Modern Art

*Narimane Mari*

September 22–30, 2023

The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters

In the decade since her debut feature, *Bloody Beans* (2013), the Algerian filmmaker Narimane Mari—whose directorial oeuvre builds on a career in film production, art, publishing, and even early digital networks—has emerged as one of the most fearless minds in contemporary cinema. While she is best known for films exploring the legacy of French colonialism in North Africa, more recent projects that look at artistic lineages anew or confront the ultimate mysteries of death demonstrate Mari's extraordinary capacity for reshaping narrative through sensory modes of perception and the power of memory.

Spirited hybrids of reenactment, improvisation, performance, and interview permeate her work, which draws on documentary and experimental traditions while consistently defying genre altogether. Populated with non-actors, Mari's films often have the feeling of a fable or fugue (propelled by booming soundscapes created by a host of regular collaborators). Among her protagonists are colonial officers speaking in tongues; children cast in a boisterous restaging of the Algerian War of Independence; a man wordlessly digging his own grave; and Mari's late partner, the painter Michel Haas.

This first survey of Mari's work in North America is a journey through an intimate, delirious, playful, and disorienting cinema. Taken as a whole, her work reveals the astonishing freedom of a director eager to dismantle the status quo—both on screen and off. In so doing, Mari reveals herself as a great stylist, creating exhilarating stories with a great economy of means, while inexorably moving toward a cinema of resistance through the depths of imagination. Quoting Antonin Artaud in *Bloody Beans*, Mari affirms, "It is better to not obey. It's one way to be free."

*Narimane Mari* includes the US premiere of Mari's two most recent films, as well as films by other directors that she has selected. Mari will present select screenings during the retrospective.

*Organized by Sophie Cavoulacos, Associate Curator, Department of Film.*

## SCREENING SCHEDULE

*Loubia Hamra (Bloody Beans)*. 2013. Algeria/France. Directed by Narimane Mari. Score by Zombie Zombie. In French, Arabic; English subtitles. 77 min.

**Fri, Sept 22, 7:00 T2 (Followed by a discussion with the filmmaker)**

**Sat, Sept 30, 4:00 T2**

### Gordian Knots

*Esquisse (pour E. Dekyndt)*. 2017. Tunisia. Directed by Youssef Chebbi, Ismaïl Bahri. Silent. 5 min.

*Tuj*. 2012. Syria. Directed by Khaled Abdulwahed. No dialogue. 2 min.

*Revers* [excerpt]. 2017. France. Directed by Ismaïl Bahri. No dialogue. 5 min.

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*Backyard*. 2018. Germany. Directed by Khaled Abdulwahed. No dialogue. 26 min.  
*Night Colonies*. 2021. Thailand. Directed by Apichatpong Weerasethakul. In Thai; English subtitles. 14 min.  
*Orientations*. 2010. France/Tunisia. Directed by Ismaïl Bahri. In Arabic; English subtitles. 20 min.  
*Denouement*. 2011. France. Directed by Ismaïl Bahri. Silent. 8 min.  
Program 80 min.  
**Sat, Sept 23, 1:30 T2 (Introduced by Narimane Mari)**  
**Wed, Sept 27, 4:00 T2**

*Le fort des fous*. 2017. France/Algeria/Greece/Germany/Qatar. Directed by Narimane Mari. Score by Los Cousins. In French, English, Greek, Arabic; English subtitles. 140 min.  
**Sat, Sept 23, 4:00 T2 (Followed by a discussion with the filmmaker moderated by Argyro Nicolaou, Resident Fellow, Center for Human Rights and the Arts, Bard College)**  
**Tue, Sept 26, 6:30 T2**

*Tahia ya Didou! (Viva Didou!)*. 1971. Algeria. Directed by Mohamed Zinet. With Himoud Brahimi, Mohamed Zinet, Georges Arnaud, André Moreau, Suzie Naceur, N. Draï. In Arabic; English subtitles. 81 min. New York restoration premiere.  
**Sat, Sept 23, 7:30 T2 (Introduced by Narimane Mari)**  
**Thu, Sept 28, 7:30 T2**

*Long Sorrow*. 2005. Albania. Directed by Anri Sala. With Jemeel Moondoc. 13 min.  
*Holy Days*. 2019. Algeria/France. Directed by Narimane Mari. With Michel Haas, Bilio Kaliakatsou, Julia Hilmer, Saadi Ikhelfoun. Score by Antoine Morin, Boualem Hammouche, Florent Fournier-Sicre. No dialogue. 40 min. New York premiere  
**Sun, Sept 24, 2:00 T2 (Followed by a discussion with the filmmaker)**  
**Wed, Sept 27, 6:30 T2**

*On a eu la journée bonsoir (We Had the Day Bonsoir)*. 2022. France. Directed by Narimane Mari. With Michel Haas. In English, French; English subtitles. 61 min. New York premiere  
**Sun, Sept 24, 4:00 T2 (Followed by a discussion with the filmmaker)**  
**Sat, Sept 30, 6:00 T2**

*Apparition*. 2019. France. Directed by Ismaïl Bahri. No dialogue. 3 min.  
*Ashkal: The Tunisian Investigation*. 2022. Tunisia/France/Qatar. Directed by Youssef Chebbi. In Arabic, French; English subtitles. 94 min.  
**Mon, Sept 25, 6:30 T1**  
**Fri, Sept 29, 7:45 T2**

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