



IT'S GOOD TO TALK WITH YOU, MOTHER

# OPEN STUDIO

SATURDAY 27 JANUARY 2024  
3 PM – 7 PM

Alice Van der Wielen-Honinckx, the 6th Belgian artist to benefit from our partnership with the Flemish government, has conducted research at LE 18 in which embroidery and meditation were used as a way to enter in conversation about our interconnectedness through lines of transmission. Her project evolved to become a collaborative crafting and discussions with the Gifted Mothers of Dar Bellarj and with a larger group of collaborators for translation and mediation.

Alice Van der Wielen-Honinckx, the 6th Belgian artist to benefit from our partnership with the Flemish government, conducted research at LE 18 using embroidery and meditation as a way to initiate conversations about our interconnectedness through lines of transmission. Her project evolved into collaborative crafting and discussions with the Gifted Mothers of Dar Bellarj, as well as involving a larger group of collaborators for translation and mediation. The work presented here is an ongoing outcome of the conversation, in which Alice invites visitors to enter her creative space and experience the process through audio and images that embrace multiple languages and interpretations.

Alice Van der Wielen-Honinckx collaborated with textile artists Berenike Corcuera and Janneke Raaphorst, researcher Malika Eloualy, art embroiderer Soumaya Simari, and the Gifted Mothers of Dar Bellarj: Fatima Ennaoui, Najia Kharmouch, Nouzha Koudou, Mina Bouyabrine, Rachida El Idrissi, Zahra El Khiraoui, Khadija Karbah, Amal Bayoud, Khaddouj Batta, Rachida El Guendouf, Amina Taih, Rajat Erguibi, Saida Bourkouli, Latifa Fari, Nejma Batta, Zhou Bouh, Saida Chraibi, Noura Jaibi, Naima Ait el Berrah, La Zahra.

Special thanks to Amine Lahrach and Othmane Ouallal.  
With the support of The Flemish government – State of the Arts, Darna – House of Flemish-Moroccan culture, Mondriaan Fund.

## HI, MOM

We enter the slow zone to meet the person who gave birth to us. In this room you will find a mediation that Alice Van der Wielen-Honinckx and Malika Eloualy did with The Gifted Mothers in November 2024. We met our mothers, asked what they needed from us, and how they would feel if their wishes were fulfilled.

Make yourself at ease,  
and spend 13 minutes with your mother if you will.  
On the table you find pen and paper. You can write her a letter.

Letters by Fatima Ennaoui, Najia Kharmouch, Nouzha Koudou, Mina Bouyabrine, Rachida El Idrissi, Zahra El khiraoui, Khadija Karbah, Amal Bayoud, Khaddouj Batta, Rachida El Guendouf, Amina Taih, Rajat Erguibi, Saida Bourkouli, Latifa Fari, Nejma Batta, Zhou Bouh, Saida Chraibi, Noura Jaibi, Naima Ait el Berrah, Nadira Mountagui, Lalla Zahra, from a workshop by Alice Van der Wielen-Honinckx & Malika Eloualy.

- Audio by Alice Van der Wielen-Honinckx.

## TRANSLATIONS OF BIRTH STORIES

Stories related to birthing became drawings through the hands of those who were listening. These drawings became stories again when Amine Lahrach interviewed The Gifted Mothers about their drawings. Guided by Berenike Corcuera and Soumaya Simari, they translated the drawings into embroideries.

- Pastel on paper by Fatima Ennaoui, Najia Kharmouch, Nouzha Koudou, Mina Bouyabrine, Rachida El Idrissi, Zahra El Khiraoui, Khadija Karbah, Amal Bayoud, Khaddouj Batta, Rachida El Guendouf, Amina Taih, Rajat Erguibi, Saida Bourkouli, Latifa Fari, Nejma Batta, Zhou Bouh, Saida Chraibi, Noura Jaibi, Naima Ait el Berrah, Lalla Zahra.

- Black pen on paper by Berenike Corcuera based on the pastel drawings.
- Embroideries by Berenike Corcuera, Soumaya Simari, Fatima Ennaoui, Najia Kharmouch, Nouzha Koudou, Mina Bouyabrine, Rachida El Idrissi, Zahra El khiraoui, Khadija Karbah, Amal Bayoud, Khaddouj Batta, Rachida El Guendouf, Amina Taih, Rajat Erguibi, Saida Bourkouli, Latifa Fari, Nejma Batta, Zhou Bouh, Saida Chraibi, Noura Jaibi, Naima Ait el Berrah, Nadira Mountagui.

- Audio by Alice Van der Wielen-Honinckx & Malika Elaouly with the voices of Amine Larach, Rachida El Guendouf, Fatima Ennaoui, Latifa Fari, Najia Kharmouch, Rachida El Idrissi, Lalla Zahra and Alice Van der Wielen-Honinck.

## AKAL

In an age where information travels instantly anywhere, and some bodies move more easily than others, how do we relate to places? How are we embedded? Or, how embedded are we? And how does this degree of embeddedness impact our relationship to the fibres coming from that land?

In this room, you find wool from Malika Eloualy's aunt in the Atlas valley Ait Bouguemez. The wool grew on the family's sheep, was shaved (talousi), washed (tarda), combed (amchad), and spun (oulman), by Touda, her mother, then collected by the artists in Malika's motherly home in Boumalne, Dades valley.

- Wool from Yidir Eloualy, washed, combed and spun by Touda Tassout.
- Audio 1 by Alice Van der Wielen-Honinckx.
- Audio 2 Alice Van der Wielen-Honinckx and Malika Eloualy with the voices of Balkis Getta, Khaddouj Batta, Alice Van der Wielen-Honinckx, Malika Eloualy.

## UMBILICAL GATES

Guided by Janneke Raaphorst, The Gifted Mothers of dar Bellarj journeyed to their childhood through their umbilical gate. They formulated an intention to sort out the feelings from their childhood they want to leave behind and the ones they want to invite into their present lives. They expressed their intentions while drawing their umbilical gates with henna on shawls they brought from home, in this way charging them as power objects.

- Concept and guided journey by Janneke Raaphorst.
- Henna drawing on shawls by Fatima Ennaoui, Khadija Karbah, Amal Bayoud, Khaddouj Batta, Amina Taih, Saida Bourkouli, Nejma Batta, Rajat Erguibi, Rachida El Idrissi, Mina Bouyabrine, Zahra El Khiraoui, Latifa Fari, Naima Ait el Berrah.
- Assisted by Malika Eloualy and Soumaya Simari for translation.

## LE 18

LE 18 is a multidisciplinary cultural space and artist residency opened in 2013 in the medina of Marrakech. It is a space for research, creation, encounters, mutual learning and knowledge sharing. The space has developed organically and through a collaborative approach and open, inclusive dialogue with diverse communities.

Through a fluid network of collaborators and a variety of formats, including exhibitions, residencies, conversations, workshops and publications, LE 18 has become a platform for collective learning. It allows us to listen to and critically engage with the multiple dynamics, processes and infrastructures that shape the cultural, political and economic life of our local ecosystem and its place in a global dynamic.

Space & Bookstore: open Tuesday through Saturday 11am – 6pm.  
@le18marrakech

