PRESS RELEASE

Exhibition from October 30, 2020 to March 7, 2021

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Musée d'art contemporain de Nîmes

Born in Sweden in 1986, Tarik Kiswanson's family is originally from Palestine. He lives and works in Paris, creating an oeuvre that brings together sculpture, writing, film and performance art.

Kiswanson conceives new forms that attest to a commitment to the "poetics of cultural diversity," paying tribute to the writings of Édouard Glissant. One of the specific elements of his process is the conviction that history is written within the body, lending his works a sort of corporeal state. Essentially they consist of the bodies of children and adolescents that represent both fragility and innocence even as they embody all the possibilities of a projection into the future. The references to preadolescence call to mind the period when one's subjectivity begins to take shape and one redefines new relationships with others. A recent film, entitled *The Reading Room*, shows a child reading in the Edward Said library at Columbia University in New York. The artist's poems, published in 2018 under the title *As Deep As I Could Remember, As Far As I Could See*, give a perfect idea of the paths he chooses to explore. He glides from one language to another – Swedish, Arabic, English and French – carried along by his personal history, laden with diverse reflections of the world in all its complexity.

The spectator is often appealed to in a variety of ways, particularly in his works of polished metal in which fragmented images are reflected. While diversity is at the heart of his works, there is also the desire to distance himself from the fixed identities with which one is inevitably labeled.

Tarik Kiswanson studied at London's Central Saint Martins school, and the Beaux Arts in Paris. He has recently shown his work at the Mudam in Luxembourg (2017), the Ricard Foundation in Paris (2018), Lafayette Anticipations (2018), the Pompidou Center and the Gwangju Biennale (2019), the Performa biennial in New York, and, in 2021 he will be featured in several solo exhibitions at the MMAG Foundation, Amman, the Halmstad Konstmuseum and the Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm.

This event will be his first solo exhibition at a museum in France.

An exhibition catalogue will be published by Distanz, featuring texts by Annie Godfrey Larmon, Ingrid Luquet-Gad, and Xiaoyu Weng.

