

DREAMS HAVE NO TITLES is an immersive, multi-media installation that Zineb Sedira had originally presented, to critical acclaim, at the French Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2022. For its adapted version at Hamburger Bahnhof, Sedira has conceived the presentation as a film studio with fragments of movie sets from iconic productions that played a significant role in historical liberation struggles from the 1960s onwards. Through film, sculpture, photography, sound, collage and live performance, the exhibition revisits significant scenes from the diverse repertoire of militant cinema in Algeria and beyond, where filmmaking was employed as one of various de-colonization strategies.

Shaped by her family experience of emigrating from Algeria to France, her growing up in Paris and eventually moving to London in 1986, Sedira addresses, often with humor, a number of pressing issues ranging from the critique of colonial legacies to the ongoing debate about integration, racism, and globalization. In line with her practice to date, she overlaps autobiographical narrative with fiction and documentary to shed light on past and present international solidarities and to pay tribute to the individuals and communities who opened up the possibilities of cinema as a form of emancipation and a tool of resistance.

By highlighting existing North-South Post-Independence solidarity networks, Sedira goes resolutely beyond the bipolar “East-West” division of the Cold War period or the problematic designation of certain countries as “Third World” nations. Instead, Sedira’s project is a celebration of these movements and the political courage they embody as societies across the globe face the repercussions of unforgiving political and historical struggles. Her exhibition mirrors a “ball” to which she invites her spectators – to see her dance in order to resist, mourn, and dream. Yet, her dreams have no titles.