



## **BIOGRAPHY**

### **Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart Zineb Sedira. Dreams Have No Titles**

February 24, 2023 – July 30, 2023

Over the past 25 years, Zineb Sedira has developed a sensitive practice addressing migration, storytelling, and the bias of official histories. Born in France to an Algerian family, she relocated to London in mid-1980s. Her story and that of her family quickly became a fertile ground for artistic experiments. In Sedira's early photographs and videos, the artist staged her mother, daughter, and herself grappling with the reality of a multihyphenated identity (*Mother Tongue*, 2002) and dealing with the legacy of a conflict characterized by secrecy and trauma (*Retelling Histories and Mother, Father, and I*, both 2003).

Since then, Sedira's work has reached out beyond the confines of her singular experience and embraced the idea of transit in all its forms. She turned her lens to locations and objects – buildings, shipwrecks, scrapyards – pregnant with loaded journeys. She also dug deep into archives of all kinds, complexifying readily accepted historical narratives. Meanwhile, formally, the practice has evolved to also encompass sculpture, installation, and performance. Producing art is an act of resistance for the artist Sedira: against forgetting, against hegemonies, and any status quos. This is particularly visible in *Dreams Have No Titles* (2022), the ground-breaking film, set design installations, and performance piece that received a special mention from the jury at the 2022 Venice Biennale, where the artist represented France. For this project, which is now shown at Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart, she researched militant cinema co-produced by France, Italy, and Algeria in the wake of the Algerian independence. The resulting piece is a 'film about films', Sedira says – it's a love letter to cinema in which iconic scenes are re-staged by the artist and her friends in an act of transformative appropriation.

Over the last five years, Sedira has staged herself on regular occasions. She's no longer the discrete listener or faceless performer of her early pieces. Rather, she's a protagonist. Clad in vintage clothes, she doesn't simply relay histories. She steps back in time to invent new ones: fairer and more joyful versions – in which some of the wrongs of the past are finally given a place to heal.

Sedira has exhibited in solo exhibitions at the Photographer's Gallery (London, 2006); Pori Museum (Finland, 2009); Bildmuseet (Sweden, 2010); Kunsthalle Nikolaj (Denmark, 2010); Palais de Tokyo (France, 2010); [mac] musée d'Art contemporain (Marseille, 2010); Blaffer Art Museum, (Houston, 2013); Prefix -Institute of Contemporary Art (Toronto, 2010); Charles H. Scott Gallery (Canada); Art On the Underground, (London, 2016); Sharjah Art Foundation (2018); Beirut Art Center (Lebanon, 2018); Jeu de Paume, Paris and IVAM (Spain, 2019), Bildmuseet (Sweden 2021); SMOCA (USA 2021) and at the French Pavilion at the 59th Venice Biennale (Italy 2022).

Taking photographs is solely permitted for the current press coverage of the exhibition/event. For any further use of photos you are required to clarify issues of copyright and usage rights independently in advance. You are responsible for obtaining further rights (e.g. copyrights for works of art portrayed, personal rights etc.).

GENERALDIREKTION  
PRESS – COMMUNICATION – SPONSORS

Stauffenbergstraße 41  
10785 Berlin

**MECHTILD KRONENBERG**  
HEAD OF DIVISION

**FIONA GEUSS**  
PRESS OFFICER NATIONALGALERIE

Tel: +49 30 3978 34-17  
Mobile: +49 151 527 51 565

presse@smb.spk-berlin.de  
www.smb.museum/presse



Sedira has in group shows at Tate Britain (London, 2002); Centre Pompidou (Paris, 2004, 2009); Mori Museum (Tokyo, 2005); Musée d'Art Moderne of (Algiers, 2007); Brooklyn Museum (New York, 2007); Gwangju Museum of Art (South Korea); MMK Museum für Mordern Kunst (Germany, 2014); Power Plant (Toronto); Smithsonian (Washington, 2015); Guggenheim Museum (NY); Museum Colecao Berardo, (Lisbon, 2016) and Whitechapel Gallery (London, 2019).

Also in biennials and triennials including the Venice Biennale (2001 and 2011); ICP Triennial (New York, 2003); Sharjah Biennale (UAE, 2003 and 2007); Folkestone Triennial (2011); Thessaloniki Biennale (Greece, 2011), Prospect, New Orleans, (USA, 2016); Liverpool Biennale (UK, 2021).

GENERALDIREKTION  
PRESS – COMMUNICATION – SPONSORS

Stauffenbergstraße 41  
10785 Berlin

**MECHTILD KRONENBERG**  
HEAD OF DIVISION

**FIONA GEUSS**  
PRESS OFFICER NATIONALGALERIE

Tel: +49 30 3978 34-17  
Mobile: +49 151 527 51 565

presse@smb.spk-berlin.de  
www.smb.museum/presse