

11 Proposal for a Collective Museum

10 *The Collective Museum*, French audio – subtitles in English. January 2019.

9 Boussiphone Discography, 2016.

8 *7447*, Arabic audio – subtitles in English
Director: Zineb CHAFCHAOUNI MOUSSAOUI,
December 2018.

7 *Radio de mon Quartier*, Abdellah Hassak, 2018.

6 *The Collective Museum* Participative Workshop
documentation

5 Vitrine contains artifacts recovered from Yasmina Park and Abbad School documentation of the reactivation. Including: ticket books, personnel files fo staff, lights from the rides and photographs of the park.

4 *Recuperation/Restoration/Reactivation*, Yasmina Park Documentary, October 2015.

3 *Action in the Neighbourhood*

2 *Action In the City* Abbad School Yasmina Park.

1 *The Imaginary Aquarium* documentation and proposition.

Wall collage documenting *The Collective Museum: Citizen project for a museum of collective memory* project. From left to right.

CITY DÔME

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L'Atelier de l'Observatoire

The Collective Museum: Citizen project for a museum of collective memory
02.11.19 — 09.02.20

The Collective Museum: Citizen project for a museum of collective memory is a documentary exhibition of L'Atelier de l'Observatoire's ongoing project with local residents in Casablanca, where they are based. L'Atelier de l'Observatoire are a contemporary art organisation who design, produce and disseminate projects that support Moroccan contemporary creativity, nationally and internationally.

The exhibition is designed to be read from left to right, and sets out the project through its development. It starts with the proposition developed through two distinct projects, and continues to documentation of the extensive workshop programme between artists and local residents. Lastly, the exhibition outlines a proposal for the future of *The Collective Museum*.

The Collective Museum consists of a series of acts of recovery; a collection of documents, photographs, objects, films, and memories from places, predominantly in Casablanca, that are facing demolition, dereliction or re-appropriation. These include domestic, family spaces alongside abandoned or former public spaces.

This project initially started with *The Imaginary Aquarium*, by artist and co-founder of L'Atelier de l'Observatoire

Mohamed Fariji, which attempted to reactivate the former Casablanca aquarium. Work continued through a major recovery project at *Yasmina Park*, an abandoned amusement park. Fariji worked with participants to create a collective memory of sites through the process of gathering, salvaging and researching. The approach attempts to re-activate these sites, which led to *The Collective Museum*; an ongoing project that offers an alternative way of writing urban history, with a focus on individual and group stories.

The Collective Museum workshop programme has been conceived to bring artists and local residents together to share skills, research and stories. The workshops highlight the histories of sites that tend to be forgotten, disregarded or could be seen as incidental through the relentless process of urban development. *The Collective Museum* proposes empowering local residents to have the space and skills needed to document their neighbourhoods' colloquial history. The workshops have resulted in a wide range of outcomes which are on display or documented in this exhibition including: sound works, films, photography, archive displays, discussion and performance events.

Since Collective moved to Calton Hill in 2013 we have worked with artists to question what a City Observatory can be and how we can explore the hidden narratives of our home in the City Observatory site. *The Collective Museum* offers an alternative framework to scrutinise precarious public and domestic urban space through story, observation, memory and objects. L'Atelier de l'Observatoire's research approach parallels Collective's ambition to explore the histories of our site in future projects.

L'Atelier de l'Observatoire is a space for art and research developing participative and socially engaged projects involving artists, researchers and the general public. The organisation experiments with alternative approaches through different programs and formats such as talks, researches, workshops, exhibitions, trainings, film restorations, artworks productions and publications.

Mohamed Fariji (Casablanca, 1966) develops long-term engaged and participative artistic projects. Engaged in the exploration of urban myths, collective memory and urban socio-political and architectural narrations, Mohamed Fariji combine his artistic practice with civil and environmental initiatives, particularly in the context of the activities run by l'Atelier de l'Observatoire.

THE COLLECTIVE MUSEUM OF CASABLANCA

L'Atelier de l'Observatoire proposes
a Collective Museum of Casablanca
within the old Aquarium

المركز
L'OBSERVATOIRE
فن وبحث
Art et recherche

The Collective Museum of Casablanca is an ongoing project organized and run by L'Atelier de l'Observatoire, who are an art and research space that develop socially committed participatory projects, bringing together artists, students, researchers and citizens.

The Collective museum includes objects, documents, archives and stories by the city's inhabitants around the history of their neighborhoods, highlighting the intimate, the marginalized and the hidden stories. It is a museum made by and for the citizens. It is a proposal of actions and negotiations which aim to reveal hidden narratives of the place.

It consists of a series of workshops, meetings, artistic projects and temporary exhibitions in several districts - *Ain chock, Old Medina, Ben M'sick, Bernoussi, Sidi Moumen, Oulfa, Hay Mohammedi* - before its final implementation in the old Aquarium of Casablanca.

The museum's collection is enriched by actions of recovery and research through participatory workshops involving students, artists, activists, architects, researchers and anyone wishing to entrust their "memory objects" or to propose actions and methodologies to the collection.

This participatory act is defined by the desire to build a collective memory, conceived as an alternative to the "official" memory, one that is often unable to give individuals a place in writing history.

L'Atelier de l'Observatoire (Casablanca) is an art and research space that develops socially committed participatory projects, bringing together artists, students, researchers and citizens. Committed to artistic and civic practices for societal change, l'Atelier de l'Observatoire focuses its actions on the margins, whether geographical (cities' peripheral districts/neighborhoods, rural areas, marginalized territories), historical (invisible narratives) or social (most vulnerable communities).

www.atelierobservatoire.com